



Methods of testing bitumen and related roadmaking products

Method 18: Determination of softening point (ring and ball method)

STANDARDS
Australia



AS 2341.18:2020

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- Australian Airports Association
- Australian Asphalt Pavement Association
- Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
- Australian Institute of Petroleum
- Australian Road Research Board
- Austroroads
- National Association of Testing Authorities Australia

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Preface

This Test Method was prepared by the Australian members of Joint Standards Australia/Standards New Zealand Committee CH-025, Bitumen and Related Products (for Roadmaking), to supersede AS 2341.18—1992.

After consultation with stakeholders in both countries, Standards Australia and Standards New Zealand decided to develop this Test Method as an Australian Test Method rather than an Australian/New Zealand Test Method.

The objective of this Test Method is to specify procedures for the determination of the softening point of bitumen and related roadmaking products.

This Test Method references, ASTM D36/D36M-14e1, *Standard Test Method for Softening Point of Bitumen (Ring-and-Ball Apparatus)*, for use in Australia, subject to modifications set out in [Appendix A](#).

[Appendix A](#) lists the variations to ASTM D36/D36M-14e1, for the application of this Test Method in Australia.

Users of this Test Method are advised that they must purchase ASTM D36/D36M-14e1 in addition to this Test Method.

The terms “normative” or “mandatory information” and “informative” or “non-mandatory information” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendices or annexes to which they apply. A “normative” appendix or “mandatory information” annex is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” or “non-mandatory information” appendix is only for information and guidance.

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Australian Standard®

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1 Scope

The objective of the Test Method is to set out two procedures which use a ring and ball apparatus for the determination of the softening point of bitumens and related roadmaking products. The materials concerned have a softening point in the range 30 °C to 157 °C.

2 Application

ASTM D36/D36M-14e1 is the 2014 edition. Only the 2014 edition shall be used in accordance with this Test Method.

3 Normative references

The following normative documents are referred to in this Standard in addition to those referenced in ASTM D36/D36M-14e1. The following documents are referred to in this text in such a way that some or all of the content constitutes requirements of this Standard.

AS/NZS 2341.21, *Methods of testing bitumen and related roadmaking products, Method 21: Sample preparation*

AGPT-T102, *Protocol for Handling Modified Binders in Preparation for Laboratory Testing*

4 Terms and definitions

For the purpose of this document the terms and definitions in this Test Method and ASTM D36/D36M-14e1 apply.

4.1

may

indicates the existence of an option

4.2

shall

indicates that a statement is mandatory

4.3

should

indicates a recommendation

5 Operation

The requirements of ASTM D36/D36M-14e1 shall apply subject to the modifications set out in [Appendix A](#) for Australian conditions.