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Designation: D6433 – 09

Standard Practice for Roads and Parking Lots Pavement Condition Index Surveys[1]

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D6433; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the determination of roads and parking lots pavement condition through visual surveys using the Pavement Condition Index (PCI) method of quantifying pavement condition.

1.2 The PCI for roads and parking lots was developed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (**1, 2**).[2] It is further verified and adopted by DOD and APWA.

1.3 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.* Specific precautionary statements are given in Section 6.

2. Terminology

2.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

2.1.1 *additional sample*—a sample unit inspected in addition to the random sample units to include nonrepresentative sample units in the determination of the pavement condition. This includes very poor or excellent samples that are not typical of the section and sample units, which contain an unusual distress such as a utility cut. If a sample unit containing an unusual distress is chosen at random it should be counted as an additional sample unit and another random sample unit should be chosen. If every sample unit is surveyed, then there are no additional sample units.

2.1.2 *asphalt concrete (AC) surface*—aggregate mixture with an asphalt cement binder. This term also refers to surfaces constructed of coal tars and natural tars for purposes of this practice.

2.1.3 *pavement branch*—a branch is an identifiable part of the pavement network that is a single entity and has a distinct function. For example, each roadway or parking area is a separate branch.

2.1.4 *pavement condition index (PCI)*—a numerical rating of the pavement condition that ranges from 0 to 100 with 0 being the worst possible condition and 100 being the best possible condition.

2.1.5 *pavement condition rating*—a verbal description of pavement condition as a function of the PCI value that varies from "failed" to "excellent" as shown in Fig. 1.

2.1.6 *pavement distress*—external indicators of pavement deterioration caused by loading, environmental factors, construction deficiencies, or a combination thereof. Typical distresses are cracks, rutting, and weathering of the pavement surface. Distress types and severity levels detailed in Appendix X1 for AC, and Appendix X2 for PCC pavements must be used to obtain an accurate PCI value.

2.1.7 *pavement sample unit*—a subdivision of a pavement section that has a standard size range: 20 contiguous slabs (±8 slabs if the total number of slabs in the section is not evenly divided by 20 or to accommodate specific field condition) for PCC pavement, and 2500 contiguous square feet, ± 1000 ft^2 (225 ± 90 m^2), if the pavement is not evenly divided by 2500 or to accommodate specific field condition, for AC pavement.

2.1.8 *pavement section*—a contiguous pavement area having uniform construction, maintenance, usage history, and condition. A section should have the same traffic volume and load intensity.

2.1.9 *portland cement concrete (PCC) pavement*—aggregate mixture with portland cement binder including nonreinforced and reinforced jointed pavement.

2.1.10 *random sample*—a sample unit of the pavement section selected for inspection by random sampling techniques, such as a random number table or systematic random procedure.

[1] This practice is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee E17 on Vehicle - Pavement Systems and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee E17.42 on Pavement Management and Data Needs.

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[2] The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this standard.

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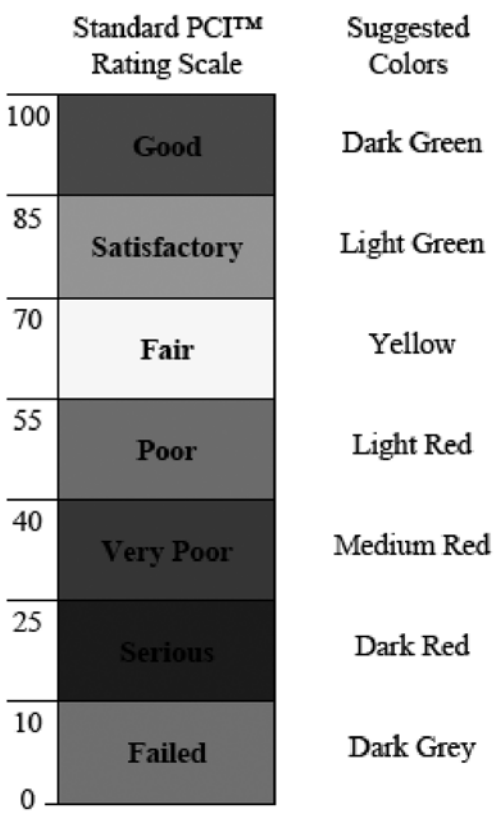

FIG. 1 Pavement Condition Index (PCI), Rating Scale, and Suggested Colors

3. Summary of Practice

3.1 The pavement is divided into branches that are divided into sections. Each section is divided into sample units. The type and severity of pavement distress is assessed by visual inspection of the pavement sample units. The quantity of the distress is measured as described in Appendix X1 and Appendix X2. The distress data are used to calculate the PCI for each sample unit. The PCI of the pavement section is determined based on the PCI of the inspected sample units within the section.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 The PCI is a numerical indicator that rates the surface condition of the pavement. The PCI provides a measure of the present condition of the pavement based on the distress observed on the surface of the pavement, which also indicates the structural integrity and surface operational condition (localized roughness and safety). The PCI cannot measure structural capacity nor does it provide direct measurement of skid resistance or roughness. It provides an objective and rational basis for determining maintenance and repair needs and priorities. Continuous monitoring of the PCI is used to establish the rate of pavement deterioration, which permits early identification of major rehabilitation needs. The PCI provides feedback on pavement performance for validation or improvement of current pavement design and maintenance procedures.

5. Apparatus

5.1 *Data Sheets*, or other field recording instruments that record at a minimum the following information: date, location, branch, section, sample unit size, slab number and size, distress types, severity levels, quantities, and names of surveyors. Example data sheets for AC and PCC pavements are shown in Figs. 2 and 3.

5.2 *Hand Odometer Wheel*, that reads to the nearest 0.1 ft (30 mm).

5.3 *Straightedge or String Line*, (AC only), 10 ft (3 m).

5.4 *Scale*, 12 in. (300 mm) that reads to ⅛ in. (3 mm) or better. Additional 12-in. (300 mm) ruler or straightedge is needed to measure faulting in PCC pavements.

5.5 *Layout Plan*, for network to be inspected.

