

PREMATURE FAILURE OF FLEXIBLE PAVEMENTS IN GREECE: WHAT IS TO BLAME

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ABSTRACT

During, at least, the last ten years in Greece, flexible pavements often show premature failure. The types of failure are, mainly, surface distortion and cracking. The pavement is the show window, 'the virtine', of a road/highway project and as a result it must be the best possible, as well as the safest.

The appearance or not of the premature failure is affected from the quality, in general, and this in turn from many factors. Quality is indissolubly related to performance and performance is interwoven to economy. Pavement quality seems to alter from one project to another.

In this paper, all parameters affecting the quality of a pavement will be cited. It will also outline the interdependence of the parameters and how they affect pavement performance.

The purpose of this paper is to prove that more than one factor is responsible for the quality of the pavement. Additionally, is to unite all those involved, towards one common goal, to improve pavement quality. The pavement quality improvement will minimize the phenomenon of premature failure of the Greek pavements. As a result, the capital invested in constructing a road-pavement will be more cost-effective.

KEY WORDS: Asphalt pavement, premature failures, quality, performance