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A pavement full-depth reclamation case study using cold *in situ* recycling with foamed bitumen

INTRODUCTION

The new "Circular Economy Action Plan" presents a set of initiatives to normalise and encourage sustainable products and services, changing consumption patterns to avoid waste production.

In the road paving sector, it becomes logical that recycling distressed pavements is one of the best circularity solutions. The full-depth reclamation of asphalt paving materials using cold *in situ* recycling may be one of the alternatives that is most sustainable and easier to implement in specific situations.

OBJECTIVE

This case study aims to assess a recycling technology used *in situ* to implement a full-depth reclamation of a distressed pavement based on foamed bitumen.

RECYCLED LAYER COMPOSITION



In situ extraction of reclaimed material



Sample of milled material for lab testing



Specimens of cold recycled material with foamed bitumen produced in the laboratory

RECYCLED LAYER CONSTRUCTION

The recycling solution comprised the following construction process:

- Application of 2.0% lime over the existing pavement
- Cold *in situ* recycling of the pavement with 2.6% foamed bitumen in a thickness of 0.16 m
- Application of tack-coat at a rate of 0.5 kg/m²
- Overlay with a 5 cm surface course (AC 14)



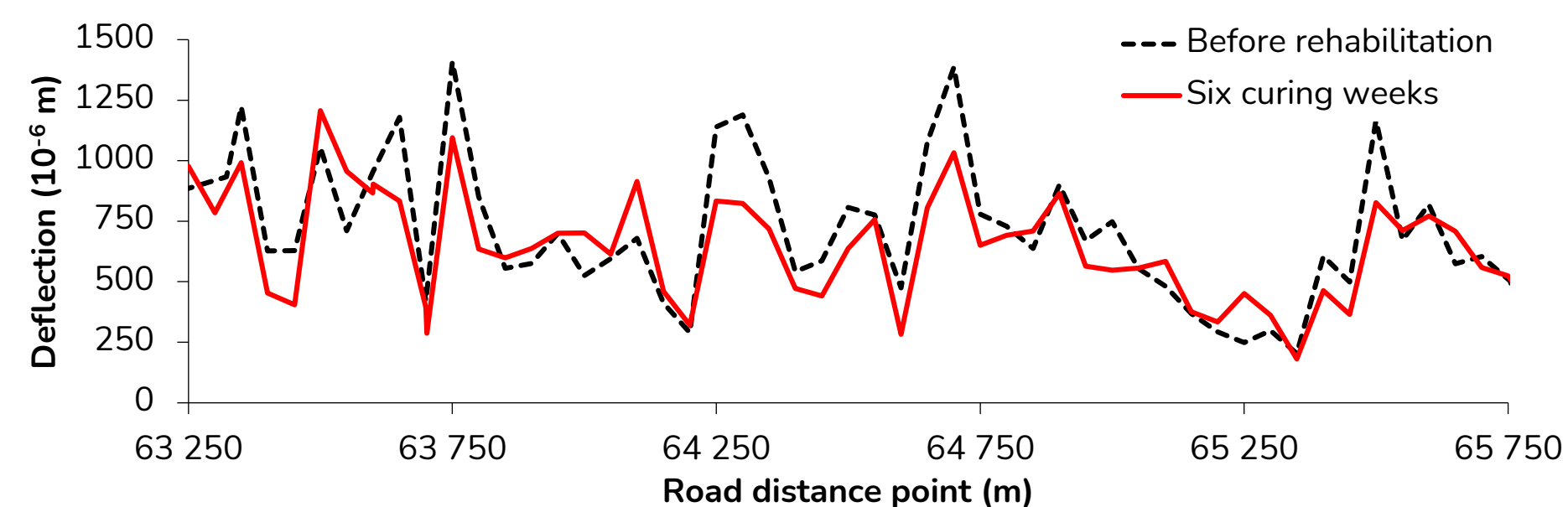
Recycler used for full-depth reclamation and addition of foamed bitumen