6. Hazards

6.1 Traffic is a hazard as inspectors may walk on the pavement to perform the condition survey.

7. Sampling and Sample Units

7.1 Identify branches of the pavement with different uses such as roadways and parking on the network layout plan.

7.2 Divide each branch into sections based on the pavements design, construction history, traffic, and condition.

7.3 Divide the pavement sections into sample units. If the pavement slabs in PCC have joint spacing greater than 25 ft (8 m) subdivide each slab into imaginary slabs. The imaginary slabs all should be less than or equal to 25 ft (8 m) in length, and the imaginary joints dividing the slabs are assumed to be in perfect condition. This is needed because the deduct values developed for jointed concrete slabs are less than or equal to 25 ft (8 m).

7.4 Individual sample units to be inspected should be marked or identified in a manner to allow inspectors and quality control personnel to easily locate them on the pavement surface. Paint marks along the edge and sketches with locations connected to physical pavement features are acceptable. It is necessary to be able to accurately relocate the sample units to allow verification of current distress data, to examine changes in condition with time of a particular sample unit, and to enable future inspections of the same sample unit if desired.

7.5 Select the sample units to be inspected. The number of sample units to be inspected may vary from the following: all of the sample units in the section, a number of sample units that provides a 95 % confidence level, or a lesser number.

7.5.1 All sample units in the section may be inspected to determine the average PCI of the section. This is usually precluded for routine management purposes by available manpower, funds, and time. Total sampling, however, is desirable for project analysis to help estimate maintenance and repair quantities.

7.5.2 The minimum number of sample units (n) that must be surveyed within a given section to obtain a statistically adequate estimate (95 % confidence) of the PCI of the section is calculated using the following formula and rounding n to the next highest whole number (see Eq 1).

$$n = Ns^2/((e^2/4)(N-1) + s^2) \quad (1)$$

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ASPHALT SURFACED ROADS AND PARKING LOTS CONDITION SURVEY DATA SHEET FOR SAMPLE UNIT

BRANCH _____ SECTION _____ SAMPLE UNIT _____
SURVEYED BY _____ DATE _____ SAMPLE AREA _____

SKETCH:

1. Alligator Cracking
2. Bleeding
3. Block Cracking
4. Bumps and Sags
5. Corrugation
6. Depression
7. Edge Cracking
8. Jt. Reflection Cracking
9. Lane/Shoulder Drop Off
10. Long & Trans Cracking
11. Patching & Util Cut Patching
12. Polished Aggregate
13. Potholes
14. Railroad Crossing
15. Rutting
16. Shoving
17. Slippage Cracking
18. Swell
19. Weathering/Raveling

DISTRESS SEVERITY	QUANTITY									TOTAL	DENSITY %	DEDUCT VALUE

FIG. 2 Flexible Pavement Condition Survey Data Sheet for Sample Unit

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CONCRETE SURFACED ROADS AND PARKING LOTS
CONDITION SURVEY DATA SHEET FOR SAMPLE UNIT

BRANCH_____ SECTION_____ SAMPLE UNIT_____
SURVEYED BY_____ DATE_____ SAMPLE AREA_____

Distress Types

21. Blow up/Buckling
22. Corner Break
23. Divided Slab
24. Durability Crack
25. Faulting
26. Joint Seal
27. Lane/Shoulder
28. Linear Cracking
29. Patching (Large)
30. Patching (Small)
31. Polished Aggregate
32. Popouts
33. Pumping
34. Punchout
35. Railroad Crossing
36. Scaling
37. Shrinkage
38. Spalling Corner
39. Spalling Joint

DIST TYPE	SEV	NO. SLABS	DENSITY %	DEDUCT VALUE

SKETCH:

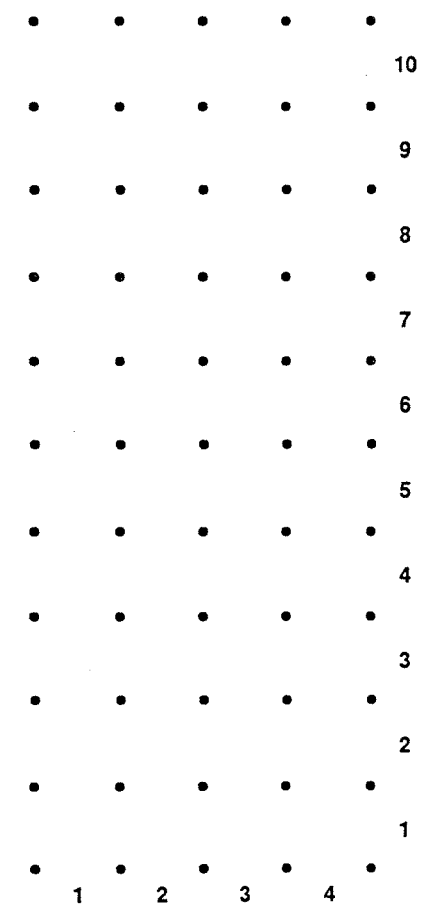

FIG. 3 Joint Rigid Pavement Condition Survey Data Sheet for Sample Unit

where:

e = acceptable error in estimating the section PCI; commonly, $e = \pm 5$ PCI points;

s = standard deviation of the PCI from one sample unit to another within the section. When performing the initial inspection the standard deviation is assumed to be ten for AC pavements and 15 for PCC pavements. This assumption should be checked as described below after PCI values are determined. For subsequent inspections, the standard deviation from the preceding inspection should be used to determine n; and,

N = total number of sample units in the section.

7.5.2.1 If obtaining the 95 % confidence level is critical, the adequacy of the number of sample units surveyed must be confirmed. The number of sample units was estimated based on an assumed standard deviation. Calculate the actual standard deviation (s) as follows (see Eq 2):

$$s = \left(\sum_{i=1}^{n}(PCI_i - PCI_s)^2/(n-1)\right)^{1/2} \quad (2)$$

where:

PCI_i = PCI of surveyed sample units i,

PCI_s = PCI of section (mean PCI of surveyed sample units), and

n = total number of sample units surveyed.

7.5.2.2 Calculate the revised minimum number of sample units (Eq 1) to be surveyed using the calculated standard deviation (Eq 2). If the revised number of sample units to be surveyed is greater than the number of sample units already surveyed, select and survey additional random sample units.

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These sample units should be spaced evenly across the section. Repeat the process of checking the revised number of sample units and surveying additional random sample units until the total number of sample units surveyed equals or exceeds the minimum required sample units (n) in Eq 1, using the actual total sample standard deviation.

