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PENETRATION – PRIME COAT – SEAL COAT – JOINTING OF PAVING STONES

Introduction

In the long history of bitumen emulsion, certain application techniques were very popular and then became obsolete, being replaced by new or better controlled processes.

On the contrary, other techniques have seen emulsion replace anhydrous binders, the innate disadvantages of which are well known.

Lastly, other techniques likewise well known for a considerable time would appear capable of making an effective contribution to the quality of these structures and are hence now the focus of new interest.

This chapter examines the situation with regard to four techniques illustrating this introductory statement.

- **Penetration**, which was widely used for half a century, is now all but obsolete in France. However, this does not mean that this technique should be entirely forgotten.
- Although of marginal use, **prime coating** with emulsion is a favourable alternative for priming with anhydrous binders.
- The **seal coat** is now unquestionably seen as a positive factor contributing towards satisfactory behaviour of the structure of the pavement.
- **Jointing and rejointing of paving** stone sections, still used in the centre of many cities.

There is one feature common to these four techniques. Similar to surface dressings (SDs), they are applied by spraying emulsion, as opposed to techniques entailing mixing of the emulsion.