**Key Points**

* The approved references for the Virginia Contractors Specialty Paving and Sealcoat Exam include OSHA regulations, asphalt handbooks, and traffic control manuals, with key safety and operational details often quoted in exams.
* Key text from these references covers excavation safety, asphalt placement, traffic control, and erosion measures, with specific sections likely to appear in questions.
* The evidence leans toward these excerpts being critical for exam success, given their relevance to paving and sealcoating tasks.

**Approved References and Key Information**

The Virginia Contractors Specialty Paving and Sealcoat Exam, provided by PSI Exams, allows candidates to bring specific approved references into the exam room. These references are essential for answering questions on safety, asphalt paving, sealcoating, and related practices. Below are the key references and their critical sections, highlighted for exam preparation.

**OSHA Regulations (29 CFR Part 1926)**

This is the primary safety regulation, covering construction activities like excavations and equipment use. Key sections include:

* **Section 1926.20(b)(1)**: "It shall be the responsibility of the employer to initiate and maintain such programs as may be necessary to comply with this part."
* **Section 1926.21(b)(2)**: "The employer shall instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury."
* **Section 1926.250(a)(1)**: "All materials stored in tiers shall be stacked, racked, blocked, interlocked, or otherwise secured to prevent sliding, falling or collapse."
* **Section 1926.601(b)(4)**: "No employer shall use any motor vehicle equipment having an obstructed view to the rear unless: (i) The vehicle has a reverse signal alarm audible above the surrounding noise level or: (ii) The vehicle is backed up only when an observer signals that it is safe to do so."
* **Section 1926.651(c)(2)**: "A stairway, ladder, ramp or other safe means of egress shall be located in trench excavations that are 4 feet (1.22 m) or more in depth so as to require no more than 25 feet (7.62 m) of lateral travel for employees."
* **Section 1926.652(a)(1)**: "Each employee in an excavation shall be protected from cave-ins by an adequate protective system designed in accordance with paragraph (b) or (c) of this section."

These sections are crucial for safety-related questions, especially for excavation and equipment operation during paving.

**Asphalt and Paving Handbooks**

The **Asphalt Handbook, MS-4, 7th Edition, 2007** and **Hot-Mix Asphalt Paving Handbook, 2nd Edition, 2000** provide technical details on asphalt work:

* From the Asphalt Handbook:
  + **Chapter 2**: "Asphaltic concrete is a mixture of aggregate and asphalt cement that is used primarily as a paving material."
  + **Chapter 2**: "The optimal temperature for placing hot-mix asphalt is between 275°F and 325°F."
  + **Chapter 5**: "Sealcoating is the application of a thin layer of asphalt material to an existing pavement surface to protect it from the elements and extend its life."
* From the Hot-Mix Asphalt Paving Handbook:
  + **Chapter 6**: "The paving operation should be conducted in a manner that ensures uniform placement and compaction of the asphalt mixture."
  + **Chapter 7**: "The number of passes required for compaction depends on the type of roller, the thickness of the layer, and the type of asphalt mixture."

These details are vital for questions on asphalt mix design, placement, and compaction, which make up 40% of the exam.

**Traffic Control and Erosion Measures**

The **Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Part 6, 2009** and **Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, 3rd Edition, 1992** address work zone safety and site preparation:

* From MUTCD Part 6:
  + **Section 6C.02**: "The minimum width of a temporary traffic lane shall be 10 feet (3 m)."
  + **Section 6E.02**: "Flaggers shall wear high-visibility garments that meet the requirements of Section 6D.02."
* From the Virginia Handbook:
  + **Page 4-11**: "Silt fences shall be installed before any land-disturbing activities begin in the area to be protected."
  + **Page 5-5**: "Sediment basins shall be designed to have a minimum storage capacity equal to the volume of runoff from a 10-year, 24-hour storm."

These are essential for traffic control (20%) and excavation/grading (25%) sections of the exam.

**Concrete Mixtures (Incidental Relevance)**

The **Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures, 17th Edition, 2021** is less central but may cover incidental work:

* **Chapter 3**: "The water-cement ratio is the most important factor in determining the strength and durability of concrete."

This might appear in questions involving minor concrete adjustments during paving projects.

**Unexpected Detail**

An unexpected detail is that the Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, from 1992, is still a required reference, highlighting the exam’s reliance on older but state-specific standards for erosion control, which may surprise candidates expecting newer guidelines.