7.5.3 Once the number of sample units to be inspected has been determined, compute the spacing interval of the units using systematic random sampling. Samples are spaced equally throughout the section with the first sample selected at random. The spacing interval (i) of the units to be sampled is calculated by the following formula rounded to the next lowest whole number:

$$i = N/n \tag{3}$$

where:
N = total number of sample units in the section, and
n = number of sample units to be inspected.

The first sample unit to be inspected is selected at random from sample units 1 through i. The sample units within a section that are successive increments of the interval i after the first randomly selected unit also are inspected.

7.6 A lessor sampling rate than the above mentioned 95 % confidence level can be used based on the condition survey objective. As an example, one agency uses the following table for selecting the number of sample units to be inspected for other than project analysis:

Given	Survey
1 to 5 sample units	1 sample unit
6 to 10 sample units	2 sample units
11 to 15 sample units	3 sample units
16 to 40 sample units	4 sample units
over 40 sample units	10 %

7.7 Additional sample units only are to be inspected when nonrepresentative distresses are observed as defined in 2.1.1. These sample units are selected by the user.

8. Inspection Procedure

8.1 The definitions and guidelines for quantifying distresses for PCI determination are given in Appendix X1 for AC pavements. Using this test method, inspectors should identify distress types accurately 95 % of the time. Linear measurements should be considered accurate when they are within 10 % if remeasured, and area measurements should be considered accurate when they are within 20 % if remeasured. Distress severities that one determines based on ride quality are considered subjective.

8.2 *Asphalt Concrete (AC) Surfaced Pavement*—Individually inspect each sample unit chosen. Sketch the sample unit, including orientation. Record the branch and section number and the number and type of the sample unit (random or additional). Record the sample unit size measured with the hand odometer. Conduct the distress inspection by walking over the sidewalk/shoulder of the sample unit being surveyed, measuring the quantity of each severity level of every distress type present, and recording the data. Each distress must correspond in type and severity to that described in Appendix X1. The method of measurement is included with each distress description. Repeat this procedure for each sample unit to be inspected. A copy of a Blank Flexible Pavement Condition Survey Data Sheet for Sample Unit is included in Fig. 2.

8.3 *PCC Pavements*—Individually inspect each sample unit chosen. Sketch the sample unit showing the location of the slabs. Record the sample unit size, branch and section number, and number and type of the sample unit (random or additional), the number of slabs in the sample unit and the slab size measured with the hand odometer. Perform the inspection by walking over the sidewalk/shoulder of the sample unit being surveyed and recording all distress existing in the slab along with their severity level. Each distress type and severity must correspond with that described in Appendix X2. Summarize the distress types, their severity levels and the number of slabs in the sample unit containing each type and severity level. Repeat this procedure for each sample unit to be inspected. A copy of a Blank Jointed Rigid Pavement Condition Survey Data Sheet for Sample Unit is included in Fig. 3.

9. Calculation of PCI for Asphalt Concrete (AC) Pavement

9.1 Add up the total quantity of each distress type at each severity level, and record them in the "Total Severities" section. For example, Fig. 4 shows five entries for the Distress Type 1, "Alligator Cracking": 5L, 4L, 4L, 8H, and 6H. The distress at each severity level is summed and entered in the "Total Severity" section as 13 ft^2 (1.2 m^2) of low severity and 14 ft^2 (1.3 m^2) of medium severity. The units for the quantities may be either in square feet (square meters), linear feet (meters), or number of occurrences, depending on the distress type.

9.2 Divide the total quantity of each distress type at each severity level from 9.1 by the total area of the sample unit and multiply by 100 to obtain the percent density of each distress type and severity.

9.3 Determine the deduct value (DV) for each distress type and severity level combination from the distress deduct value curves in Appendix X3.

9.4 Determine the maximum corrected deduct value (CDV). The procedure for determining maximum CDV from individual DVs is identical for both AC and PCC pavement types.

9.5 The following procedure must be used to determine the maximum CDV.

9.5.1 If none or only one individual deduct value is greater than two, the total value is used in place of the maximum CDV in determining the PCI; otherwise, maximum CDV must be determined using the procedure described in 9.5.2-9.5.5.

9.5.2 List the individual deduct values in descending order. For example, in Fig. 4 this will be 25.1, 23.4, 17.9, 11.2, 7.9, 7.5, 6.9, and 5.3.

9.5.3 Determine the allowable number of deducts, m, from Fig. 5, or using the following formula (see Eq 4):

$$m = 1 + (9/98)(100–\text{HDV}) \leq 10 \tag{4}$$

where:
m = allowable number of deducts including fractions (must be less than or equal to ten), and
HDV = highest individual deduct value.

(For the example in Fig. 4, $m = 1 + (9/98)(100-25.1) = 7.9$).

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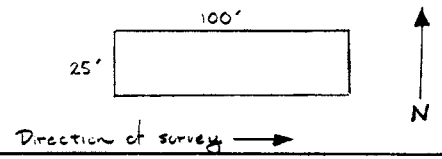
ASPHALT SURFACED ROADS AND PARKING LOTS CONDITION SURVEY DATA SHEET FOR SAMPLE UNIT

BRANCH SPRINGFIELD SECTION 001 SAMPLE UNIT 1
SURVEYED BY KAK DATE 10 Jul 93 SAMPLE AREA 2500 sf

SKETCH:



1. Alligator Cracking
2. Bleeding
3. Block Cracking
4. Bumps and Sags
5. Corrugation
6. Depression
7. Edge Cracking
8. Jt. Reflection Cracking
9. Lane/Shoulder Drop Off
10. Long & Trans Cracking
11. Patching & Util Cut Patching
12. Polished Aggregate
13. Potholes
14. Railroad Crossing
15. Rutting
16. Shoving
17. Slippage Cracking
18. Swell
19. Weathering/Raveling

DISTRESS SEVERITY	QUANTITY									TOTAL	DENSITY %	DEDUCT VALUE
1 L	1x5	1x4	1x4							13	0.52	7.9
1 H	1x8	1x6								14	0.56	23.4
7 L	32	15	18	24	41					130	5.20	7.5
8 M	20	15	35	27	23	10	13			143	5.72	25.1
11 H	3x4	2x5								22	0.88	17.9
13 L	1									1	0.04	11.2
15 L	4	9	8							21	0.84	6.9
19 L	250									250	10.0	5.3

