

**A NEW MINIMUM WIDTH FOR THE DESIGN OF SEALED SHOULDERS ON ROADS**

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**ABSTRACT**

Measurements were made of the seasonal and lateral variation of moisture content at selected sites on existing sealed South African roads. The edge zone of seasonal variation was shown to extend 600-1000mm in from the edge of the bitumen. The probability of outer wheeltrack loading being borne by the edge zone of seasonal variation was found for varying widths of sealed shoulder. It is recommended that the minimum width of sealed shoulder be 1,0 metres for design traffic less than  $3 \times 10^6$  E80s and 1,2 metres for design traffic greater than  $3 \times 10^6$  E80s.

**EKSERP**

Die seisoens en laterale variasie in vog onder geselekteerde seksies van bestaande geseelde Suid Afrikaanse paaie is gemeet. Daar is bevind dat die randsone van seisoens variasie 600-1000mm inwaarts strek. Die waarskynlikheid dat die randsone van seisoens variasie deur die buitenste wielspoorbelaasting gedra word is ondersoek vir wisselende geseelde skouerwydtes. In die lig hiervan word aanbeveel dat die minimum wydte van geseelde skouers vir ontwerpverkeer van minder as  $3 \times 10^6$  E80s 1,0 meter moet wees en 1,2 meter vir ontwerpverkeer groter as  $3 \times 10^6$  E80s.

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