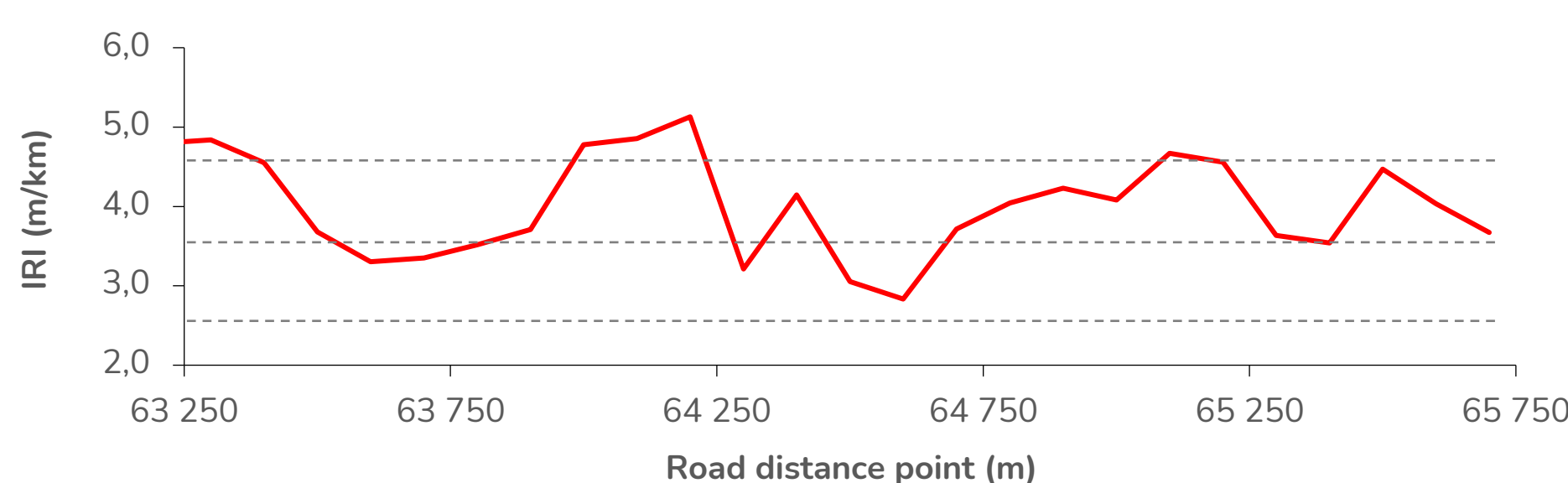
Paver used to apply the new recycled layer in the pavement trial

RECYCLED LAYER QUALITY EVALUATION

Load capacity with FWD



Longitudinal roughness



Surface condition evaluation

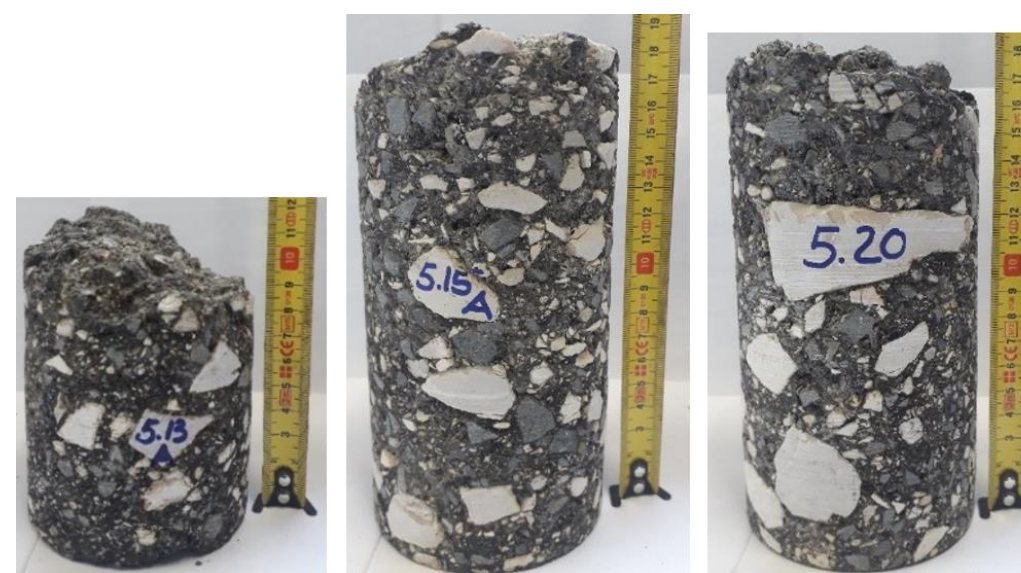


Typical surface condition of the foamed bitumen recycled layer in the trial



Specific areas of the recycled layer presenting some surface ravelling

Evaluation of cored samples



Visual appearance and thickness of some core samples extracted in the pavement trial

Indirect dry tensile strength (ITS_d) on layer top and bottom regions of recycled material

Parameter	Range	Mean
ITS _d on layer top (kPa)	373 to 754	516
ITS _d on layer bottom (kPa)	156 to 521	333

CONCLUSIONS

- *In situ* full-depth reclamation with foamed bitumen is a viable solution to reduce the consumption of new materials and the production of wastes close to zero, assuring a sound performance of the pavement.
- The recycled material should be overlaid with HMA layers for a better long-term performance of the pavement and to improve the roughness characteristics.

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