FIG. 4 Example of a Flexible Pavement Condition Survey Data Sheet

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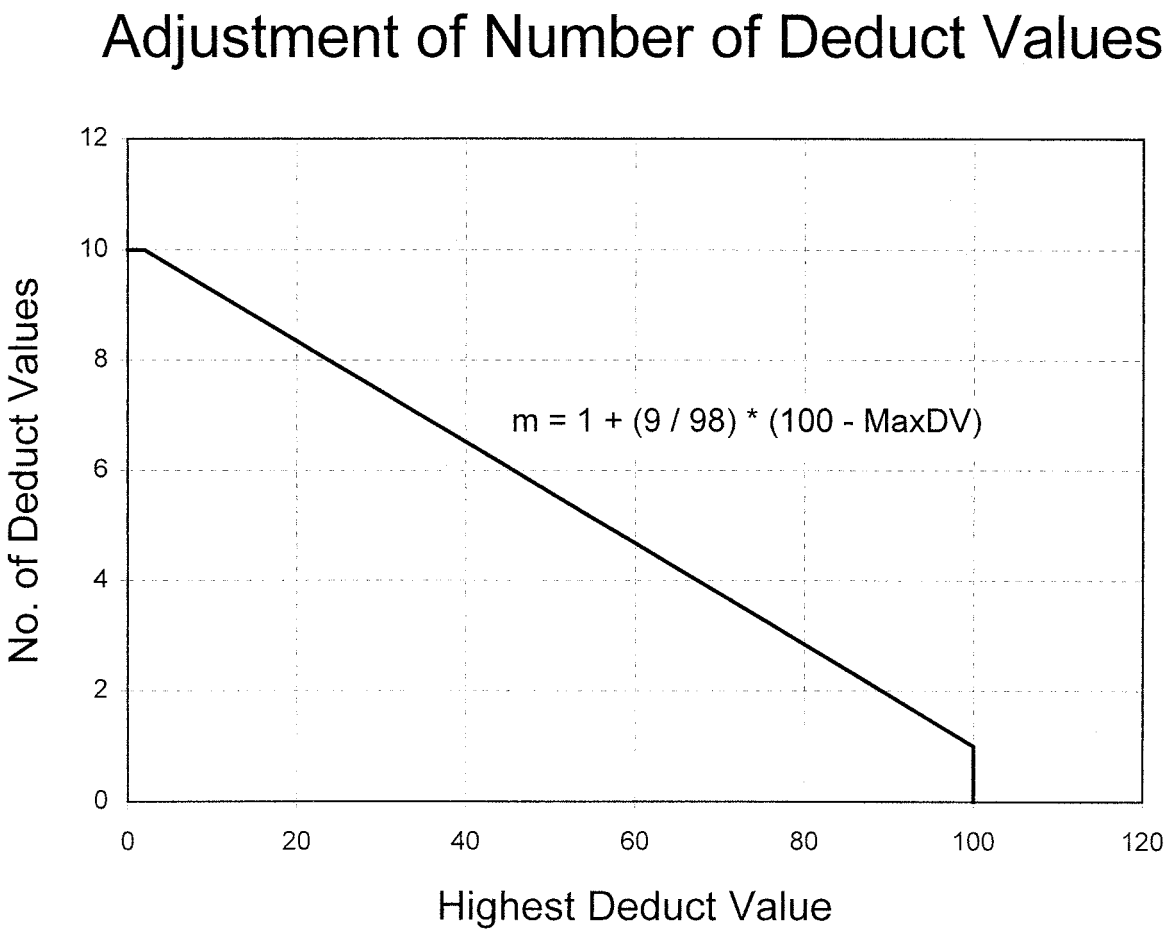

FIG. 5 Adjustment of Number of Deduct Values

9.5.4 The number of individual deduct values is reduced to the *m* largest deduct values, including the fractional part. For the example in Fig. 6, the values are 25.1, 23.4, 17.9, 11.2, 7.9, 7.5, 6.9, and 4.8 (the 4.8 is obtained by multiplying 5.3 by (7.9 – 7 = 0.9)). If less than *m* deduct values are available, all of the deduct values are used.

9.5.5 Determine maximum CDV iteratively, as shown in Fig. 6.

9.5.5.1 Determine total deduct value by summing individual deduct values. The total deduct value is obtained by adding the individual deduct values in 9.5.4, that is, 104.7.

9.5.5.2 Determine q as the number of deducts with a value greater than 2.0. For example, in Fig. 6, q = 8.

9.5.5.3 Determine the CDV from total deduct value and q by looking up the appropriate correction curve for AC pavements in Fig. X4.15 in Appendix X3.

9.5.5.4 Reduce the smallest individual deduct value greater than 2.0 to 2.0 and repeat 9.5.5.1-9.5.5.3 until q = 1.

9.5.5.5 Maximum CDV is the largest of the CDVs.

9.6 Calculate PCI by subtracting the maximum CDV from 100: PCI = 100-max CDV.

9.7 Fig. 6 shows a summary of PCI calculation for the example AC pavement data in Fig. 4. A blank PCI calculation form is included in Fig. 2.

10. Calculation of PCI for Portland Cement Concrete (PCC) Pavement

10.1 For each unique combination of distress type and severity level, add up the total number of slabs in which they occur. For the example in Fig. 7, there are two slabs containing low-severity corner break (Distress 22L).

10.2 Divide the number of slabs from 10.1 by the total number of slabs in the sample unit and multiply by 100 to obtain the percent density of each distress type and severity combination.

10.3 Determine the deduct values for each distress type severity level combination using the corresponding deduct curve in Appendix X4.

10.4 Determine PCI by following the procedures in 9.5 and 9.6, using the correction curve for PCC pavements (see Fig. X4.20 in Appendix X4) in place of the correction curve for AC pavements.

10.5 Fig. 7 shows a summary of PCI calculation for the example PCC pavement distress data in Fig. 8.

11. Determination of Section PCI

11.1 If all surveyed sample units are selected randomly, then the PCI of the section (PCI_s) is calculated as the area weighted PCI of the randomly surveyed sample units ($\overline{PCI}_r$) using equation 5:

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m = 1 + (9/98) (100 - 25.1) = 7.9 < 8

Use highest 7 deducts and 0.9 of eighth deduct.

