Introduction

The British Standard specification for mastic asphalt for roads, footways and pavings in buildings is BS 1447:1988 which recommends paving grades using asphaltic cement which is either bitumen or a mixture of bitumen and refined lake asphalt.

More recently polymer modified grades of mastic asphalt, some with BBA certification have been developed for use on rooftop car parks. Over 100 years experience in the use of mastic asphalt pavings has clearly demonstrated its superior durability and waterproofing characteristics. These benefits, when coupled with the ability to be laid to any shape, width, depth, pattern or colour make mastic asphalt a very valuable problem solver for the design engineer.

Mastic asphalt roofing to BS 6925:1988 Type R988 or polymer modified material is used in conjunction with certain paving applications when it is necessary to provide a fully waterproof specification. Reference to detailing the waterproofing layer should be made in the roofing section of this guide and BS 8218:1998 Code of Practice for mastic asphalt roofing. It is recommended that a suitable separating membrane should be used with many mastic asphalt paving applications. The asphalt manufacturer recommendations should be sought.

The decline in the specification and use of Trinidad Lake Asphalt in conventional road mixes is due almost entirely to the manufacturing difficulties in high volume manufacturing plants. No such constraints exist in the manufacture of mastic asphalt and engineers can specify TLA mixes confident in the knowledge that their requirements can be achieved economically.

Slip and skid resistance can be provided in the wearing course of mastic asphalt by sand rubbing, surface crimping or by the application of high polished stone value pre-coated chippings. In extreme circumstances the use of an epoxy resin dressing with coloured bauxite chippings will provide the ultimate non-skid surface.

The versatility of mastic asphalt is legendary, a reliable well tested product exhibiting all the characteristics of flexibility which is durable, waterproof and has the potential for recycling over and over again.



PAVING Pt 1

