

125-8 Backfilling.

125-8.1 General Requirements for Structures and Pipe:

125-8.1.1 General: Backfill in the dry whenever normal dewatering equipment and methods can accomplish the needed dewatering. A LOT is defined as one lift of backfill material placement, not to exceed 500 feet in length or a single run of pipe connecting two successive structures, whichever is less. Backfill for structures and pipe compacted in one operation will be considered as one LOT within the cover zone. Backfill around structures compacted separately from the pipe will be considered as separate LOTs. Backfill on each side of the pipe for the first lift will be considered a separate LOT. Backfill on opposite sides of the pipe for the remaining lifts will be considered separate LOTs, unless the same compactive effort is applied. Same compactive effort is defined as the same type of equipment (make and model) making the same number of passes on both sides of the pipe. For multiple phase backfill, a LOT shall not extend beyond the limits of the phase.

When placing backfill within trench box each lift of backfill is considered a LOT. Placement of backfill within trench box limits will be considered a complete operation before trench box is moved for next backfill operation. When the trench box is moved for next backfill operation this will start new LOTs for each lift. Follow the density testing frequency in 125-9.3.1.

125-8.1.2 Equipment and Methods: Provide normal dewatering equipment including, but not limited to, surface pumps, sump pumps, wellpoints and header pipe and trenching/digging machinery. Provide normal dewatering methods including, but not limited to, constructing shallow surface drainage trenches/ditches, using sand blankets, perforated pipe drains, sumps and siphons.

125-8.1.3 Backfill Materials: Backfill to the original ground surface or subgrade surface of openings made for structures, with a sufficient allowance for settlement. The Engineer may require that the material used for this backfill be obtained from a source entirely apart from the structure. Use only material accepted by the Engineer.

Do not allow heavy construction equipment to cross over culvert or storm sewer pipes until placing and compacting backfill material to the finished earthwork grade or to an elevation at least 4 feet above the crown of the pipe.

125-8.1.3.1 Select Backfill for Metal Pipe: For metal pipe, have the backfill material tested for every soil type for pH, resistivity, sulfate and chloride content by a Department approved independent testing laboratory prior to placement. Provide certification to the Engineer that the results have met the requirements of this Section and are signed and sealed by a Professional Engineer, registered in the State of Florida.

The pH, as determined by FM 5-550, shall be not lower than 5.0 and not higher than 8.5.

In addition, use backfill that meets the following electro-chemical test criteria for determining corrosiveness:

<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Test Method</u>
<u>Resistivity: > 3000 ohm -cm</u>	<u>FM 5-551</u>
<u>Soluble sulfate content: < 200 PPM</u>	<u>FM 5-553</u>
<u>Soluble chloride content < 100 PPM</u>	<u>FM 5-552</u>

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125-8.1.4 Use of A-7 Material: In the backfilling of trenches, A-7 material may be used from a point 12 inches above the top of the pipe up to the elevation shown in the Design Standards as the elevation for undercutting of A-7 material.

125-8.1.5 Time of Placing Backfill: Do not place backfill against any masonry or concrete abutment, wingwall, or culvert until the Engineer has given permission to do so, and in no case until the masonry or concrete has been in place seven days or until the specified 28 day compressive strength occurs.

125-8.1.6 Placement and Compaction: Place the material in horizontal layers not exceeding 6 inches compacted thickness, in depth above water level, behind abutments, wingwalls and end bents or end rest piers, under the haunches of the pipes and around box culverts and all structures including pipe culverts. When the backfill material is deposited in water, compact as specified in 125-8.2.5 and 125-8.3.4.

The Contractor may elect to place material in thicker lifts of no more than 12 inches compacted thickness above the Soil Envelope if he can demonstrate with a successful test section that density can be achieved. Notify the Engineer prior to beginning construction of a test section. Construct a test section of the length of one LOT. Perform five QC tests at random locations within the test section. All five tests must meet the density required by 125-9.2 and be verified by the Department. Identify the test section with the compaction effort and soil classification in the Logbook. In case of a change in compaction effort or soil classification, construct a new test section. When a QC test fails the requirements of 125-9.2 or when the QC tests cannot be verified, construct a new test section. The Contractor may elect to place material in 6 inches compacted thickness at any time.

125-8.2 Additional Requirements for Structures Other than Pipe:

125-8.2.1 Density: Where the backfill material is deposited in water, obtain a 12 inch layer of comparatively dry material, thoroughly compacted by tamping, before verifying the layer and density requirements. Meet the requirements of 125-9.2.

125-8.2.2 Box Culverts: For box culverts over which pavement is to be constructed, compact around the structure to an elevation not less than 12 inches above the top of the structure, using rapid-striking mechanical tampers.

125-8.2.3 Other Limited Areas: Compact in other limited areas using mechanical tampers or approved hand tampers, until the cover over the structure is at least 12 inches thick. When hand tampers are used, deposit the materials in layers not more than 4 inches thick using hand tampers suitable for this purpose with a face area of not more than 100 square inches. Take special precautions to prevent any wedging action against the masonry, and step or terrace the slope bounding the excavation for abutments and wingwalls if required by the Engineer.