0.9 x 5.3 = 4.8

#	Deduct Values										Total	q	CDV
1	25.1	23.4	17.9	11.2	7.9	7.5	6.9	4.8			104.7	8	51.0
2	25.1	23.4	17.9	11.2	7.9	7.5	6.9	2			101.9	7	50.0
3	25.1	23.4	17.9	11.2	7.9	7.5	2	2			96.0	6	46.0
4	25.1	23.4	17.9	11.2	7.9	2	2	2			90.5	5	47.0
5	25.1	23.4	17.9	11.2	2	2	2	2			84.6	4	48.0
6	25.1	23.4	17.9	2	2	2	2	2			75.4	3	48.0
7	25.1	23.4	2	2	2	2	2	2			59.5	2	44.0
8	25.1	2	2	2	2	2	2	2			38.1	1	38.0
9													
10													

Max CDV = 51

PCI = 100 - Max CDV = 49

Rating = FAIR

FIG. 6 Calculation of Corrected PCI Value—Flexible Pavement

$$PCI_S = \overline{PCI_r} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{n} (PCI_{ri} \cdot A_{ri})}{\sum_{i=1}^{n} A_{ri}} \quad (5)$$

where:

$\overline{PCI_r}$ = area weighted PCI of randomly surveyed sample units,

PCI_{ri} = PCI of random sample unit i,

A_{ri} = area of random sample unit i,

n = number of random sample units surveyed.

If additional sample units, as defined in 2.1.1, are surveyed, the area weighted PCI of the surveyed additional units ($\overline{PCI_a}$) is calculated using equation 6. The PCI of the pavement section is calculated using equation 7.

$$\overline{PCI_a} = \frac{\sum_{i=1}^{m} (PCI_{ai} \cdot A_{ai})}{\sum_{i=1}^{m} A_{ai}} \quad (6)$$

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CONCRETE SURFACED ROADS AND PARKING LOTS
CONDITION SURVEY DATA SHEET FOR SAMPLE UNIT

BRANCH SECOND SECTION 001 SAMPLE UNIT 1
SURVEYED BY KAK DATE 10 Jul 93 SAMPLE AREA 20 slabs

Distress Types

21. Blow up/Buckling
22. Corner Break
23. Divided Slab
24. Durability Crack
25. Faulting
26. Joint Seal
27. Lane/Shoulder
28. Linear Cracking
29. Patching (Large)
30. Patching (Small)
31. Polished Aggregate
32. Popouts
33. Pumping
34. Punchout
35. Railroad Crossing
36. Scaling
37. Shrinkage
38. Spalling Corner
39. Spalling Joint

DIST TYPE	SEV	NO. SLABS	DENSITY %	DEDUCT VALUE
26	H	—	100	8.0
22	L	3	15	12.6
22	M	1	5	7.7
23	M	3	15	30.5
30	M	4	20	4.4
34	M	2	10	25.1
38	L	6	30	5.8
39	H	1	5	9.0

SKETCH:

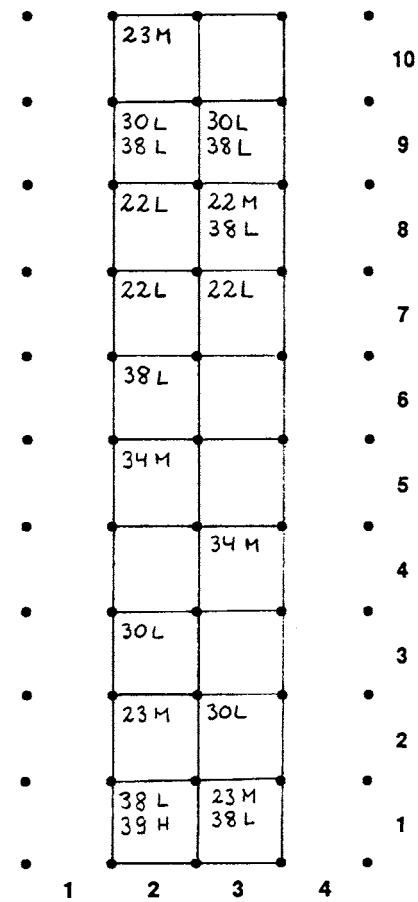

FIG. 7 Example of a Jointed Rigid Pavement Condition Survey Data Sheet

$$PCI_s = \frac{\overline{PCI_r}(A - \sum_{i=1}^{m} A_{ai}) + \overline{PCI_a}(\sum_{i=1}^{m} A_{ai})}{A} \quad (7)$$

$\overline{PCI_a}$ = area weighted PCI of additional sample units,
PCI_{ai} = PCI of additional sample unit i,
A_{ai} = area of additional sample unit i,
A = area of section,
m = number of additional sample units surveyed, and
PCI_s = area weighted PCI of the pavement section.

11.2 Determine the overall condition rating of the section by using the section PCI and the condition rating scale in Fig. 1.

12. Report

12.1 Develop a summary report for each section. The summary lists section location, size, total number of sample units, the sample units inspected, the PCIs obtained, the average PCI for the section, and the section condition rating.

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m = 1 + (9/98) (100 - 30.5) = 7.4 < 8

Use highest 7 deducts and 0.4 of eighth deduct.

0.4 x 4.4 = 1.76

#	Deduct Values										Total	q	CDV
1	30.5	25.1	12.6	9.0	8.0	7.7	5.8	1.76			100.5	7	50.0
2	30.5	25.1	12.6	9.0	8.0	7.7	2	1.76			96.7	6	49.5
3	30.5	25.1	12.6	9.0	8.0	2	2	1.76			91.0	5	51.0
4	30.5	25.1	12.6	9.0	2	2	2	1.76			85.0	4	49.0
5	30.5	25.1	12.6	2	2	2	2	1.76			78.0	3	50.0
6	30.5	25.1	2	2	2	2	2	1.76			67.4	2	50.0
7	30.5	2	2	2	2	2	2	1.76			44.3	1	44.3
8													
9													
10													

Max CDV = 51

PCI = 100 - Max CDV = 49

Rating = FAIR

FIG. 8 Calculation of Corrected PCI Value—Jointed Rigid Pavement

APPENDIXES

(Nonmandatory Information)

X1. Distress in Asphalt Pavements

X1.1 During the field condition surveys and validation of the PCI, several questions are commonly asked about the identification and measurement of some of the distresses. The answers to these questions for each distress are included under the heading "How to Measure." For convenience, however, the most frequently raised issues are addressed below:

X1.1.1 If alligator cracking and rutting occur in the same area, each is recorded separately at its respective severity level.

