



Florida Department of Transportation

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ANANTH PRASAD, P.E.
SECRETARY

May 15, 2013

Monica Gourdine
Program Operations Engineer
Federal Highway Administration
545 John Knox Road, Suite 200
Tallahassee, Florida 32303

Re: Office of Design, Specifications
Section **455**
Proposed Specification: **4550510 Structures Foundations.**

Dear Ms. Gourdine:

We are submitting, for your approval, two copies of the above referenced Supplemental Specification.

These changes were proposed by Juan Castellanos of the State Construction Office, to correct errors and conflicting language, allow the use of instrumented set-checks and re-drives in steel piles as dynamic tests, reduce the frequency of slurry sampling and testing in shafts, reduce the time between cleaning the shaft and placing concrete, and to include a requirement in the auger cast piles that will protect the reinforcing cage.

Please review and transmit your comments, if any, within two weeks. Comments should be sent via email to SP965TT or trey.tillander@dot.state.fl.us.

If you have any questions relating to this specification change, please call me at 414-4140.

Sincerely,

V. Y. "Trey" Tillander, III, P.E.
Manager State Specifications and Estimates Office

TT/cah

Attachment

cc: Florida Transportation Builders' Assoc.
State Construction Engineer

STRUCTURES FOUNDATIONS.**(REV 4-1-13)**

SUBARTICLE 455-5.10.4 (Pages 541 – 542) is deleted and the following substituted:

455-5.10.4 Set-checks and Pile Redrive:

(a) Set-checks: In the event that the Contractor has driven the pile to approximately 12 inches above cut-off without reaching the required resistance, the Engineer may require the Contractor to interrupt driving ~~up to two hours prior to~~ performing a set-check. Provide an engineer's level or other suitable equipment for elevation determinations to determine accurate pile penetration during the set-checks. In the event the results of the initial set-checks are not satisfactory, the Engineer may direct additional set-checks. The Engineer may accept the pile as driven when a set-check shows that the Contractor has achieved the minimum required pile bearing and has met all other requirements of this Section.

(b) Pile Redrive: Pile redrive consists of re-driving the pile after the following working day from initial driving to determine time effects, to reestablish pile capacity due to pile heave, or for other reasons determined by the Engineer. Redrive piles as directed by the Engineer.

(c) Uninstrumented Set-Checks and Uninstrumented Pile Redrive: The Engineer may consider the pile to have sufficient bearing resistance when the specified set-check criteria is met through the last 10 to 20 blows of the hammer at the specified minimum stroke and the total penetration is less than six inches with less than 1/4 inches rebound per blow. When the total penetration during a set-check or redrive is greater than six inches or pile rebound exceeds 1/4 inches per blow, the Engineer may consider the pile to have sufficient bearing resistance when the specified blow count criteria is achieved in accordance with 455-5.10.1.

(d) Instrumented Set-Checks and Instrumented Pile Redrive: When considered necessary by the Engineer, dynamic load tests will be used to determine whether the pile bearing is sufficient. The Engineer may consider the pile to have sufficient bearing resistance when dynamic measurements demonstrate the static pile resistance during at least one hammer blow exceeds the required pile resistance, the average static pile resistance during the next five hammer blows exceeds 95% of the required pile resistance and the static pile resistance during all subsequent blows exceeds 90% of the required pile resistance.

SUBARTICLE 455-5.13 (Pages 546 – 547) is deleted and the following substituted:

455-5.13 Dynamic Load Tests: The Engineer will take dynamic measurements during the driving of piles designated in the Plans or authorized by the Engineer. Install instruments prior to driving and assist the Engineer in monitoring all blows delivered to the pile. All test piles will have dynamic load tests. The Engineer will perform dynamic load tests to evaluate any or all of the following:

1. Evaluate suitability of Contractor's driving equipment, including hammer, capblock, pile cushion, and any proposed follower.
2. Determine pile capacity.
3. Determine pile stresses.
4. Determine energy transfer to pile.
5. Determine distribution of soil resistance.
6. Evaluate soil variables including quake and damping.
7. Evaluate hammer-pile-soil system for Wave Equation analyses.
8. Evaluate pile installation problems.
9. Other.

Either install EDCs in the piles in accordance with Design Standards, Index No. 20602 or attach instruments (strain transducers to measure force and accelerometers to measure acceleration) with bolts to the pile for dynamic load testing.

