

# 1 Optimization of Preparation Procedure of Liquid Warm Mix Additive

## 2 Modified Asphalt Rubber

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### 5 Abstract

6 Warm mix asphalt (WMA) is an emerging clean production technology that alleviates the energy and  
7 environmental concerns of asphalt pavement industry. It is particularly suitable for asphalt rubber (AR)  
8 pavement, which provides longer service life and lower road-tyre noise but requires higher production  
9 temperature. Evotherm-DAT, a common liquid warm-mix asphalt (WMA) additive, can effectively  
10 improve the workability of AR binder, thus reducing the construction temperature of AR pavement.  
11 However, the properties of the Evotherm-DAT modified AR binders (Evo-AR) might be affected by the  
12 procedure of incorporating the WMA additive into AR, which unfortunately has not been fully studied  
13 yet. This study aims to address this issue by characterizing the rheological properties and chemical  
14 compositions of the Evo-ARs prepared by the following three procedures: 1) preparing AR first and then  
15 blending it with Evotherm-DAT (AR-E), the conventional approach; 2) mixing Evotherm-DAT and  
16 rubber first and then incorporating them to asphalt (ER-A); and 3) adding Evotherm-DAT during the  
17 mixing process of AR (REA). It was found that AR-E and REA had similar rheological properties.

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18 Besides, the workability of ER-A was slightly worse than those of AR-E and REA, but still much  
19 superior to that of AR without WMA additive. The anti-rutting performance of ER-A is better than those  
20 of AR-E and REA while no obvious difference was observed in the fatigue and low temperature  
21 cracking resistance among three types of Evo-ARs. Chemical characterization indicated that the  
22 preparation procedures affected the amount of epoxy groups in Evo-ARs, which possibly contributed to  
23 the difference in their rheological properties. Overall, it was concluded that incorporating Evotherm-  
24 DAT at an early stage has insignificant negative effect on the rheological properties of warm AR binder,  
25 but allows for more energy saving and emission reduction during the mixture production process.

26 **Key words:** preparation procedure; asphalt rubber; warm mix; rheological properties; energy saving

## 27 **1. Introduction**

28 Warm mix asphalt (WMA) is a sustainable paving technology which improves the workability of asphalt  
29 mixture [1] and [2]. As a result, the application of WMA leads to lower energy consumption, emission  
30 and odors during asphalt pavement construction. Based on their working mechanisms, WMA additives  
31 can be classified into three groups: foaming additives, organic additives and chemical additives.  
32 Evotherm-DAT (Dispersed Asphalt Technology) is a liquid chemical additive containing amine agents  
33 that improves binder workability during mixing and compacting process. Typically, 5% of Evotherm-  
34 DAT is added to asphalt binder, allowing for a construction temperature reduction of up to 55 °C [1] [2]  
35 [3] [4] and [5]. A study in Texas indicated that asphalt binders with Evotherm-DAT had lower viscosity,  
36 lower rutting factor ( $G^*/\sin\delta$ ), similar fatigue factor ( $G^*\sin\delta$ ), and similar low-temperature stiffness  
37 compared to their corresponding base asphalt binders [4].

38 Asphalt rubber (AR) refers to a blend of asphalt cement, reclaimed tire rubber and other additives, which  
39 has a rubber content of no less than 15% by weight of the total blend [6] and [7]. Mixtures with AR  
40 binders have been proven to provide superior rutting and cracking resistance compared to those with

41 normal binders [7], [8], [9], [10], [11] and [12]. Besides, AR is beneficial to alleviating road noise [13],  
42 which makes it extremely attractive in urban areas. Nevertheless, due to the incorporation of crumb  
43 rubber modifier (CRM), the viscosity of AR becomes much higher than conventional binder, leading to  
44 higher mixing temperature and compromised working condition [7], [8], [9], [12], [14], [15], [16] and  
45 [17].

46 The feasibility and engineering performance of AR mixtures containing various WMA additives, such as  
47 Evotherm, Sasobit, Cecabase, and Rediset, in AR mixtures have been verified by various studies [9],  
48 [16], [17], [18], [19] and [20]. These WMA additives were able to effectively improve the workability  
49 of AR binders without obviously compromising their mechanical properties. Yu's study [19] indicated  
50 that the AR binder with Evotherm-DAT provided enhanced performance at both high and low-  
51 temperature, and there was no complex chemical reaction between Evotherm-DAT and AR.  
52 The researchers in North Carolina applied various amine-based WMA modifiers, including bio-binder,  
53 Evotherm-3G and Rediset, to AR binders [20] and [21], and found that AR with these amine-based  
54 modifiers had better workability and less temperature susceptibility. They also concluded that additives  
55 with higher amine contents were more effective in devulcanizing rubber [20].

56 However, it is worth noting that different procedures can be applied to prepare AR binders with liquid  
57 WMA additives (eg: AR with Evotherm-DAT), but none of the previous studies have investigated the  
58 effect of the preparation procedure on the performance of such type of warm AR binders. The most  
59 commonly used procedure is to prepare AR binder first, and then add the liquid WMA additive into AR  
60 during the mixing of AR and aggregate. However, there are also two other options, i.e., adding the  
61 WMA additive during the mixing of base asphalt and CRM, and soaking CRM in the liquid WMA  
62 additive first and then incorporating them to base asphalt. Compared to the traditional method, the other  
63 two procedures may lead to further energy saving, since the earlier incorporation of WMA additive may

64 reduce the mixing temperatures of not only the asphalt mixture but also the AR binder. However, the  
65 different preparation procedures may also result in different interactions among rubber, asphalt and  
66 Evotherm-DAT, thus affecting the rheological properties of the final Evotherm-DAT modified AR  
67 binder (Evo-AR). To this end, this study aims to investigate the rheological properties of warm AR  
68 binders prepared by different mixing procedures. To achieve this objective, the rheological properties,  
69 including penetration, rotational viscosity, failure temperature, rutting factor, fatigue factor, and low  
70 temperature stiffness of the Evo-AR binders prepared with different procedures, were measured. In  
71 addition, Fourier Transform Infrared Spectroscopy (FTIR) analysis was conducted to characterize the  
72 interaction among CRM, Evotherm-DAT and base asphalt, when different preparation procedures were  
73 applied.

## 74 **2. Materials and Methods**

### 75 2.1 Materials

76 In this study, a penetration grade 60/70 (Pen 60/70) asphalt commonly used in in Hong Kong, was used  
77 as the base asphalt. AR binder was prepared by blending 18% of 40 mesh crumb rubber by the total  
78 weight of base asphalt and crumb rubber with base asphalt at 176 °C at 4000 r/min for one hour using a  
79 high shear mixer. Three Evo-AR binders, namely AR-E, ER-A and REA, were prepared following  
80 different procedures. AR-E refers to the binder prepared by mixing the prepared AR binder with  
81 Evotherm-DAT by high shear mixing at 160 °C for 10 minutes. REA refers to the binder prepared by  
82 directly mixing Pen 60/70, Evotherm-DAT and CRM at 160 °C for 1 hour. The preparation of ER-A is  
83 slightly more complicated. First, CRM was soaked in Eovtherm-DAT in a sealed beaker for 24 hours at  
84 room temperature and humidity, allowing the liquid WMA additive to be completely absorbed by crumb  
85 rubber. Then, the CRM containing Evotherm-DAT (E-CRM) was mixed with Pen 60/70 by high shear

86 mixing at 160 °C for 1 hour. For all Evo-AR binders, the mass ratios of Pen 60/70, CRM, and  
87 Evotherm-DAT were controlled at 1000: 220: 61.

