



Florida Department of Transportation

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GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JIM BOXOLD
SECRETARY

December 14, 2015

Khoa Nguyen
Director, Office of Technical Services
Federal Highway Administration
3500 Financial Plaza, Suite 400
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

Re: State Specifications Office
Section **548**
Proposed Specification: **5480206 Retaining Wall Systems**

Dear Mr. Nguyen:

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

The changes are proposed by Rodrigo Herrera of the State Structures Design Office to reinstate the gradation requirements for backfill used behind walls not using soil reinforcement and to update references to the Florida Method.

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

If you have any questions relating to this specification change, please call me at 414-4130.

Sincerely,

Signature on File

Daniel Scheer, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer

DS/ot

Attachment

cc: Florida Transportation Builders' Assoc.
State Construction Engineer

RETAINING WALL SYSTEMS.

(REV 10-2829-15)

SUBARTICLE 548-2.6.2 is deleted and the following substituted:

548-2.6.2 Compacted Select Backfill: Meet the requirements of Sections 105 and 120 except as noted within this Section. 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 not be lower than 5.0 and not higher than 9.0. Sources of select backfill material having a pH between 4.5 and 5.0 for wall utilizing metallic reinforcement and between 3.0 and 5.00 for walls utilizing geosynthetic reinforcement with no metallic elements or pipes placed within the backfill, as determined by FM 5-550, may be used provided the interior face of the MSE wall panels have three inches of concrete cover over the reinforcement and the concrete used in the panels contains the following ingredients and proportions:

1. The quantity of cement replaced with Type F fly ash is 10% to 20% by weight.
2. The quantity of cement replaced with slag is 50% to 60% by weight.
3. Portland cement is 30% by weight of total cementitious material.
4. The total weight of the Type F fly ash and slag does not exceed 70% of total cementitious material.

In lieu of the mix design described above, a mix design with a fast pozzolanic material meeting the requirements of 346-2.3(6) silica fume, metakaolin and ultrafine fly ash, can be substituted. Examples of mix designs meeting this requirement are:

1. 8% silica fume plus 20% fly ash
2. 10% metakaolin plus 20% fly ash.

Provide proper curing for these materials to prevent surface cracking.

Do not place metallic pipe in backfill materials having a pH less than 5.0.

In addition, for permanent walls utilizing metallic soil reinforcement, use backfill that meets the following electro-chemical test criteria for determining corrosiveness:

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

For constructing the retaining wall volume, do not use backfill material containing more than 2.0% by weight of organic material, as determined by FM 1-T267 and by averaging the test results for three randomly selected samples from each stratum or stockpile of a particular material. If an individual test value of the three samples exceeds 3%, the stratum or stockpile will not be suitable for constructing the retaining wall volume.

Ensure that the material is non-plastic as determined by AASHTO T90 and the liquid limit as determined by AASHTO T89 is less than 15.

For walls using soil reinforcement, use backfill that meets the following gradation limits determined in accordance with AASHTO T27 and FM 1-T011:

Sieve Size	Percent Passing
3-1/2 inches	100
3/4 inch	70-100
No. 4	30-100
No. 40	15-100
No. 100	0-65
No. 200	0-12

For walls not using soil reinforcement, use backfill that meets the following gradation limits determined in accordance with AASHTO T27 and FM 1-T 011:

<i>Sieve Size</i>	<i>Percent Passing</i>
<i>3-1/2 inches</i>	<i>100</i>
<i>No. 200</i>	<i>0-12</i>

SUBARTICLE 548-9.5 is deleted and the following substituted:

548-9.5 Friction Angle: When the friction angle depicted in the shop drawings exceeds 30 degrees for sand backfill or 34 degrees for limerock backfill, ensure the friction angle of the backfill material tested in accordance with FM ~~1-T2363-D3080~~ equals or exceeds the backfill friction angle depicted in the shop drawings.

SUBARTICLE 548-9.7.8 is deleted and the following substituted:

548-9.7.8 Friction Angle: When the friction angle depicted in the shop drawings exceeds 30 degrees for sand backfill or 34 degrees for limerock backfill, the Engineer will take a verification sample at the point of placement to perform a direct shear verification test in accordance with FM ~~1-T2363-D3080~~. The SMO or a consultant qualified to perform geotechnical specialty lab testing (Type of Work 9.5), per Rule 14-75 of the Florida Administrative Code will perform the verification testing. If the test verifies the material has a friction angle greater than or equal to the friction angle depicted in the shop drawings, the material in the LOTs will be verified. If the verification test does not meet the required friction angle, reconstruct the LOTs with acceptable material.

The Contractor may request to redesign the wall and resubmit the shop drawings with the lower friction angle indicated by the verification test. Employ a Professional Engineer to redesign and submit signed and sealed drawings and computations. Do not begin any reconstruction until the proposed redesign has been reviewed and approved by the Engineer. The Contractor shall bear the costs of the redesign and any work resulting from the design changes.

RETAINING WALL SYSTEMS.
(REV 10-29-15)

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