Make each pile to be dynamically tested with externally attached instruments available to drill holes for attaching instrumentation and for wave speed measurements. Support the pile with timber blocks placed at appropriate intervals. Ensure that the pile is in a horizontal position and does not contact adjacent piles. Provide a sufficient clear distance at the sides of the pile for drilling the holes. The Engineer will furnish the equipment, materials, and labor necessary for drilling holes and taking the wave speed measurements. If the Engineer directs dynamic load testing, instrumented set-checks or instrumented redrives, provide the Engineer safe access to the top of the piles for drilling the attachment holes. After placing the leads provide the Engineer reasonable means of access to the piles to attach the instruments and for removal of the instruments after completing the pile driving.

The Engineer will monitor the stresses in the piles with the dynamic test equipment during driving to ensure the Contractor does not exceed the maximum allowed stresses. If necessary, add additional cushioning, replace the cushions, or reduce the hammer stroke to maintain stresses below the maximum allowable. If dynamic test equipment measurements indicate non-axial driving, immediately realign the driving system. If the cushion is compressed to the point that a change in alignment of the hammer will not correct the problem, add cushioning or change the cushion as directed by the Engineer.

Drive the pile to the required penetration and resistance or as directed by the Engineer. Dynamic load testing of a pile may average up to two hours longer than for driving an uninstrumented pile.

When directed by the Engineer, perform instrumented set-checks or redrives. Do not use a cold diesel hammer for a set-check or redrive unless in the opinion of the Engineer it is impractical to do otherwise. Generally, warm up the hammer by driving another pile or applying at least 20 blows to a previously driven pile or to timber mats placed on the ground.

For steel production piles, the Engineer may accept instrumented set-checks or redrives to be treated as dynamic testing for the purpose of meeting the Resistance Factors requirements for Driven Piles with 100% Dynamic Testing specified in the Structure Design Guidelines.

SUBARTICLE 455-15.8.3 (Page 569 – 570) is deleted and the following substituted:

455-15.8.3 Fluid In Excavation At Time Of Concrete Placement:

When any fluid is present in any drilled shaft excavation, including shafts to support miscellaneous structures, the applicable test methods and reporting requirements described in 455-15.8.1 apply to tests of fluid in the shaft prior to placing the concrete.

Take samples of the fluid in the shaft from within 1 inch of the base of the shaft and at intervals not exceeding ~~1~~30 feet up the shaft, using an approved sampling tool designed to sample over a depth range of 12 inches or less. Take whatever action is necessary prior to placing the concrete to bring the fluid within the specification and reporting requirements, outlined in the tables in 455-15.8.1, except as follows:

The Engineer will not require tests for pH, viscosity or minimum density when slurry has not been introduced into the shaft excavation.

When using polymer slurry to support the excavation for drilled shafts installed to support mast arms, cantilever signs, overhead truss signs, high mast light poles or other miscellaneous structures, take whatever action is necessary prior to placing the concrete to bring the properties of the fluid within the ranges in 455-15.8.2.

Provide a CTQP qualified drilled shaft inspector to perform testing. The Department may also perform comparison tests. Provide equipment for such comparison tests when requested by the Engineer.

ARTICLE 455-44 (Pages 589 – 591) is deleted and the following substituted:

455-44 Pile Installation.

Meet the following requirements:

1. Locate the piles as shown on the drawings.
2. Should soft, compressible muck, organics, clay or other unsuitable materials (non A-1, A-3, A-2-4 or limestone materials) be encountered, remove the unsuitable material to a maximum depth of 5 feet and a maximum diameter about the pile centerline, not to exceed 1/2 of the distance to the adjacent pile. Backfill with clean granular backfill materials (A-1, A-3, A-2-4), placed and compacted in maximum 12 inch lifts to at least 95% of maximum dry density as determined by AASHTO T180. Complete this work to the Engineer's satisfaction prior to auger cast pile construction. Should more than 5 feet or excessive quantities of unsuitable material be encountered, immediately advise the Engineer and proceed with the work as directed by the Engineer.
3. Provide continuous auger flighting from the auger head to the top of auger with no gaps or other breaks, uniform in diameter throughout its length, and of the diameter specified for the piles less a maximum of 3%. Provide augers with a distance between flights of approximately half the diameter of the auger.
4. Use augers with the grout injection hole located at the bottom of the auger head below the bar containing the cutting teeth, and with pile auger leads containing a bottom guide.
5. Construct piles of the length and diameter shown on the drawings.
6. Clearly mark the auger leads to facilitate monitoring of the incremental drilling and grout placement. Provide individual foot marks with 5 foot increments

highlighted and clearly visible. Provide a clear reference mark on the moving auger assembly to facilitate accurately monitoring the vertical movement of the auger.