## 88 2.2 Experimental program

89 Fig. 1 illustrates the experimental program of this study. The penetration (25 °C) and softening point  
90 tests were conducted in accordance with ASTM D5 and ASTM D36, respectively [22] and [23]. A  
91 Brookfield Rotational Viscometer (RV) was used to measure the viscosities of the binders according to  
92 AASHTO T316 [24]. The viscosity tests were conducted at 135 °C for all binders, 160 °C for all binders  
93 except for Pen 60/70, and 176 °C for AR and AR-E. The testing temperatures were selected according to  
94 the expected production temperatures of binder samples. Three replicates were prepared for each type  
95 of binder for each of these tests.

96 The high-temperature performance of the binders was characterized by two parameters: the rutting  
97 factor (for both unaged and rolling thin film oven (RTFO) aged samples) and non-recoverable creep  
98 compliance (for only RTFO aged samples). A Bohlin Dynamic Shear Rheometer (DSR) was used. For  
99 all samples, the diameter of the plates was 25 mm and the gap between two plates was 2 mm [25]. The  
100 rutting factor test started at 64 °C, and the test temperature was automatically raised to the next PG  
101 grade temperature if the rutting factor value was larger than the value specified in AASHTO M320, i.e.,  
102 1 kPa for unaged binder and 2.2 kPa for RTFO binder [26]. The non-recoverable creep compliance ( $J_{nr}$ )  
103 was determined through the multiple stress creep recover (MSCR) test according to AASHTO MP19  
104 [27]. Each cycle was composed of 1s creep loading followed 9s recovery at 64 °C. Each testing  
105 specimen was subjected to ten creep and recovery cycles at a creep stress level of 0.1 kPa followed by  
106 ten cycles at 3.2 kPa. Two replicates were prepared and tested for each type of binder.

107 The fatigue factors of the Pressure Aging Vessel (PAV) aged binder samples were measured to evaluate  
108 their intermediate-temperature performance. This test was conducted at 3 °C decrement, starting at

109 25 °C and ending when the measured factor was larger than 5000 kPa [28]. The 2 cm gap and 8 mm  
110 diameter plates were used [25], and two replicates were prepared and tested for each binder.

111 The low-temperature performance of test samples were measured by creep stiffness and m-value (for  
112 PAV aged samples) [29]. A Cannon Bending Beam Rheometer (BBR) was used and two replicates were  
113 prepared and tested for each type of binder.

114 The FTIR tests were conducted to evaluate the difference in chemical bonds of the binders at various  
115 band regions [9] and [30]. In this test, the test binder was first pressed to pellets with a thickness of  
116 approximately 1 mm, and then placed in a transmission holder and scanned. Three replicates were  
117 prepared and tested for each type of binder.

### 118 **3. Results and discussion**

#### 119 3.1 Penetration and softening point

120 The results of the penetration and softening point tests are presented in Fig. 2. The penetration test  
121 evaluates the consistency of asphalt binder while the softening point test assesses the maximum service  
122 temperature. It was found that all Evo-ARs had much higher penetration values compared to AR  
123 regardless of the preparation procedure. This is mainly attributed to the liquid nature of Evotherm-DAT.  
124 Besides, smaller softening points were observed for all Evo-ARs compared to the regular AR binder.  
125 Finally, no significant difference was found in the penetrations and softening points of the Evo-AR  
126 binders prepared by different procedures.

#### 127 3.2 Workability

128 Rotational viscosity is an important, although not the unique, parameter to characterize the workability  
129 of an asphalt binder [31]. As Fig. 3 shows, all Evo-ARs had lower viscosities than AR within the  
130 temperature range of 135 °C to 176 °C, but their viscosities at 135 °C are much higher than that of Pen

131 60/70. It was also observed that the viscosity of AR-E at 176 °C is slightly higher than that at 160 °C,  
132 which contradicts to the expectation. A careful review of the testing process revealed that this is mainly  
133 due to the evaporation of some fluxible components in Evotherm-DAT when the temperature was above  
134 160 °C. Among various Evo-AR binders, AR-E and REA had similar viscosities at both 135 °C and  
135 160 °C, while ER-A had a higher viscosity at 135 °C but a similar one at 160 °C.

### 136 3.3 Permanent deformation

#### 137 *Failure temperature and rutting factor*

138 Fig. 4a presents the failure temperature test results, while Fig. 4b and Fig. 4c show the rutting factors of  
139 unaged binders and RTFO aged binders, respectively, at different temperatures. As expected, short-term  
140 aging led to increased  $G^*/\sin\delta$ . No significant difference in failure temperature can be noticed between  
141 the binders before and after RTFO, and adding Evotherm-DAT generally led to lower failure  
142 temperature. Among various preparation procedures, AR-E and REA showed similar high-temperature  
143 performance, as indicated by their similar failure temperatures, while the failure temperature of ER-A is  
144 approximately 10 °C higher. The comparison between AR and AR-E shows that Evotherm-DAT  
145 negatively affected the binder stiffness at high temperature. However, the reduced stiffness can be  
146 compensated by first soaking rubber in Evotherm-DAT (the ER-A method). This indicates that different  
147 preparation procedures may lead to different distributions of surfactants and crumb rubber in binder,  
148 thus different binder properties. Fig. 4d and Fig. 4e illustrate the relationships between the phase angle  
149 ( $\delta$ ) and temperature. It can be seen that the RTFO binders had smaller phase angles than the unaged  
150 binders. In other words, short-term aging made the asphalt binders less viscous. Under both unaged and  
151 short-term aged conditions, ER-A was more viscous than other Evo-AR binders.

#### 152 *Multiple stress creep and recovery (MSCR) test*

153 Table 1 presents the results of  $J_{nr}$ , % recovery, and traffic levels determined according to AASHTO  
154 MP19-10. It can be seen that the  $J_{nr}$  differences of all binders containing CRM exceed the maximum  
155 allowable value of 75%, which is consistent with the findings by Wills et al. [32]. This phenomenon was  
156 mainly due to the binders' extremely low  $J_{nr}$  values at 0.1 kPa. Even though the maximum  $J_{nr}$  difference  
157 requirement cannot be met, the low  $J_{nr}$  0.1 and  $J_{nr}$  3.2 values still prove that AR binders have adequate  
158 resistance to permanent deformation at high service temperature. The MSCR results also show that all  
159 binders with CRM had much lower  $J_{nr}$  values compared to Pen 60/70, especially at the stress of 0.1 kPa.  
160 The  $J_{nr}$  value of AR-E is significantly higher than that of AR, indicating the possibility of strong  
161 interaction among the Evotherm-DAT and the components in AR binder. Consistent with the failure  
162 temperature and rutting factor test results, AR-E and REA performed similarly according to the  
163 parameters, such as  $J_{nr}$  and % Recovery. They both meet the traffic level "H" requirement according to  
164 the AASHTO specification. Although ER-A has larger  $J_{nr}$  values than AR, it still can meet the  
165 requirement of the highest traffic level, "E".