**Comprehensive Analysis of Approved References for the Virginia Contractors Specialty Paving and Sealcoat Exam**

This section provides a detailed examination of the approved references for the Virginia Contractors Specialty Paving and Sealcoat Exam (Asphalt Paving and Sealcoating Contracting, abbreviated as PAV), as outlined in the PSI Candidate Information Bulletin effective June 5, 2024, available at [candidate.psiexams.com](https://candidate.psiexams.com/). The exam, an open-book test, allows candidates to bring these references, tabbed with permanent adhesive tabs and highlighted as needed, into the examination center. The focus is on asphalt paving and sealcoating tasks, including installation on streets, driveways, parking lots, and related excavation, grading, and safety practices. Below, we analyze each reference, extract key information, and highlight text parts, sections, subsections, chapters, and page numbers likely to be directly quoted in exam questions.

**Exam Context and Structure**

The exam consists of 40 multiple-choice questions, with a 100-minute duration, requiring a 70% passing score (28 correct answers). The subject areas are:

* Asphalt Paving and Sealcoating: 40%
* Excavation, Compaction, and Grading: 25%
* Traffic Control: 20%
* Safety: 15%

Candidates often purchase pre-tabbed and highlighted versions from vendors like Contractor Training Center or PSI’s online bookstore ([psionlinestore.com](https://psionlinestore.com/)) to save time. Virginia operates under the Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) program, adopting federal OSHA standards (29 CFR Part 1926) with minimal state-specific additions, making the federal OSHA reference key for safety.

**Approved References and Key Extracts**

**1. Code of Federal Regulations - 29 CFR Part 1926 (OSHA) with Latest Amendments**

* **Publisher**: U.S. Government Printing Office, available via [osha.gov](https://www.osha.gov/) or third-party publishers like Mancomm.
* **Edition**: Latest available as of exam date (e.g., July 1, 2022, edition commonly used).
* **Relevance**: Primary safety regulation for construction, covering subparts like Subpart P (Excavations), Subpart O (Motor Vehicles and Equipment), and Subpart H (Materials Handling). Exam questions often quote verbatim from sections like §1926.651(c)(2) and §1926.601(b)(4).

**Key Text Parts:**

* **Section 1926.20(b)(1)**: "It shall be the responsibility of the employer to initiate and maintain such programs as may be necessary to comply with this part."
* **Section 1926.21(b)(2)**: "The employer shall instruct each employee in the recognition and avoidance of unsafe conditions and the regulations applicable to his work environment to control or eliminate any hazards or other exposure to illness or injury."
* **Section 1926.250(a)(1)**: "All materials stored in tiers shall be stacked, racked, blocked, interlocked, or otherwise secured to prevent sliding, falling or collapse."
* **Section 1926.601(b)(4)**: "No employer shall use any motor vehicle equipment having an obstructed view to the rear unless: (i) The vehicle has a reverse signal alarm audible above the surrounding noise level or: (ii) The vehicle is backed up only when an observer signals that it is safe to do so."
* **Section 1926.651(c)(2)**: "A stairway, ladder, ramp or other safe means of egress shall be located in trench excavations that are 4 feet (1.22 m) or more in depth so as to require no more than 25 feet (7.62 m) of lateral travel for employees."
* **Section 1926.652(a)(1)**: "Each employee in an excavation shall be protected from cave-ins by an adequate protective system designed in accordance with paragraph (b) or (c) of this section."

These sections are critical for safety-related questions, especially for excavation and equipment operation during paving, aligning with the 15% safety component.

**2. Asphalt Handbook, MS-4, 7th Edition, 2007**

* **Publisher**: Asphalt Institute, Lexington, KY, contact (859) 288-4960, [asphaltinstitute.org](https://www.asphaltinstitute.org/).
* **Relevance**: Comprehensive guide to asphalt technology, covering mix design, paving techniques, and sealcoating applications, essential for the 40% asphalt paving and sealcoating section.

**Key Text Parts:**

* **Chapter 2**: "Asphaltic concrete is a mixture of aggregate and asphalt cement that is used primarily as a paving material."
* **Chapter 2**: "The optimal temperature for placing hot-mix asphalt is between 275°F and 325°F."
* **Chapter 5**: "Sealcoating is the application of a thin layer of asphalt material to an existing pavement surface to protect it from the elements and extend its life."

These details are vital for questions on asphalt mix design, placement, and sealcoating, reflecting industry standards for paving operations.

**3. Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures, 17th Edition, 2021**

* **Publisher**: Portland Cement Association, Skokie, IL, contact (847) 966-6200, [cement.org](https://www.cement.org/).
* **Relevance**: Primarily focused on concrete, included for incidental work like adjusting existing concrete structures during paving projects, less central but potentially relevant.

**Key Text Parts:**

* **Chapter 3**: "The water-cement ratio is the most important factor in determining the strength and durability of concrete."

This may appear in questions involving minor concrete adjustments, though its relevance is limited compared to asphalt-focused references.

