

PGM & PGM-G

Case History



TenCate Polyfelt PGM & PGM-G

Investigation of a road rehabilitated with TenCate Polyfelt PGM 14 after a service period of seven years

Introduction

In 1993 some sections of the B 98 and B 100 federal roads in Carinthia / Austria were rehabilitated using PGM 14. After 7 years in service, drilling cores were taken from three sections in order to evaluate the effectiveness of the chosen maintenance method.



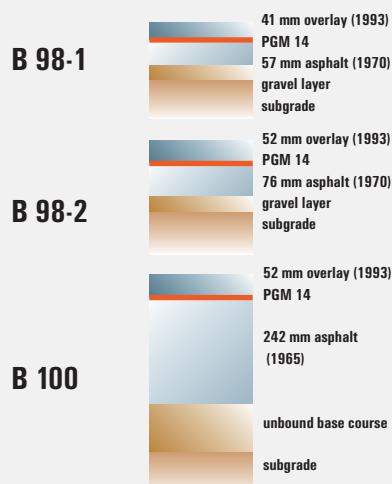
The B 98 during the maintenance works (1993): PGM 14 installed on one lane.



The same section after seven years in service (2000).

The structures of the investigated road sections are illustrated in the diagram below. On the B 98, an old mastix asphalt constructed in 1970 was the basis for therehabilitation works. This type of structure is not longer in use, due to its lack of frost resistance. The structure of the B 100 constructed in 1965 corresponds to the regulations of Type 1 auf the Austrian standard RVS 3.63.

In 1993, all three sections showed severe surface cracking. The traffic load corresponds to loading class III (4.600 heavy vehicles per year) for the B 98, and loading class II (14.300) for the B 100. The calculated total amount of standard axle load passes since 1993 can be calculated as 220.000 (B 98) and 720.000 (B 100).



Cross sections of the investigated road sections, with the avg. thicknesses of the layers measured at the drilling cores.

Project Details

Road sections:

1. B 98 Millstadt Road
Feld/See - Wiesen, km 24,6 - 25,2
2. B 98 Millstadt Road
Wiesen - Gassen, km 28,2 - 29,6
3. B 100 Drautal Road
Northern bypass Villach, km 0,1 - 1,0

Year of maintenance: 1993

Product / Quantity:

B 98: 13.000 m² PGM 14
B 100: 15.000 m² PGM 14

Tack coat: 70% emulsion

New overlay: 40 - 50 mm bituminous overlay (see diagram)

Traffic load:

B 98: Loading class III
B 100: Loading class II

Contractor: Strabag

Supervisor: Straßenbauamt Villach

Drilling core investigations:

Carinthian Gov., Civil Engineering Dept.

TenCate Polyfelt PGM & PGM-G - Millstadt Road / Austria

Damage configuration

In the year 2000 the condition of the roads was inspected visually, and the length of the cracks was measured. Section B 98-1 was severely damaged (with clear single and alligator cracks). Section B 98-2 was slightly damaged (with just single cracks), whereas section B 100 showed not one single crack at all.

On various spots also the crack depth was measured. In all cases, the crack was limited to the overlay, the interlayer with PGM 14 was still intact.

Bonding strength

The drilling cores were investigated with regard to their shear strength between the layers at different temperatures, according to RVS 11.065. The results showed that the variation of the values within one test temperature was much lower when PGM was used as interlayer, compared to sections without interlayer.

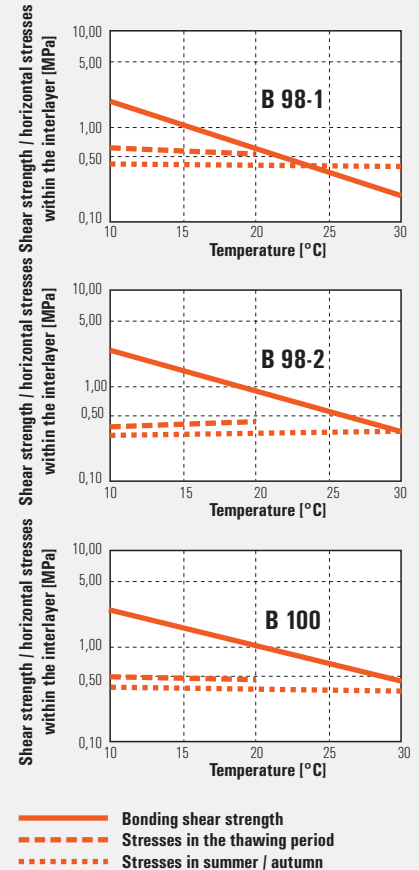
Assessment of the road structure, stress calculations

In order to assess the effectiveness of the road structure, the bearing capacities were measured by means of deflection tests acc. RVS 11.069. Based on these tests and the deformation moduli of the bituminous layers, stress calculations were carried out, taking traffic load and climatic conditions into account. The results of these calculations showed that both sections of the B 98 were under-designed, which was obviously the reason for the severe cracking. The design of the B 100 was sufficient.

The calculated horizontal stresses within the interlayer are compared to the bonding shear strength values in the diagram on the right. Just in section B 98-1, at higher temperatures in summer the horizontal stresses exceed the bonding shear strength, which is another clear evidence for the insufficient design.



Top: The B 98 during maintenance works (1993): Bituminous chippings were sprayed onto the PGM 14 in order to allow traffic temporarily.
Below: The same section after seven years in service (2000)



Bonding shear strength and horizontal stresses within the interlayer.

Conclusions

- The bonding shear strength between old road surface and new overlay is much more even when PGM 14 is used as interlayer. Spots with lack of bonding can be eliminated.
- Single surface cracks are limited to the overlay. This proves the crack-bridging effect of PGM, the fabric was intact in all cases.
- Even in the under-designed sections, a clear reduction of cracking was observed.

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