#### 166 *Frequency sweep and viscous flow*

167 Frequency sweep and viscous flow tests were conducted to investigate the binder performance at the  
168 maximum pavement service temperature (64 °C) at different loading frequencies (0.1 Hz-10 Hz) and  
169 shear stress levels (0-2000 Pa) [9] and [33]. The results of frequency sweep results in Fig. 5a indicate  
170 that an increase in frequency leads to larger complex modulus. The phase angles are relatively constant  
171 at low frequencies (less than 0.1 Hz) but drop quickly as the frequency is increased to 10 Hz. It can also  
172 be observed that Evotherm-DAT made the AR binder softer. Among three Evo-ARs, ER-A had the  
173 lowest phase angle and the highest complex modulus at almost all test frequencies, indicating better  
174 rutting resistance.



175 The absolute viscosities of the test samples at varying shear stresses (0-2000 Pa) are shown in Fig. 5b.  
176 All binders exhibited increasing shear rate and decreasing absolute viscosity with the increase of shear  
177 stress. Similar to the results of rutting factor and MSCR, viscous flow data indicate that the addition of  
178 Eovtherm-DAT, regardless of the preparation procedure, made the AR binder softer at the maximum  
179 pavement service temperature, leading to lower rutting resistance. However, compared to the base  
180 binder, the Evo-AR binders were much stiffer and less sensitive to the shear stress.

### 181 3.4 Fatigue

182 The intermediate-temperature performance of the PAV-aged binders was characterized by the  
183 Superpave fatigue factor ( $G^* \sin \delta$ ). Fig. 6a illustrates the relationship between the logarithm of  $G^* \sin \delta$   
184 and temperature while Fig. 6b shows the threshold temperature corresponding to a fatigue factor of 5.0  
185 MPa. It can be seen that the fatigue factor of all binders decrease proportionally with temperature. The  
186 threshold temperatures of all binders are less than 25 °C. Eovtherm-DAT negatively affected the fatigue  
187 resistance of AR. The fatigue failure temperatures of the Evo-AR binders were approximately 8 °C  
188 higher than that of AR, but nearly 4 °C lower than that of Pen 60/70. Besides, no specific difference was  
189 observed in the fatigue resistances of AR-E, ER-A and REA.

### 190 3.5 Low-temperature cracking

191 The low-temperature performance of the binders was characterized by stiffness and m-value measured  
192 through BBR tests. Table 2 presents the stiffness' and m-values of all binders. It can be seen that the  
193 binders with CRM showed better low-temperature cracking resistance than Pen 60/70. All binders had  
194 satisfying cracking resistance at -12 °C (stiffness $\leq$ 300 and m-value $>$ 0.3). Similar to the rutting factor  
195 and fatigue factor test results, AR-E and ERA had similar stiffness' and m-values. Compared to AR,  
196 AR-E and ERA had worse cracking resistance at -12 °C, but superior performance at -18 °C. The  
197 stiffness of ER-A is slightly higher than those of the other two Evo-AR binders.

### 198 3.6 Mechanism investigation

199 Fig. 7a and Fig. 7b show the FTIR spectra of Evotherm-DAT and Pen 60/70, respectively. Evotherm-  
200 DAT mainly contains carbon, oxygen, hydrogen, nitrogen, and sulfur elements, which are very close to  
201 the components of asphalt, but significant difference exists in their functional groups in FTIR spectra.  
202 According to Fig. 7, Evotherm-DAT shows more complex chemical composition compared to base  
203 asphalt. Its peaks at approximately  $3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$ ,  $2682\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $1358\text{ cm}^{-1}$  are most likely due to the  
204 presence of amines, amino ions and sulfur-containing organics, respectively [34].

205 Fig. 8a and Fig. 8b show the FTIR spectra of CRM and CRM with Evotherm-DAT (E-CRM) while Fig.  
206 9a and Fig. 9b show their morphologies, respectively. As expected, E-CRM is relatively more saturated  
207 with smoother surface. Most peaks occurring in the spectra of Evotherm-DAT and CRM can also be  
208 noticed in the spectra of E-CRM. However, the strong and broad peak at  $3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  indicating O-H and  
209 N-H stretching shows up in the spectra of E-CRM samples, but it is not so remarkable in the spectra of  
210 either rubber or Evotherm-DAT samples. This suggests that the generation of hydrogen bond between  
211 O-H/N-H group of rubber and  $-\text{COO}^-$  group of Evotherm-DAT samples during the soaking process. The  
212 chemical reaction between Evotherm-DAT and crumb rubber leads to a tighter bonding on interacting  
213 surface, which may affect the final performance of Evo-AR binder.

214 Fig. 9a shows the FTIR spectra of AR binder. Its major absorption bands occur at locations similar to  
215 those of Pen 60/70. However, peaks at  $1703\text{ cm}^{-1}$  and  $3400\text{ cm}^{-1}$  (carbonyl group and hydrogen-bonded  
216 hydroxyl group) are observed in AR, which do not show in either Pen 60/70 or CRM. These peaks  
217 indicate the oxidization of unsaturated functional groups and the formation of hydrogen bond during the  
218 heating and mixing processes of asphalt and rubber. This result proves that direct chemical bonds exist  
219 among CRM and base asphalt, which leads to a more stable interior structure and superior rheological

220 performance [35]. This result also suggests that the CRM modification is not only physical, but also  
221 chemical with slight effects on the chemical bonding and functional groups.

222 Comparing the Evo-ARs prepared by different mixing procedures, it was found that the spectra of AR-E  
223 and REA are very close to each other, indicating that their chemical components are similar [20]. This  
224 observation corresponds well with the rheological test results. ER-A also shows similar spectra, but the  
225 intensity of the peak at about  $1200\text{ cm}^{-1}$  for C-O stretching of epoxy group is larger, which indicates that  
226 epoxy groups was activated by other functional groups in ER-A showing a higher stretching intensity in  
227 FTIR spectra. By using the spectra of AR as a reference, it is believed that epoxy group was fixed by  
228 rubber or Evotherm-DAT molecules through hydrogen bond. As a result, it seems that rubber and base  
229 asphalt reacts better in ER-A than in other two Evo-ARs.

230 Possible micro models can be proposed to illustrate the interaction among asphalt, rubber and Evotherm-  
231 DAT (Fig. 10), according to FTIR results. In base asphalt, the hydrocarbon group (hydrophobic structure)  
232 is considered uniformly but loosely distributed (Fig. 10a). The incorporation of CRM may redistribute  
233 the hydrocarbon chains by physical absorbing and chemical bonding [36] and [37], leading to steadier  
234 and more compacted micro structures (Fig. 10b). Fig. 10c describes the molecular distribution in AR-E  
235 and REA. In AR-E, the active hydrophilic molecules from Evotherm-DAT (containing hydroxyl groups)  
236 destroyed the formed structure of AR and asphalt; while in REA the hydrophilic and hydrophilic  
237 molecules had disorderly and unsystematic distribution. Lastly, in ER-A, as Evotherm-DAT and rubber  
238 was pre-bonded before mixing with asphalt, most hydroxyl groups were fixed to rubber surface through  
239 hydrogen or covalent bonds (Fig. 9a). In this case, hydrophilic molecules had limited influence on the  
240 interaction between asphalt and rubber (Fig. 10d). Besides, as rubber particles in ER-A were surrounded  
241 by Evotherm-DAT, which contains more aromatics than base asphalt, better devulcanization and  
242 depolymerization of crumb rubber may be achieved [20], resulting in superior rheological properties.

