Introduction

From the time when bitumen emulsions were invented, methods were used to measure their characteristics, some which are still in use today. The details of the tests differ from one country to another.
In addition, new methods have been developed as manufacturing technology and novel formulations advanced, following the invention of cationic emulsions.
The need to standardise these measurements in the laboratory has led the European countries to form working groups tasked with the compilation of standards to be adopted by all the member countries of the European Union.
However, this set of standards does not completely address all the properties of interest concerning behaviour of this product. Consequently, French standards co-exist to supplement European standards.
Accordingly, references that have the prefix EN signify that they are valid for the whole of Europe, whilst exclusively French standards have the prefixes NF, or XP for experimental standards.
Where applicable the prefix FD is used for existing operating procedures which are still kept in the form of documentary leaflets (indicated in French by FD), not only because they are pertinent from a historical viewpoint, but also because they enable secondary characteristics to be used to advantage.
Besides the test standards, a guide to specifications for cationic bitumen emulsions exists (NF EN 13808), together with an exclusively French standard indicating specifications for anionic emulsions (NF T65-012).