

Granular Pavement Compaction Enhancing Compaction Procedures

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Engineering Solutions

Presentation Main Topics



- New Zealand Roading Appreciation
- Status Quo Premature Rutting
- NDG Instrument
- Compaction Plant
- Roller Selection
- Due Diligence Considerations
- Max. Compaction
- Close



New Zealand – Roading Appreciation

• Highest Rainfall – 18.4 metres (Hokitika West Coast)

- Rain Days -> 130 + days a year (Very Significant)
- Imports Freight(Deloitte Ports & Freight Yearbook)
 - 22,500 000 Tonnes
 - Geometric Growth 3% Annually (2010-2020)
- Exports Freight(Deloitte Ports & Freight Yearbook)
 - 40,000 000 Tonnes
 - Geometric Growth 3% Annually (2010-2020)
- Freight Main Mode of Transport
 - Trucks 93%
 - Rail 6%
 - Air 1%
- Inland Manufacturing and logistics not included
- Geology Subgrades (Volcanic Ash, Pumice, Clay)
 - CBR 2 Quite Common



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Roading Appreciation – Cont.

- Existing Network structural Integrity
 - E.g. Waikato Expressway Site
 - FWD D_0 -2.4 mm, 280 mm pavement
 - 3.3 x10⁷ Equivalent Standard Axles
- Road History
 - Design Approach Geometric, Pavements, Stormwater
 - Material Use Approach, e.g. Cut to Fill Vs import ;
 - Route Determination.
- CETANZ 2023
 - Awareness around Compaction Orchestra
 - Share Fulton Hogan Approach



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Status Quo – Premature Rutting





NDG – Instrument



Backscatter Mode

- Probe lowered into contact with surface
- Assesses density of material 50-75mm beneath probe
- NZTA T/23 & 24 allow this mode for compacted granular lifts 100mm or less
- Used in assessing voids in asphalt layers

Direct Transmission

- Hole drilled / driven to ~ 25-50mm below bottom of layer being measured
- Measure average density of material between probe & device
- Probe on most NDMs locks into place at 25 or 50mm increments
- NZTA T/23 & 24 require this mode for compacted granular lifts greater than 100mm



Limitations of NDM



- Warning for lime, cement & bitumen stabilised materials –requires NDM Moisture Correction
- Measuring in trenches trench walls affect NDM readings
- Regular Calibration NDMs must be calibrated regularly
- Licensed radiation source



Compaction Plant Awareness





Primary Compaction



Vibratory Compaction

- Initial compaction
- Primary compactors -Vibrate
- Generally, only achieve about 90% of maximum compaction with this alone



Primary Compaction – Feel the Vibe







Primary Compaction - Frequency & Speed





!!! Plateau Process – Speed of roller to simulate production rolling

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Secondary Compaction – No Vibe



- Rollers are solid steel drums
- Static only (not vibratory)
- Compacts by weight only
- Finishes top part of Layer





Roller Selection – Roller Guide by Mass



Layer Thickness (mm)	Aggregate Material Type						
	Sand	AP 20	AP40	AP65	AP100		
< 100	4-6t	6t	N/A	N/A	N/A		
100-150	10t	10t	12t				
150-200		12t	15t				
200-250	N/A	N/A	18t		18-20t		
250-300			N/A	20t	>20t		

1) No pavement layers shall be in lifts >300mm

2) Lifts are the separate stages a layer is constructed in (e.g. 2x 150mm lifts to build a 300mm AP40 layer)

3) Minimum layer depth is 2.5x the stone size (2.5x 40mm, or AP40, is 100mm)

4) If building on weak materials (e.g. subgrades), favour thinner first lifts so less compaction required; this will then give you a more robust platform for the next layer

Due Diligence Considerations



Basecourse Overlay Considerations

- Existing Structure/Stiffness
- Non-ideal Compaction Risk

Compaction Risk	Top of Subbase (Building Basecourse)	Top of SIL or Subgrade (Building Subbase)
High Risk	BB≥1.8 mm	BB≥ 2.5 mm
Medium Risk	1.5 mm≤BB≤1.8 mm	2.0mm≤BB≤2.5 mm
Low Risk	BB≤1.5 mm	BB≤2.0 mm



The second secon		Basecourse	Subbase	SIL
	Avg / Mean (%)	≥ 98	≥ 95	≥ 98*
Probability of Compliance	Minimum (%)	≥ 95	≥ 92	≥ 95*

Waka Kotahi "B-Series" Minimum Requirements for Compaction Compliance

Max-Compaction Mindset

Pre-Construction:

- On Site or Quarry Testing Lab MDD & PSD (Always Advisable)
- Plant Selection
 - Layer thickness, Aggregate size, Stabilisation
- Due diligence consideration

Construction:

- Plateau testing Enhanced compaction Procedure frequency 1 per 1000 m²
 - Primary Compaction Modified layers (Padfoot min 8 set passes) * High Amplitude low Hz
 - Primary compaction Smooth Drum (High Amp low Hz)
 - Primary compaction Smooth Drum (Low Amp high Hz)
 - Secondary Compaction Static
 - Backscatter Mode used for efficiency reasons
 - Once Plateau reached, Direct Transmission Mode (DTM) NZTA T23:2021
 - General compaction production to use plateau rolling pattern to the
- Modified layers Sampling Post hoe for lab MDD, Check altered material
- First Lot production conduct min 2 Plateau
- Compare Lab and Plateau and adjust if required in collaboration with Engineer

Disclaimer – Economies of Scale can influence above frequency of testing



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Thank You