243 **4. Conclusions**

244 Evotherm-DAT, a common chemical warm mix additive, can be incorporated to AR following different  
245 procedures, resulting in different workabilities and performances of warm AR binders. A series of  
246 rheological property and chemical analysis tests were conducted in this study to characterize the  
247 physical and chemical properties of Evo-AR binders prepared by three different procedures, which  
248 resulted in the following conclusions:

- 249 1. In general, AR binders with Evotherm-DAT additive provided poorer high-temperature  
250 performance but similar intermedia- and low-temperature performance compared to the AR  
251 binder without warm mix additives, regardless of the preparation procedure.
- 252 2. Adding Evotherm-DAT during the mixing process of AR binder (i.e., REA) can help lower the  
253 preparation temperature of AR without compromising the performance of the warm AR binder.
- 254 3. Evo-AR binders prepared by first soaking rubber in Evotherm-DAT and then incorporating them  
255 to base asphalt (i.e., ER-A) showed better high-temperature performance than those prepared by  
256 the conventional procedure (i.e., AR-E).
- 257 4. Incorporating Evotherm-DAT at an earlier stage during the warm AR preparation process (i.e.,  
258 the two non-traditional processes: REA and ER-A) had very marginal negative effect on the  
259 rheological properties of AR binder. However, it led to more energy saving, because it not only  
260 reduces the temperature of mixing AR binder with aggregate, but also that of mixing rubber with  
261 base asphalt.

262 It is worth noting that this study focuses on the effects of different procedures on the rheological  
263 properties of warm AR binder. Effects of these procedures on the performance of warm AR mixtures  
264 will be investigated in the future study.

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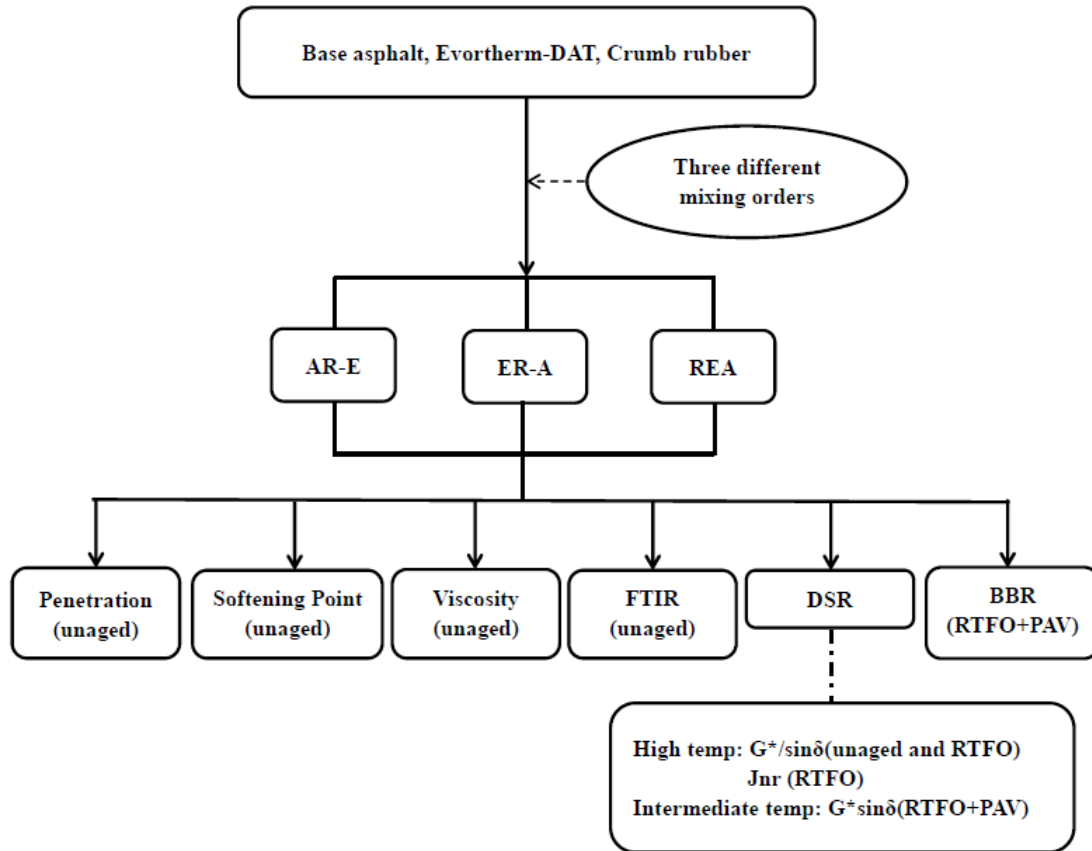
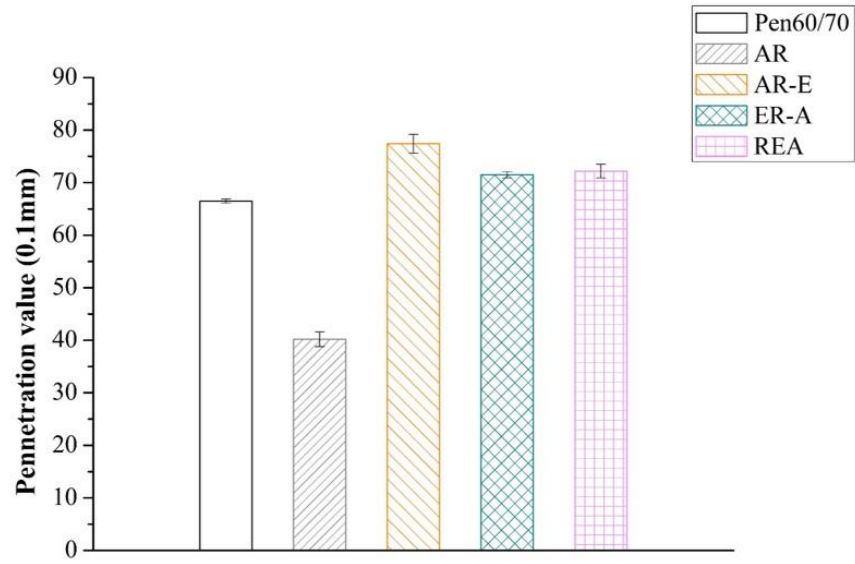
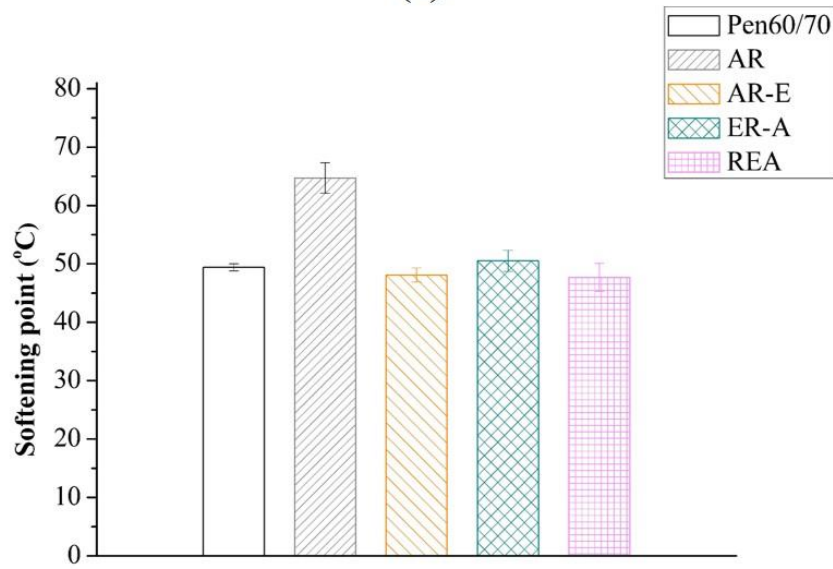