X1.1.2 If bleeding is counted, polished aggregate is not counted in the same area.

X1.1.3 Spalling as used herein is the further breaking of pavement or loss of materials around cracks or joints.

X1.1.4 If a crack does not have the same severity level along its entire length, each portion of the crack having a different severity level should be recorded separately. If, however, the different levels of severity in a portion of a crack

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cannot be easily divided, that portion should be rated at the highest severity level present.

X1.1.5 If any distress, including cracking and potholes, is found in a patched area, it is not recorded; its effect on the patch, however, is considered in determining the severity level of the patch.

X1.1.6 A significant amount of polished aggregate should be present before it is counted.

X1.1.7 A distress is said to be raveled if the area surrounding the distress is broken (sometimes to the extent that pieces are removed).

X1.2 The reader should note that the items above are general issues and do not stand alone as inspection criteria. To properly measure each distress type, the inspector must be familiar with its individual measurement criteria.

X1.3 Nineteen distress types for asphalt-surfaced pavements are listed alphabetically in this manual.

RIDE QUALITY

X1.4 Ride quality must be evaluated in order to establish a severity level for the following distress types:

X1.4.1 Bumps.

X1.4.2 Corrugation.

X1.4.3 Railroad crossings.

X1.4.4 Shoving.

X1.4.5 Swells.

X1.4.6 To determine the effect these distresses have on ride quality, the inspector should drive at the normal operating speed and use the following severity-level definitions of ride quality:

X1.4.6.1 **L**—Low. Vehicle vibrations, for example, from corrugation, are noticeable, but no reduction in speed is necessary for comfort or safety. Individual bumps or settlements, or both, cause the vehicle to bounce slightly, but create little discomfort.

X1.4.6.2 **M**—Medium. Vehicle vibrations are significant and some reduction in speed is necessary for safety and comfort. Individual bumps or settlements, or both, cause the vehicle to bounce significantly, creating some discomfort.

X1.4.6.3 **H**—High. Vehicle vibrations are so excessive that speed must be reduced considerably for safety and comfort. Individual bumps or settlements, or both, cause the vehicle to bounce excessively, creating substantial discomfort, safety hazard, or high potential vehicle damage.

X1.4.7 The inspector should drive at the posted speed in a sedan that is representative of cars typically seen in local traffic. Pavement sections near stop signs should be rated at a deceleration speed appropriate for the intersection.

ALLIGATOR CRACKING (FATIGUE)

X1.5 *Description*—Alligator or fatigue cracking is a series of interconnecting cracks caused by fatigue failure of the asphalt concrete surface under repeated traffic loading. Cracking begins at the bottom of the asphalt surface, or stabilized base, where tensile stress and strain are highest under a wheel load. The cracks propagate to the surface initially as a series of parallel longitudinal cracks. After repeated traffic loading, the cracks connect, forming many sided, sharp-angled pieces that develop a pattern resembling chicken wire or the skin of an alligator. The pieces are generally less than 0.5 m (1.5 ft) on the longest side. Alligator cracking occurs only in areas subjected to repeated traffic loading, such as wheel paths. Pattern-type cracking that occurs over an entire area not subjected to loading is called "block cracking," which is not a load-associated distress.

X1.5.1 *Severity Levels*:

X1.5.1.1 **L**—Fine, longitudinal hairline cracks running parallel to each other with no, or only a few interconnecting cracks. The cracks are not spalled (Fig. X1.1).

X1.5.1.2 **M**—Further development of light alligator cracks into a pattern or network of cracks that may be lightly spalled (Fig. X1.2).

X1.5.1.3 **H**—Network or pattern cracking has progressed so that the pieces are well defined and spalled at the edges. Some of the pieces may rock under traffic (Fig. X1.3).

X1.5.2 *How to Measure*—Alligator cracking is measured in square meters (square feet) of surface area. The major difficulty in measuring this type of distress is that two or three levels of severity often exist within one distressed area. If these portions can be easily distinguished from each other, they should be measured and recorded separately; however, if the different levels of severity cannot be divided easily, the entire area should be rated at the highest severity present. If alligator cracking and rutting occur in the same area, each is recorded separately as its respective severity level.

BLEEDING

X1.6 *Description*—Bleeding is a film of bituminous material on the pavement surface that creates a shiny, glasslike, reflecting surface that usually becomes quite sticky. Bleeding is caused by excessive amounts of asphaltic cement or tars in the mix, excess application of a bituminous sealant, or low air void content, or a combination thereof. It occurs when asphalt fills the voids of the mix during hot weather and then expands onto the pavement surface. Since the bleeding process in not reversible during cold weather, asphalt or tar will accumulate on the surface.

FIG. X1.1 Low-Severity Alligator Cracking

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FIG. X1.2 Medium-Severity Alligator Cracking

FIG. X1.3 High-Severity Alligator Cracking

X1.6.1 *Severity Levels*:

X1.6.1.1 **L**—Bleeding only has occurred to a very slight degree and is noticeable only during a few days of the year. Asphalt does not stick to shoes or vehicles (Fig. X1.4).

X1.6.1.2 **M**—Bleeding has occurred to the extent that asphalt sticks to shoes and vehicles during only a few weeks of the year (Fig. X1.5).

FIG. X1.4 Low-Severity Bleeding

FIG. X1.5 Medium-Severity Bleeding

X1.6.1.3 **H**—Bleeding has occurred extensively and considerable asphalt sticks to shoes and vehicles during at least several weeks of the year (Fig. X1.6).

X1.6.2 *How to Measure*—Bleeding is measured in square meters (square feet) of surface area. If bleeding is counted, polished aggregate should not be counted.

BLOCK CRACKING

X1.7 *Description*—Block cracks are interconnected cracks that divide the pavement into approximately rectangular pieces. The blocks may range in size from approximately 0.3 by 0.3 m (1 by 1 ft) to 3 by 3 m (10 by 10 ft). Block cracking is caused mainly by shrinkage of the asphalt concrete and daily temperature cycling, which results in daily stress/strain cycling. It is not load-associated. Block cracking usually indicates that the asphalt has hardened significantly. Block cracking normally occurs over a large portion of the pavement area,

FIG. X1.6 High-Severity Bleeding

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but sometimes will occur only in nontraffic areas. This type of distress differs from alligator cracking in that alligator cracks form smaller, many-sided pieces with sharp angles. Also, unlike block, alligator cracks are caused by repeated traffic loadings, and therefore, are found only in traffic areas, that is, wheel paths.