125-8.2.4 Culverts and Piers: Backfill around culverts and piers on both sides simultaneously to approximately the same elevation.

125-8.2.5 Compaction Under Wet Conditions: Where wet conditions do not permit the use of mechanical tampers, compact using hand tampers. Use only A-3 material for the hand tamped portions of the backfill. When the backfill has reached an elevation and condition such as to make the use of the mechanical tampers practical, perform mechanical tamping in such manner and to such extent as to transfer the compaction force into the sections previously tamped by hand.

125-8.3 Additional Requirements for Pipe 15 Inches Inside Diameter or Greater:

125-8.3.1 General: Trenches for pipe may have up to four zones that must be backfilled.

Lowest Zone: The lowest zone is backfilled for deep undercuts up to within 4 inches of the bottom of the pipe.

Bedding Zone: The zone above the lowest zone is the bedding zone. Usually it will be the backfill which is the 4 inches of soil below the bottom of the pipe. When rock or other hard material has been removed to place the pipe, the bedding zone will be the 12 inches of soil below the bottom of the pipe.

Cover Zone: The next zone is backfill that is placed after the pipe has been laid and will be called the cover zone. This zone extends to 12 inches above the top of the pipe. The cover zone and the bedding zone are considered the Soil Envelope for the pipe.

Top Zone: The top zone extends from 12 inches above the top of the pipe to the base or final grade.

125-8.3.2 Material:

125-8.3.2.1 Lowest Zone: Backfill areas undercut below the bedding zone of a pipe with coarse sand, or other suitable granular material, obtained from the grading operations on the project, or a commercial material if no suitable material is available.

125-8.3.2.2 Soil Envelope: In both the bedding zone and the cover zone of the pipe, backfill with materials classified as A-1, A-2, or A-3. Material classified as A-4 may be used if the pipe is concrete pipe.

125-8.3.2.3 Top Zone: Backfill the area of the trench above the soil envelope of the pipe with materials allowed on Design Standards, Index No. 505.

125-8.3.3 Compaction:

125-8.3.3.1 Lowest Zone: Compact the soil in the lowest zone to approximately match the density of the soil in which the trench was cut.

125-8.3.3.2 Bedding Zone: If the trench was not undercut below the bottom of the pipe, loosen the soil in the bottom of the trench immediately below the approximate middle third of the outside diameter of the pipe.

If the trench was undercut, place the bedding material and leave it in a loose condition below the middle third of the outside diameter of the pipe. Compact the outer portions to meet the density requirements of the acceptance criteria. Place the material in lifts no greater than 6 inches (compacted thickness).

125-8.3.3.3 Cover Zone: Before placing the cover zone material, lay pipe according to Section 430. Excavate for pipe bells before laying pipe. Place the material in 6 inch layers (compacted thickness), evenly deposited on both sides of the pipe, and compact with mechanical tampers suitable for this purpose. Hand tamp material below the pipe haunch that cannot be reached by mechanical tampers. Meet the requirements of in 125-9.2.

125-8.3.3.4 Top Zone: Place the material in layers not to exceed 12 inches in compacted thickness. Meet the requirements of the density acceptance criteria.

125-8.3.4 Backfill Under Wet Conditions: Where wet conditions are such that dewatering by normal pumping methods would not be effective, the procedure outlined below may be used when specifically authorized by the Engineer in writing. The Department will pay for any select material which is not available from the grading as Unforeseeable Work. The Department will not pay for select material that might be used by the Contractor for his own convenience instead of dewatering.

The Department will permit the use of granular material below the elevation at which mechanical tampers would be effective, but only material classified as A-3. Place and compact the material using timbers or hand tampers until the backfill reaches an elevation such that its moisture content will permit the use of mechanical tampers. When the backfill has reached such elevation, use normally acceptable backfill material. Compact the material using mechanical tampers in such manner and to such extent as to transfer the compacting force into the material previously tamped by hand.

The Department will permit the use of coarse aggregate below the elevation at which mechanical tampers would be effective. Use coarse aggregate as specified in Section 901 for Aggregate Size Number 89, 8, 78, 7, 68, 6, or 57. Place the coarse aggregate such that it will be stable and firm. Fully wrap the aggregate with a layer of Type D-4 filter fabric, as specified on Design Standards, Index No. 199. Do not place coarse aggregate within 4 feet of the ends of the trench or ditch. Use normally accepted backfill material at the ends.

125-9 Acceptance Program.

125-9.1 General Requirements: Meet the requirements of 120-10, except replace the requirements of 120-10.1.6 with 125-9.1.1, 120-10.2 with 125-9.2, 120-10.3 with 125-9.3, and 120-10.4 with 125-10.