Fig. 1 Experimental program

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Fig. 2 Rheological test results: (a) Penetration at 25°C; (b) Softening point

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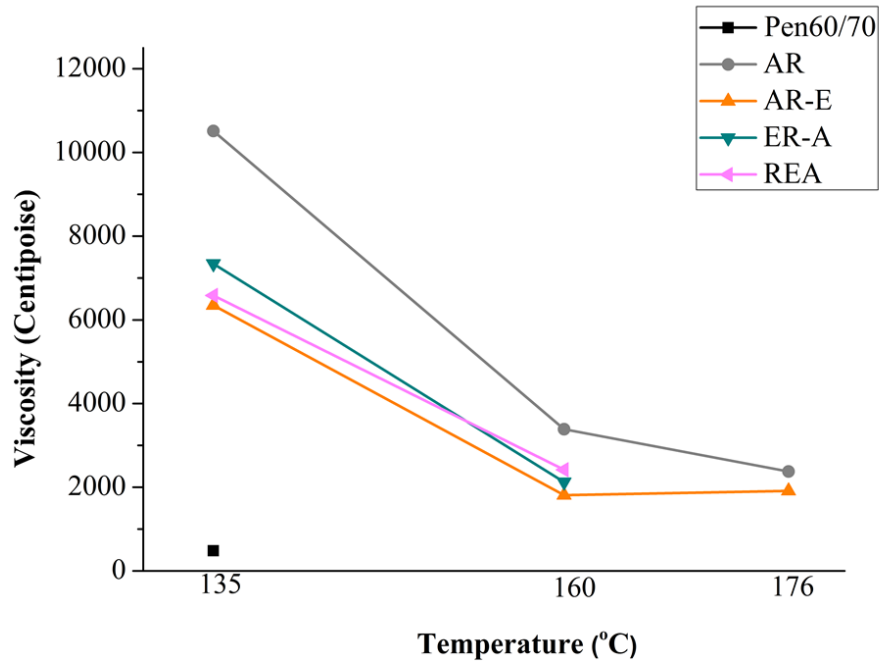
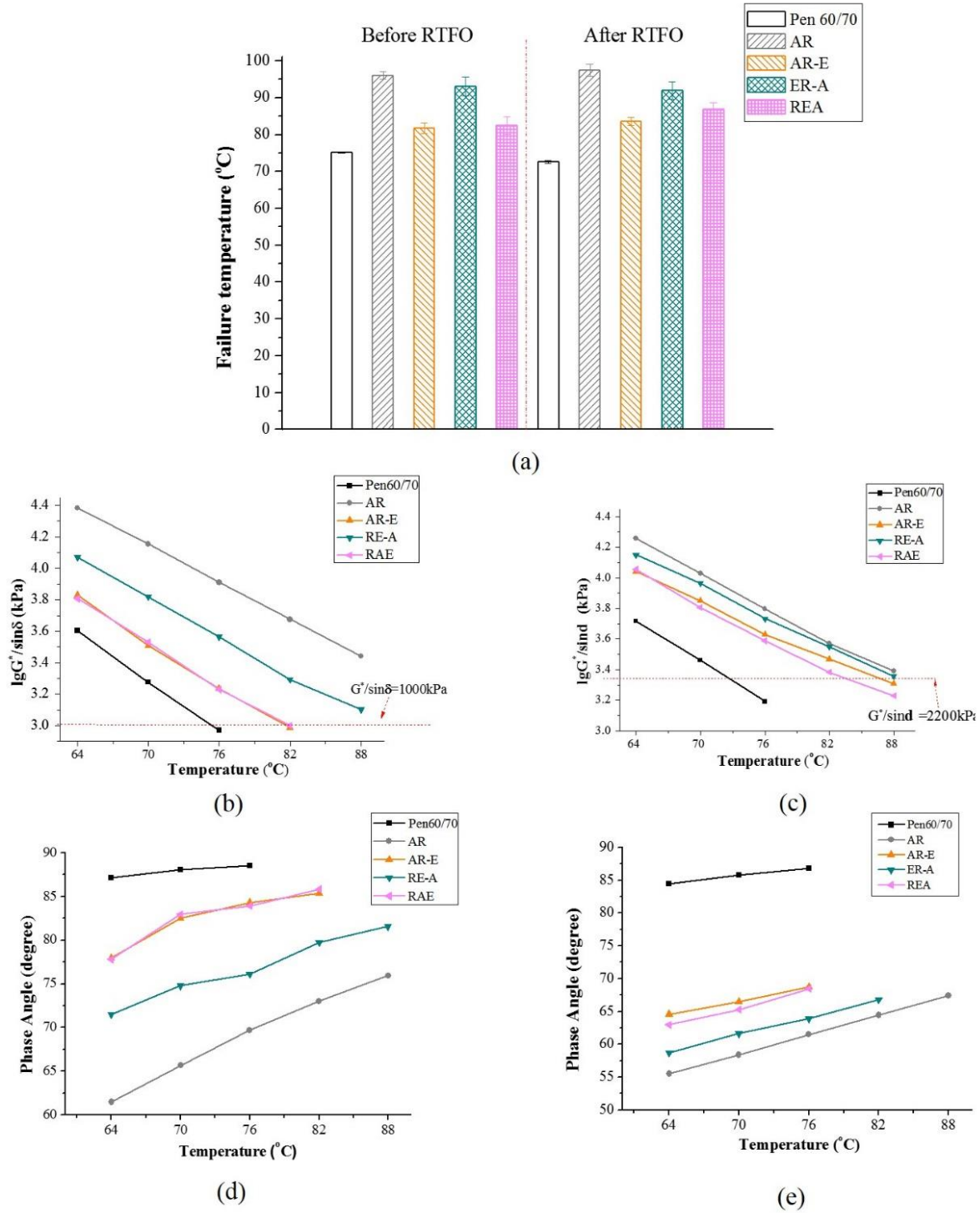


