

## **Dilution "can" test**

The bitumen emulsion is diluted to specification, in a clean container such as a can.

The water is added to the bitumen emulsion (not bitumen emulsion to water to prevent premature breaking).

The "can" is then heated to about 60 °C, and left to stand for 20 to 30 minutes.

The diluted bitumen emulsion is then passed through a fine sieve (0.600 mm) to determine if any premature breaking has taken place.

Note that the dilution water for cationic bitumen emulsion must not be alkaline; dam water can be rather alkaline especially in limestone areas. For a cationic bitumen emulsion, the addition of hydrochloric acid to the water will reduce this tendency. For anionic bitumen emulsion, lime or caustic soda is added to the dilution water if necessary.