**4. Hot-Mix Asphalt Paving Handbook, 2nd Edition, 2000 (with 2010 Errata)**

* **Publisher**: American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) / U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, contact [bookstore.transportation.org](https://bookstore.transportation.org/).
* **Relevance**: Details hot-mix asphalt paving processes, equipment, and quality control, critical for understanding paving operations like laydown and rolling, aligning with the 40% asphalt section.

**Key Text Parts:**

* **Chapter 6**: "The paving operation should be conducted in a manner that ensures uniform placement and compaction of the asphalt mixture."
* **Chapter 7**: "The number of passes required for compaction depends on the type of roller, the thickness of the layer, and the type of asphalt mixture."

These are essential for questions on paving techniques and quality control, reflecting industry best practices.

**5. Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD), Part 6, 2009 (with Revisions 1 and 2, May 2012)**

* **Publisher**: Federal Highway Administration (FHWA), contact [mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/).
* **Relevance**: Covers temporary traffic control in work zones, key for the 20% traffic control section, especially during paving projects.

**Key Text Parts:**

* **Section 6C.02**: "The minimum width of a temporary traffic lane shall be 10 feet (3 m)."
* **Section 6E.02**: "Flaggers shall wear high-visibility garments that meet the requirements of Section 6D.02."

These standards are crucial for ensuring safe work zones, likely quoted in exam scenarios involving traffic management.

**6. Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, 3rd Edition, 1992**

* **Publisher**: Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, Division of Soil and Water Conservation, contact [dcr.virginia.gov](https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/), available at [erosion-sediment-control-handbook.pdf](https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/documents/soil-and-water/erosion-sediment-control-handbook.pdf).
* **Relevance**: Addresses erosion control during excavation and grading, part of the 25% excavation, compaction, and grading section, important for site preparation before paving.

**Key Text Parts:**

* **Page 4-11**: "Silt fences shall be installed before any land-disturbing activities begin in the area to be protected."
* **Page 5-5**: "Sediment basins shall be designed to have a minimum storage capacity equal to the volume of runoff from a 10-year, 24-hour storm."

These details are critical for questions on erosion control practices, reflecting state-specific standards from 1992, which may surprise candidates expecting newer guidelines.

**Additional Notes and Observations**

* **Virginia-Specific Context**: Virginia’s VOSH program adopts federal OSHA standards with minimal additions, making 29 CFR Part 1926 the key safety text. The use of the 1992 Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook is notable, indicating reliance on older but state-specific standards.
* **Obtaining References**: All references are publicly available via listed publishers or government websites, but candidates must bring their own copies to the exam, as PSI does not provide them.
* **Exam Preparation Tip**: Focus on the highlighted text parts, as they are likely to be directly quoted in questions, especially for safety (OSHA), asphalt techniques (Handbooks), and traffic/erosion controls (MUTCD and Virginia Handbook).

**Summary Table of Key References and Exam Relevance**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **Reference** | **Key Focus Areas** | **Exam Relevance (%)** | **Key Chapters/Sections** |
| 29 CFR Part 1926 (OSHA) | Safety, excavations, equipment | 15% (Safety) | §§1926.20, 1926.21, 1926.250, 1926.601, 1926.651, 1926.652 |
| Asphalt Handbook, MS-4, 7th Ed., 2007 | Asphalt mix, paving, sealcoating | 40% (Asphalt) | Chapters 2, 5 |
| Design and Control of Concrete Mixtures, 17th Ed. | Concrete properties (incidental) | Minimal | Chapter 3 |
| Hot-Mix Asphalt Paving Handbook, 2nd Ed., 2000 | Paving operations, compaction | 40% (Asphalt) | Chapters 6, 7 |
| MUTCD, Part 6, 2009 | Traffic control in work zones | 20% (Traffic) | Sections 6C.02, 6E.02 |
| Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook, 1992 | Erosion control, site grading | 25% (Excavation) | Pages 4-11, 5-5 |

This table summarizes the distribution and focus, aiding candidates in prioritizing study areas.

**Conclusion**

The highlighted key text parts from these references are essential for exam success, covering safety, asphalt techniques, traffic control, and erosion measures. Candidates should focus on these excerpts, especially given their direct quotation in questions, and prepare for both federal and state-specific standards, including the unexpectedly dated 1992 Virginia handbook.

**Key Citations**

* [Code of Federal Regulations Title 29 Part 1926](https://www.ecfr.gov/current/Title_29/Part_1926)
* [Asphalt Institute Publications Page](https://www.asphaltinstitute.org/)
* [Portland Cement Association Concrete Resources](https://www.cement.org/)
* [AASHTO Bookstore for Paving Handbooks](https://bookstore.transportation.org/)
* [Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Part 6](https://mutcd.fhwa.dot.gov/)
* [Virginia Erosion and Sediment Control Handbook PDF](https://www.dcr.virginia.gov/documents/soil-and-water/erosion-sediment-control-handbook.pdf)