Fig. 3 Rotational viscosity test results

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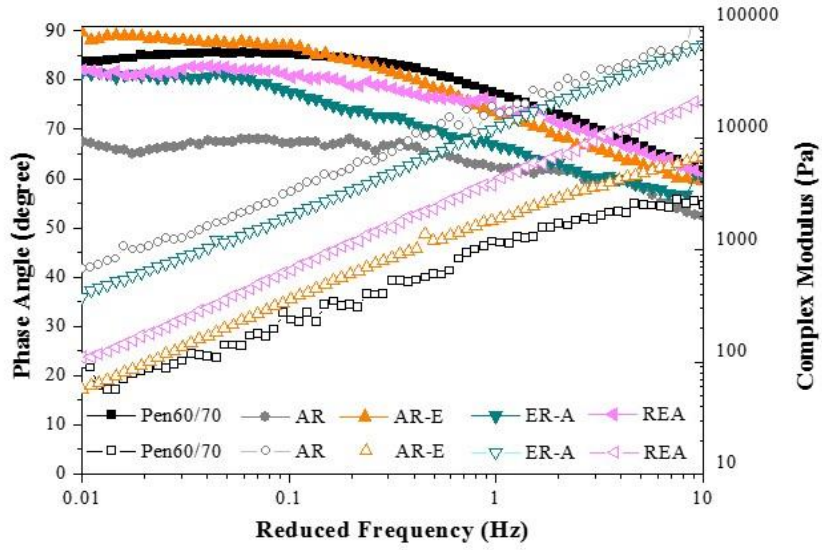


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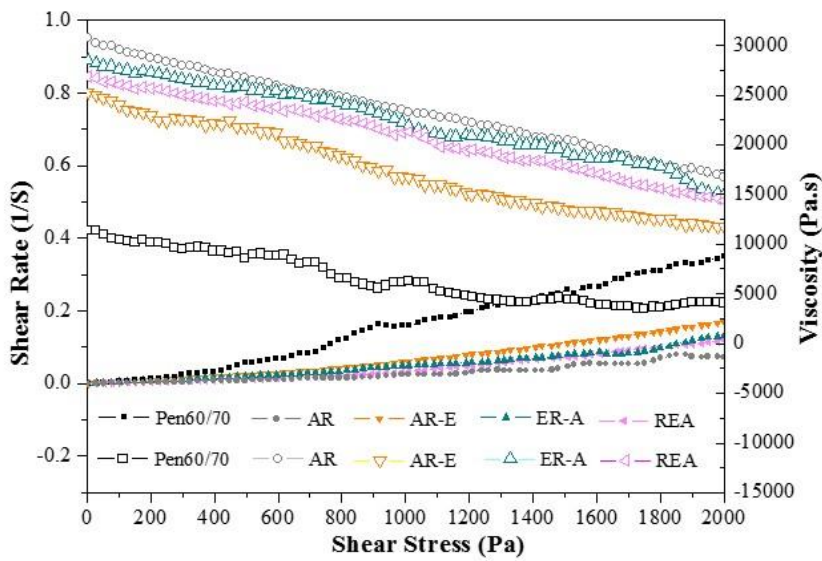
438 Fig. 4 High-temperature test results: (a) failed temperature; (b) rutting factor (unaged samples) (c) rutting factor  
 439 (RTFO samples); (d) phase angle (unaged samples); (e) phase angle (RTFO samples)

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443 Fig. 5 Rheological performance at high temperature: (a) frequency sweep test results; (b) viscous flow test results

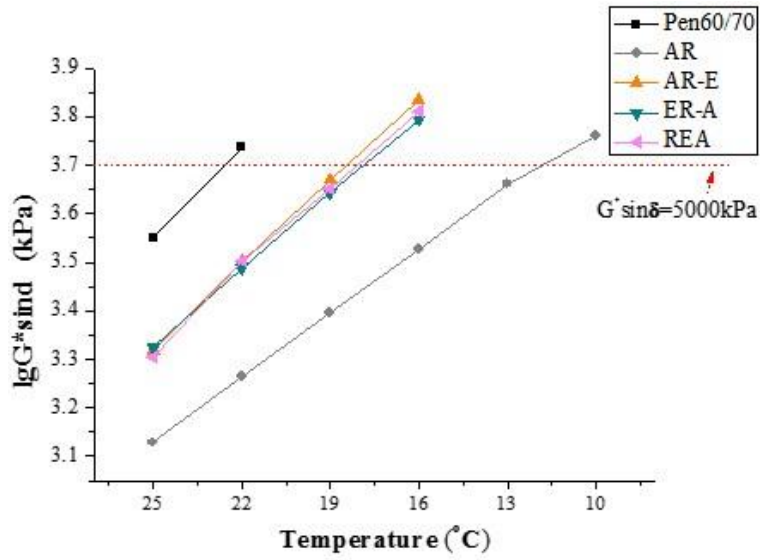
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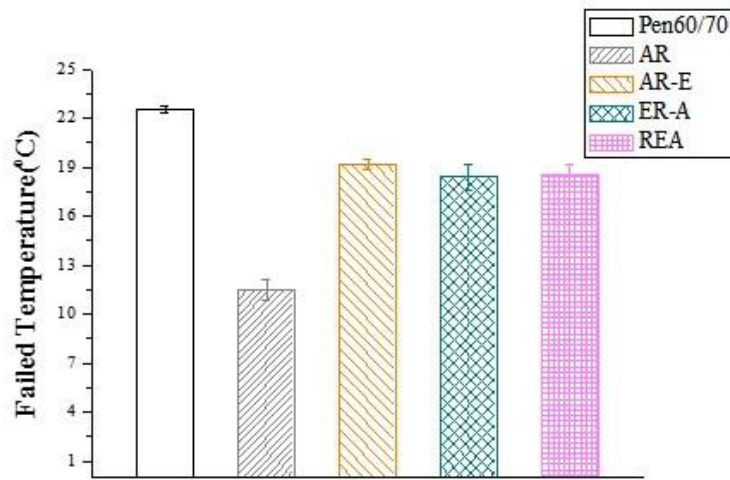
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450 Fig. 6 Rheological performances at intermediate-temperature: (a) fatigue factor versus temperature; (b) failure  
 451 temperature

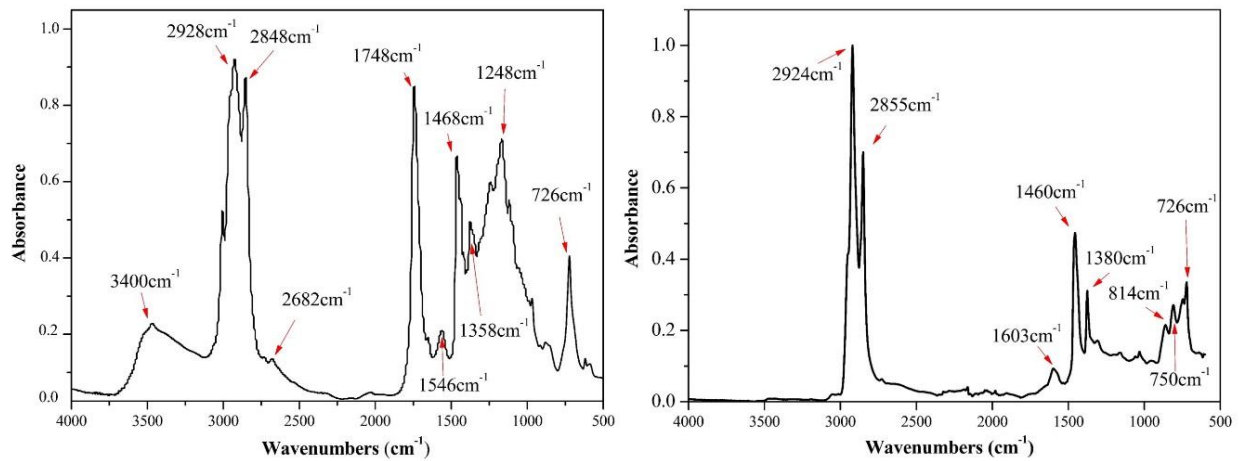
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**Main functional groups in Eovtherm-DAT:**

