



**FAA  
Great Lakes Region, Airports Division  
Safety Standards Branch**

## **Airport Certification Information Bulletin 2009-07**

Pavements deteriorate over time from exposure to traffic and environment. Maintenance and rehabilitation is used to delay the deterioration process or even return the pavement to a like-new state. The goal of a pavement maintenance program is to provide a safe and operable pavement for the least possible cost. An effective maintenance program will provide the airport owner with sufficient information to assess how to obtain the greatest return for funds expended. It is cheaper to apply limited funds to a pavement when the conditions is relatively good rather than applying additional funds to raise the condition from a lower value.

A properly designed program can help determine the most appropriate time to treat a pavement; what the most cost-effective method may be; and the cost to maintain the pavement at a desirable condition. One part of this program consists of record keeping of detailed inspections and on the maintenance performed. This is a requirement at obligated airports for a minimum of five years.

As the blistering cold and snow finally comes to an end, many airports are suffering the consequences of winter operations and the freezing temperatures. Snow plows are notorious for damaging runway surfaces, causing crack sealant to be destroyed which exposes cracks to water infiltration. The plow's blade is capable of producing enough force to rip chunks of pavement causing holes which could impair directional control of air carrier aircraft. AC 150/5320-17 provides guidance on understanding and rating the surface condition of flexible and rigid airfield pavements. Being proactive on this important matter will not only lead us to a longer lasting pavement, but will also lead to a safer and more efficient airport. 14 CFR Part 139.305 contains paved area requirements for Certificated Airports.

A copy of the Distress Identification Manual funded by the Federal Highway Administration is available for viewing and download on our website at

[http://www.faa.gov/airports/great\\_lakes/airports\\_resources/certification\\_bulletins/media/09-07%20Attachment.pdf](http://www.faa.gov/airports/great_lakes/airports_resources/certification_bulletins/media/09-07%20Attachment.pdf).

This is a great informational source on how to assess your pavement condition by identifying what distresses is currently on your airfield. Additional guidance on developing a pavement maintenance program can be found in AC 150/5380-6, "Guidelines and Procedures for Maintenance of Airport Pavements."