X1.7.1 *Severity Levels*:

X1.7.1.1 **L**—Blocks are defined by low-severity[3] cracks (Fig. X1.7).

X1.7.1.2 **M**—Blocks are defined by medium-severity[3] cracks (Fig. X1.8).

X1.7.1.3 **H**—Blocks are defined by high-severity[3] cracks (Fig. X1.9).

X1.7.2 *How to Measure*—Block cracking is measured in m^2 (ft^2) of surface area. It usually occurs at one severity level in a given pavement section; however, if areas of different severity levels can be distinguished easily from one another, they should be measured and recorded separately.

BUMPS AND SAGS

X1.8 *Description*:

X1.8.1 Bumps are small, localized, upward displacements of the pavement surface. They are different from shoves in that shoves are caused by unstable pavement. Bumps, on the other hand, can be caused by several factors, including:

X1.8.1.1 Buckling or bulging of underlying PCC slabs in AC overlay over PCC pavement.

X1.8.1.2 Frost heave (ice, lens growth).

X1.8.1.3 Infiltration and buildup of material in a crack in combination with traffic loading (sometimes called "tenting").

X1.8.1.4 Sags are small, abrupt, downward displacements of the pavement surface. If bumps appear in a pattern perpendicular to traffic flow and are spaced at less than 3 m (10 ft), the distress is called corrugation. Distortion and displacement that occur over large areas of the pavement surface, causing large or long dips, or both, in the pavement should be recorded as" swelling."

X1.8.2 *Severity Levels*:

[3] See definitions of longitudinal transverse cracking within Appendix X2.10.

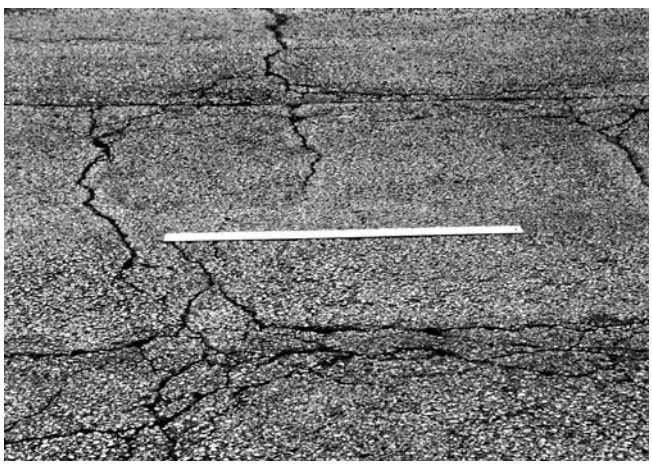

FIG. X1.7 Low-Severity Block Cracking

FIG. X1.8 Medium-Severity Block Cracking

FIG. X1.9 High-Severity Block Cracking

X1.8.2.1 **L**—Bump or sag causes low-severity ride quality (Fig. X1.10).

X1.8.2.2 **M**—Bump or sag causes medium-severity ride quality (Fig. X1.11).

X1.8.2.3 **H**—Bump or sag causes high-severity ride quality (Fig. X1.12).

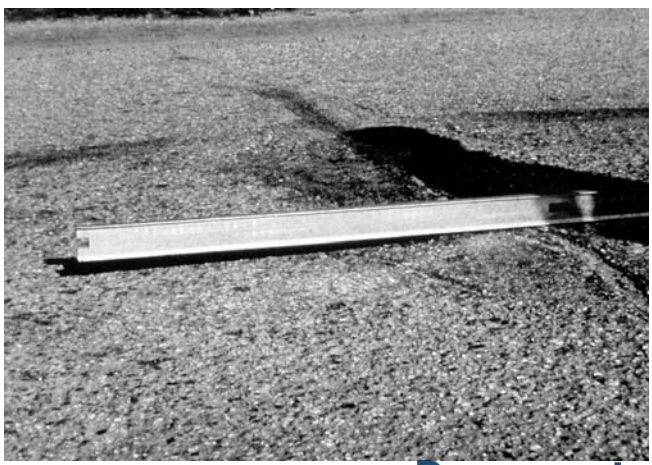

FIG. X1.10 Low-Severity Bumps and Sags

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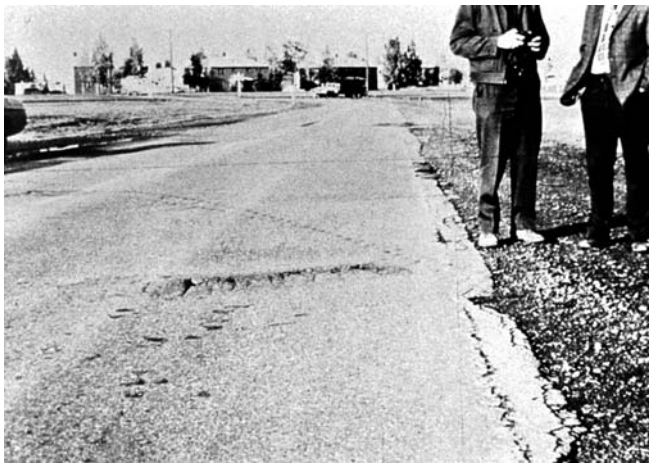

FIG. X1.11 Medium-Severity Bumps and Sags

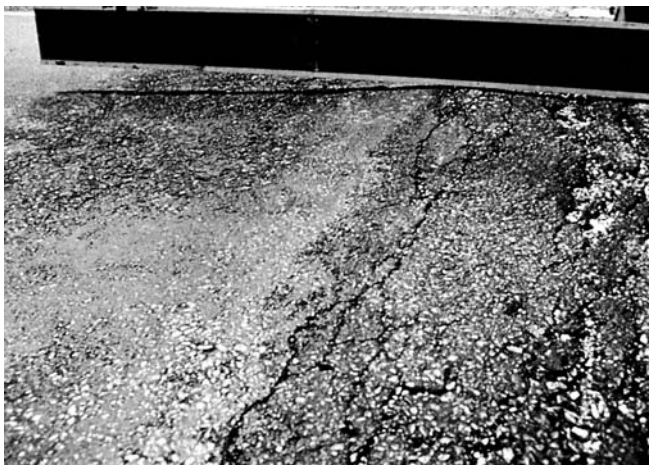

FIG. X1.12 High-Severity Bumps and Sags

X1.8.3 *How to Measure*—Bumps or sags are measured in linear meters (feet). If the bump occurs in combination with a crack, the crack also is recorded.