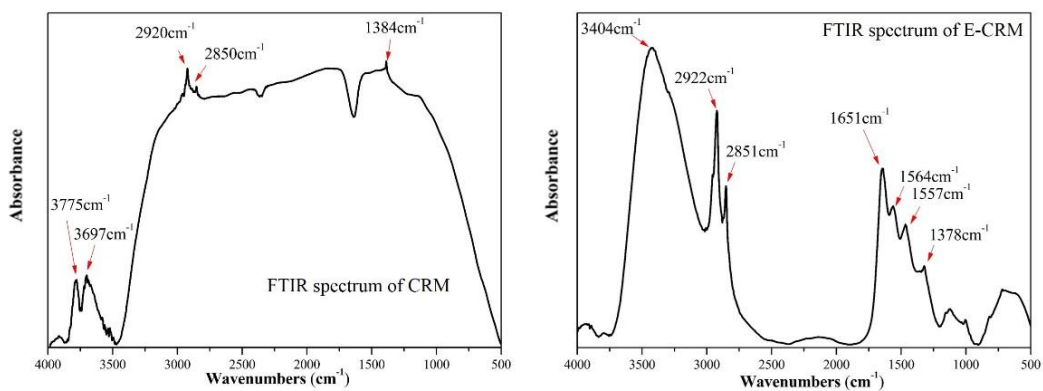
3400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (O-H or N-H stretching vibration of hydrogen-bonded hydroxyl and amino groups), 2928  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (asymmetric C-H stretching vibration of methylene group), 2848  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (symmetric C-H stretching vibration of methylene group), 2682  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (N-H<sup>+</sup> stretching vibration of amine ions), 1748  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C=O stretching and C-O of carboxylic groups), 1546  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (asymmetric N-O stretching of nitro group), 1468  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (-CH<sub>2</sub>- scissor vibration of methylene group), 1358  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (symmetric SO<sub>2</sub> stretching of sulphone group), 1248  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-O stretching and carboxylic group), and 726  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-C rocking vibration of alkane groups);

**Main functional groups in Pen 60/70 base binder:**

2924  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (asymmetric C-H stretching vibration of methylene group), 2855  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (symmetric C-H stretching vibration of methylene group), 1603  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C=C stretching vibration of conjugated vinyl group), 1460  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (-CH<sub>2</sub>- scissor vibration of methylene group), 1380  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-H symmetric deformation vibration of methyl group), 1312  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-H symmetric deformation vibration of sulfide-methyl group), 814  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (=C-H out-of-plan deformation of vinyl group), 750  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-Cl stretching of organic choline) and 726  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-C rocking vibration of alkane groups).

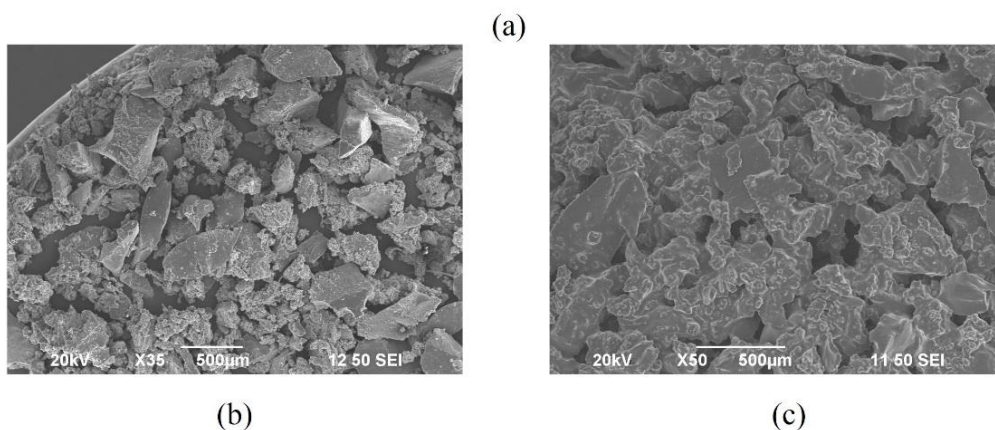
Fig. 7 FTIR spectrums of Eovtherm-DAT (left) and Pen60/70 (right)

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**Main functional groups in CRM:**  
 3775  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (O-H stretching of none hydrogen-bonding primary amines), 3697  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (N-H stretching of none hydrogen-bonding primary amines), 2920  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (asymmetric C-H stretching vibrations of methylene group), 2850  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (symmetric C-H stretching vibrations of methylene group) and 1384  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-H deformation of methyl group);

**Main functional groups in E-CRM:**  
 3404  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (O-H or N-H stretching vibration of hydrogen-bonded hydroxyl and amino groups), 2922  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (asymmetric C-H stretching vibrations of methylene group), 2851  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (symmetric C-H stretching vibrations of methylene group), 1651  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C=O stretching of secondary amides), 1564  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (asymmetric vibration of carboxylic acid salts), 1557  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (N-H vibration of hydrogen-bonded *trans*-form amides), 1378  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-H deformation of methyl group).



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472 Fig. 8 FTIR and SEM analysis of CRM and E-CRM: (a) FTIR spectrums of CRM (left) and E-CRM (right); (b)