7. Place piles by rotating a continuous flight hollow shaft auger into the ground at a continuous rate that prevents removal of excess soil. Stop advancement after reaching the predetermined depth.

8. Should auger penetration to the required depth prove difficult due to hard materials/refusal, the pile location may be predrilled, upon approval of the Engineer, through the obstruction using appropriate drilling equipment, to a diameter no larger than 1/2 the prescribed finish diameter of the auger cast pile. Commence auger cast pile construction immediately upon predrilling to minimize ground loss and soil relaxation. Should non-drillable material be encountered preventing placement to the depth required, immediately advise the Engineer and proceed with the work as directed by the Engineer. Refusal is defined as the depth where the penetration of the standard auger equipment is less than 12 inches per minute.

9. Plug the hole in the bottom of the auger while being advanced into the ground. Remove the plug by the grout or with the reinforcing bar.

10. Pump the grout with sufficient pressure as the auger is withdrawn to fill the auger hole, preventing hole collapse and to cause the lateral penetration of the grout into soft or porous zones of the surrounding soil. Prior to commencing withdrawal of the auger, establish a head of at least 5 feet of grout by pumping a volume of grout equivalent to 5 feet of pile volume. Maintain this head of at least 5 feet of grout above the injection point around the perimeter of the auger to displace and remove any loose material from the hole. Maintain positive rotation of the auger at least until placement of the grout.

11. Once the grout head has been established, greatly reduce the speed of rotation of the auger and commence extraction at a rate consistent with the pump discharge. Maintain extraction at a steady rate to prevent a locked-in auger, necking of the pile, or a substantially reduced pile section. Ensure grout starts flowing out from the hole when the cutting head is at least 5 feet below the ground surface. Place a minimum volume of grout in the hole of at least 115% of the column of the auger hole from a depth of 5 feet to the tip. Place a minimum volume of grout in the hole of at least 105% of the column of the auger hole from the ground surface to a depth of 5 feet. Do not include any grout needed to create surplus grout head in the volume of grout placed into the hole. If the grout does not flow out from the hole when the cutting head is at least 5 feet below the ground surface, redrill the pile under the direction of the Engineer. If grouting is interrupted for any reason, reinsert the auger by drilling at least 5 feet below the tip of the auger when the interruption occurred, and then regrout.

Use this method of placement at all times. Do not depend on the stability of the hole without the earth filled auger. Place the required steel reinforcement while the grout is still fluid, but no later than 1/2 hour after pulling of the auger.

12. Assume responsibility for the grout volume placed. If less than 115% of the theoretical volume of grout is placed in any 5 foot increment (105% in the top 5 foot increment), reinstall the pile by advancing the auger 10 feet or to the bottom of the pile if that is less, followed by controlled removal and grout injection.

13. Furnish and install the reinforcing steel and anchoring bolts as shown in the Contract drawings.

14. Use reinforcement that is without kinks or nonspecified bends, free of mud, oil or other coatings that could adversely affect the bond. Make splices in reinforcement as shown on the Contract drawings, unless otherwise approved by the Engineer. *The steel cage shall be installed into the grout by its own weight or manually. Do not use a mechanical equipment or tool to impact the steel cage or to force it into the grout.*

15. Leave any temporary supports of/for items placed into a grouted pile (reinforcement template, anchor bolt template, precast column supports, etc.) in place for a minimum of 12 hours after completion of the pile. Do not place wall panels or other significant loads, before the grout has set a minimum of seven days or reached the 28 day strength.

ARTICLE 455-47 (Page 591) is deleted and the following substituted:

455-47 Auger Cast Pile Installation Plan.

At the preconstruction conference, but no later than 30 days before auger cast pile construction begins, submit an auger cast pile installation plan for approval by the Engineer. Provide the following detailed information on the plan:

1. Name and experience record of auger cast pile superintendent or foreman in responsible charge of auger cast pile operations. Place a person in responsible charge of day to day auger cast pile operations who possesses satisfactory prior experience constructing ~~shafts~~*auger cast piles* similar to those described in the Contract documents. The Engineer will give final approval subject to satisfactory performance in the field.
2. List and size of the proposed equipment, including cranes, augers, concrete pumps, mixing equipment etc., including details of proposed pump calibration procedures.
3. Details of pile installation methods.
4. Details of reinforcement placement and method of centering in pile, including details of all temporary supports for reinforcement, anchor bolts, precast columns, etc.
5. Details of how and by whom the grout volumes will be determined, monitored and documented.
6. Required submittals, including shop drawings and concrete grout design mixes.
7. Other information shown in the Plans or requested by the Engineer.