CORRUGATION

X1.9 *Description*—Corrugation, also known as "washboarding", is a series of closely spaced ridges and valleys (ripples) occurring at fairly regular intervals, usually less than 3 m (10 ft) along the pavement. The ridges are perpendicular to the traffic direction. This type of distress usually is caused by traffic action combined with an unstable pavement surface or base.

X1.9.1 *Severity Levels*:

X1.9.1.1 **L**—Corrugation produces low-severity ride quality (Fig. X1.13).

X1.9.1.2 **M**—Corrugation produces medium-severity ride quality (Fig. X1.14).

X1.9.1.3 **H**—Corrugation produces high-severity ride quality (Fig. X1.15).

X1.9.2 *How to Measure*—Corrugation is measured in square meters (square feet) of surface area.

DEPRESSION

X1.10 *Description*—Depressions are localized pavement surface areas with elevations slightly lower than those of the surrounding pavement. In many instances, light depressions are not noticeable until after a rain, when ponding water creates a "birdbath" area; on dry pavement, depressions can be spotted by looking for stains caused by ponding water. Depressions are created by settlement of the foundation soil or as the result of

FIG. X1.13 Low-Severity Corrugation

FIG. X1.14 Medium-Severity Corrugation

FIG. X1.15 High-Severity Corrugation

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improper construction. Depressions cause some roughness, and when deep enough or filled with water, can cause hydroplaning.

X1.10.1 *Severity Levels (Maximum Depth of Depression)*:

X1.10.1.1 **L**–13 to 25 mm (½ to 1 in.) (Fig. X1.16).

X1.10.1.2 **M**–25 to 50 mm (1 to 2 in.) (Fig. X1.17).

X1.10.1.3 **H**—More than 50 mm (2 in.) (Fig. X1.18).

X1.10.2 *How to Measure*—Depressions are measured in square meters (square feet) of surface area.

EDGE CRACKING

X1.11 *Description*—Edge cracks are parallel to and usually within 0.3 to 0.5 m (1 to 1.5 ft) of the outer edge of the pavement. This distress is accelerated by traffic loading and can be caused by frost-weakened base or subgrade near the edge of the pavement. The area between the crack and pavement edge is classified as raveled if it is broken up (sometimes to the extent that pieces are removed).

X1.11.1 *Severity Levels*:

X1.11.1.1 **L**—Low or medium cracking with no breakup or raveling (Fig. X1.19).

X1.11.1.2 **M**—Medium cracks with some breakup and raveling (Fig. X1.20).

X1.11.1.3 **H**—Considerable breakup or raveling along the edge (Fig. X1.21).

X1.11.2 *How to Measure*—Edge cracking is measure in linear meters (feet).

JOINT REFLECTION CRACKING (From Longitudinal and Transverse PCC Slabs)

X1.12 *Description*—This distress occurs only on asphalt-surfaced pavements that have been laid over a PCC slab. It does not include reflection cracks from any other type of base, that is, cement- or lime-stabilized; these cracks are caused mainly by thermal- or moisture-induced movement of the PCC slab beneath the AC surface. This distress is not load-related; however, traffic loading may cause a breakdown of the AC surface near the crack. If the pavement is fragmented along a crack, the crack is said to be spalled. A knowledge of slab dimension beneath the AC surface will help to identify these distresses.

X1.12.1 *Severity Levels*:

X1.12.1.1 **L**—One of the following conditions exists (Fig. X1.22): Nonfilled crack width is less than 10 mm (⅜ in.), or filled crack of any width (filler in satisfactory condition).

FIG. X1.16 Low-Severity Depression

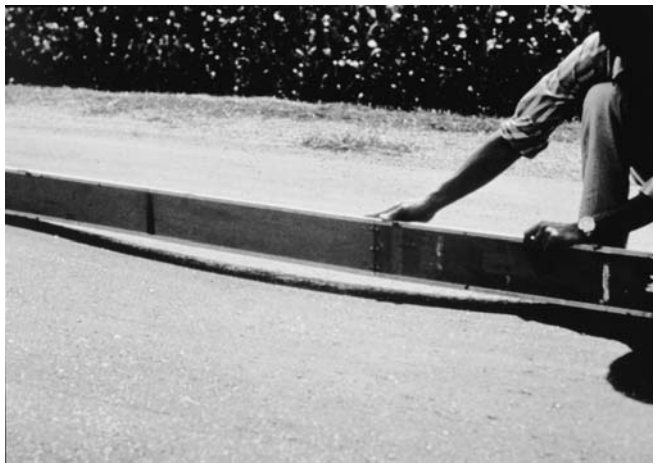

FIG. X1.17 Medium-Severity Depression

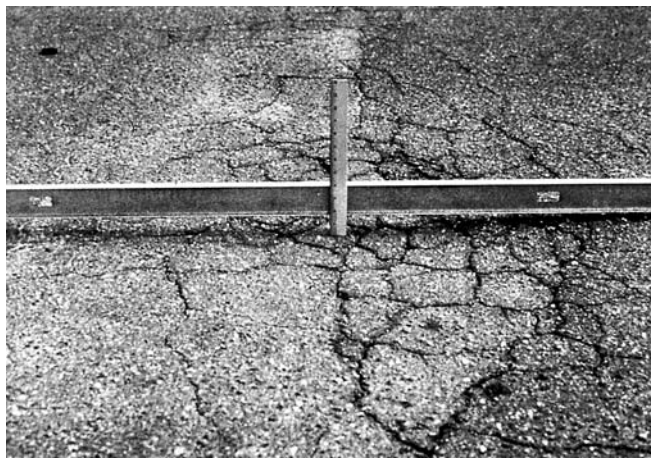

FIG. X1.18 High-Severity Depression

FIG. X1.19 Low-Severity Edge Cracking

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