473 SEM images of CRM (left) and E-CRM (right)

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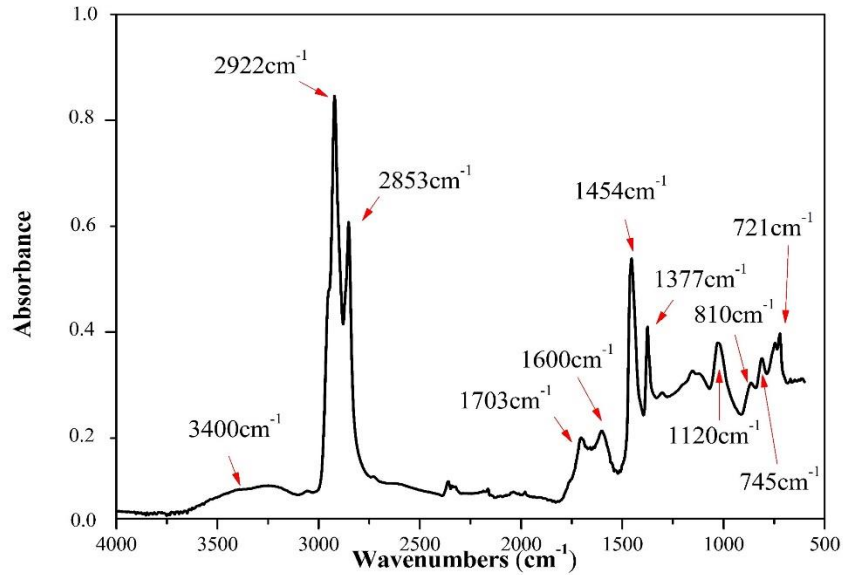
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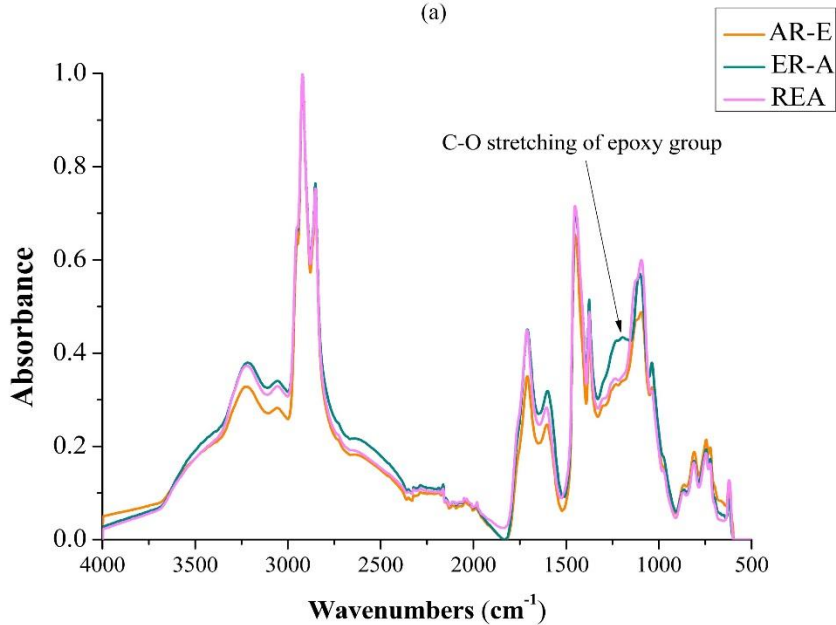
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Main functional groups in AR:  
 3400  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (O-H stretching vibration of hydrogen-bonded hydroxyl group),  
 2922  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (asymmetric C-H stretching vibrations of methylene group),  
 2853  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (symmetric C-H stretching vibrations of methylene group),  
 1703  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C=O stretching of carbonyl group),  
 1600  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C=C stretching vibration of conjugated vinyl group),  
 1454  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (-CH<sub>2</sub>- scissor vibration of methylene group),  
 1377  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-H deformation of methyl group),  
 1120  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-O-C asymmetric stretch of esters),  
 810  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (=C-H out-of-plan deformation of vinyl group),  
 745  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-Cl stretching of organic choline) and  
 721  $\text{cm}^{-1}$  (C-C rocking vibration of alkane groups).

(a)

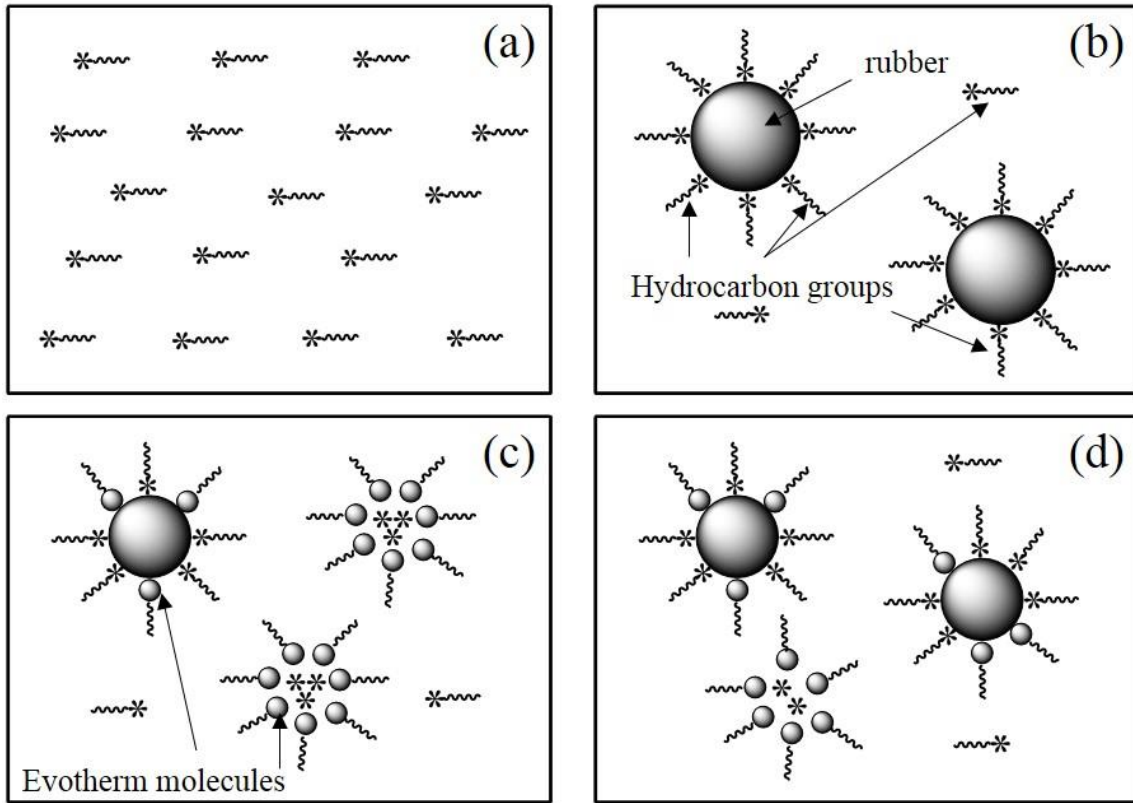


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Fig. 9 FTIR spectrums of test binders: (a) AR; (b) three Evo-ARs



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Fig. 10 Micro models for components in Evo-ARs

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Tab. 1 MSCR test results

<b>ID</b>	<b>J<sub>nr</sub></b>		<b>J<sub>nr</sub> %Diff</b>	<b>%Recovery</b>		<b>Traffic level</b>
	<b>0.1k/Pa</b>	<b>3.2k/Pa</b>		<b>0.1k/Pa</b>	<b>3.2k/Pa</b>	
<b>Pen60/70</b>	3.172	3.473	9.42	5.41	2.07	<b>S</b>
<b>AR</b>	0.151	0.288	91.7	71.8	54.2	<b>E</b>
<b>AR-E</b>	0.311	1.360	339	70.0	34.1	<b>H</b>
<b>ER-A</b>	0.174	0.44	153	75.0	61.3	<b>E</b>
<b>REA</b>	0.412	1.260	206	67.7	34.9	<b>H</b>

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Tab. 2 BBR test results

Binder	-12 °C		-18 °C		-24 °C	
	Stiffness	m-value	Stiffness	m-value	Stiffness	m-value
Pen 60/70	201	0.318	317	0.245	522	0.152
AR	109	0.346	213	0.283	406	0.188
AR-E	127	0.323	181	0.269	439	0.201
ER-A	165	0.347	202	0.291	433	0.192
REA	115	0.305	168	0.276	383	0.248

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