



Asphalt Acceptance – Recreational Courts

In the event that the surfacing contractor is not the asphalt contractor or the general contractor, it is the responsibility of the asphalt contractor and/or the general contractor to supply a base that meets the specifications of the designer and the rules of the sport. It is far more difficult and costly to wait until the surface has been installed to identify issues with slope, planarity, elevation or drainage. Additionally, unless the surfacing contractor is also responsible for the paving, it is inappropriate to hold that contractor responsible for such issues if the pavement has not been tested and corrected prior to surfacing. Therefore, it is highly recommended that tennis projects include testing to demonstrate and/or corrective work to achieve compliance at the cost of the asphalt contractor or general contractor. Testing should be completed prior to the installation of tennis court surfacing. An independent testing firm should check the dimensions, slopes and tolerances of the asphalt pavement. Results confirming compliance should be submitted to the surfacing contractor prior to mobilization. If the initial assessment shows non-compliance, the necessary corrective work should be executed and the pavement retested prior to the commencement of surfacing.

- The asphalt mix design should be approved by the design professional and by the asphalt contractor. Tests that verify that the mix as installed meets the approved design should be provided.
- The installed pavement must be at the correct elevation at all edges. Incorrect areas should be repaired or re-installed to correct elevations.
- All bond breakers such as oil, hydraulic fluid, and gasoline must be removed.
- The asphalt should be flooded to check for low areas, high areas and surface drainage. Out of tolerance areas should be repaired or re-installed.

Corrective work should be accomplished using appropriate methods, such as:

- For high spots
 - grinding
 - heating and rolling
- For low spots
 - hiring the surfacing contractor to apply an appropriate leveling compound (only where depth of low spot is less than 1/4", or as specified)
 - milling and asphalt patching
 - removing and replacing
 - asphalt overlay, possibly in conjunction with one or more of the repairs above.

Because of the relatively rigid specifications and tolerances for asphalt pavements intended for tennis court installations, it is recommended that only asphalt paving contractors with prior tennis court building experience be considered. Wherever possible they should have installed a minimum of ten tennis courts that meet the approved tolerances within the past three years.

Differences in site, weather and soil conditions require variations in construction and repair methods and materials. Readers are advised to consult a qualified contractor or design professional before undertaking construction or repair of a track. Rev. 06/08