125-9.1.1 Reduced Testing Frequency: When no resolution testing is required for six consecutive LOTs, or if required, the QC test data was upheld, reduce the QC density testing to one test every two Lots by identifying the substantiating tests in the Density Log Book and notifying the Engineer in writing prior to starting reduced frequency of testing. Generate random numbers based on the two LOTs under consideration. When QC test frequency is reduced to one every two LOTs, obtain the Engineer's approval to place more than one LOT over an untested LOT. Assure similar compaction efforts for the untested sections. If the Verification test fails, and QC test data is not upheld by Resolution testing the QC testing will revert to the original frequency.

125-9.2 Acceptance Criteria:

125-9.2.1 Density: Obtain a minimum QC density in any LOT of 100% of the Standard Proctor maximum density as determined by AASHTO T99, Method C, or the requirements of 125-8.3.3.1 when applicable. When the cover height below the bottom of base under asphalt pavement, below concrete pavement, or below unpaved ground, exceeds 15 inches, compact the pipe backfill in the cover zone to a density of at least 95% of the Standard Proctor maximum density as determined by AASHTO T99, Method C.

For density requirements around drainage structures, obtain a minimum Quality Control (QC) density in any LOT of 100% of the Standard Proctor maximum density as determined by AASHTO T99 for a distance of one pipe diameter but not less than 3 feet from the outside face of the structure.

125-9.2.2 Additional Testing: For metal pipe, test for corrosiveness at a minimum frequency of one test per soil type at point of placement. Test according to the requirements for pH and the electro-chemical table in 125-8.1.3.1. The Engineer will collect enough material to split and create two separate samples and retain one for resolution at point of placement until LOTs represented by the samples are accepted. The Engineer will perform verification tests for corrosiveness at a minimum frequency of one test per soil type.

125-9.2.2 Exceptions to Structures and Pipe Density Requirements: Compact the backfill to a firmness approximately equal to that of the soil next to the pipe trench in locations outside the plane described by a two (horizontal) to one (vertical) slope downward

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from the roadway shoulder line or the back of curb as applicable. Apply 125-9.2.1 when compacting side-drain pipe backfill under driveways serving a property that is not a single residential lot.

125-9.3 Additional Requirements:

125-9.3.1 Frequency: Conduct QC Standard Proctor maximum density sampling and testing at a minimum frequency of one test per soil type. The verification test will be at a minimum of one test per soil type:

Test Name	Quality Control	Verification
Standard Proctor Maximum Density	One per soil type	One per soil type
Density	One per LOT	One per four consecutive LOTs and for wet conditions, the first lift not affected by water
Soil Classification	One per Standard Proctor Maximum density	One per Standard Proctor Maximum density
Corrosiveness (pH, resistivity, sulfate and chloride content)	One per soil type	One per soil type

125-10 Verification Comparison Criteria and Resolution Procedures.

125-10.1 Standard Proctor Maximum Density Determination: The Engineer will verify the QC results if the results compare within 4.5 PCF of the verification test result. Otherwise, the Engineer will take one additional sample of material from the soil type in question. The State Materials Office or an AASHTO accredited laboratory designated by the State Materials Office will perform resolution testing. The material will be sampled and tested in accordance with AASHTO T99, Method C.

The Engineer will compare the resolution test result with the QC test results. If the resolution test result is within 4.5 PCF of the corresponding QC test results, the Engineer will use the QC test results for material acceptance purposes for each LOT with that soil type. If the resolution test result is not within 4.5 PCF of the Contractor’s QC test, the verification test result will be used for material acceptance purposes.

125-10.2 Density Testing: When a verification or independent verification density test fails the acceptance criteria, retest the site within a 5 feet radius and the following actions will be taken:

1. If the QC retest meets the acceptance criteria and compares favorably with the verification or independent verification test, the Engineer will accept those LOTs.
2. If the QC retest does not meet the acceptance criteria and compares favorably with the verification or independent verification test, rework and retest the LOT. The Engineer will re-verify those LOTs.
3. If the QC retest and the verification or independent verification test do not compare favorably, complete a new equipment-comparison analysis as defined in 120-10.1.2. Once acceptable comparison is achieved, retest the LOTs. The Engineer will perform new verification testing. Acceptance testing will not begin on a new LOT until the Contractor has a gauge that meets the comparison requirements.

[125-10.3 Corrosiveness: The Engineer will verify the QC results if the verification result satisfies the pH requirements and the electro-chemical test criteria set forth in 125-8.1.3.1.](#)

Otherwise, the Engineer will test the sample retained in 125-9.2.2. The SMO or an AASHTO accredited laboratory designated by the SMO will perform resolution testing. The material will be sampled and tested in accordance with FM 5-550, FM 5-551, FM 5-552 and FM 5-553.

If the resolution test result satisfies the required criteria, material of that soil type will be verified and accepted. If the resolution test results do not meet the required criteria, reject the material and reconstruct with acceptable material.

125-10.3 Soil Classification: Meet the requirements of 120-10.4.3.