

# 11 BOND COATS

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## General

A pavement is made up of layers of materials bonded together with bitumen or treated with hydraulic binders (MTLH) – and/or untreated materials. The choice of these materials and their thickness is the outcome of the design study, the available constituents and the local costs.

In this context, it is indispensable that each layer be capable of a sustainable level of performance. This equally applies to the whole structure.

Knowledge of the functioning of the constituent layers of a pavement, as confirmed by a considerable number of observations, shows that the conditions prevalent at the interfaces are of the utmost importance. Provided at least one of the materials in the pavement layer is an asphalt mix, the optimum design of the pavement will assure effective and lasting bonding between the layers. Achieving this objective is a direct function of the quality of the bond coat.

Furthermore, with certain types of wearing courses (thin asphalt concretes – *BBMs*) and very thin asphaltic concretes (*BBTMs*) or porous asphalts (*BBDRs*), the bond coat, previously referred to as tack coat, also fulfils the highly important function of rendering the layer impermeable.