



## Iowa Department of Transportation

### DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMPACTION WITH MOISTURE CONTROL

Effective Date  
October 19, 2010

THE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS, SERIES 2009, ARE AMENDED BY THE FOLLOWING MODIFICATIONS AND ADDITIONS. THESE ARE DEVELOPMENTAL SPECIFICATIONS AND THEY SHALL PREVAIL OVER THOSE PUBLISHED IN THE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS.

#### 09050.01 DESCRIPTION.

Place and compact embankment materials at the required moisture content as shown in the contract documents. Test and ensure the moisture content of soil being placed is within the specified range.

#### 09050.02 MATERIAL.

Soils placed with compaction with moisture control may be select, Class 10, or unsuitable.

#### 09050.03 CONSTRUCTION.

##### A. Quality Control Program (Embankment Construction).

1. Provide and maintain a Quality Control Program (Embankment Construction), defined as all activities of sampling, testing, process control inspection, and necessary adjustments for construction of embankments to meet the requirements of this specification.
2. As part of the Quality Control Program (Embankment Construction), provide a Quality Control Technician to perform testing on all embankment soils placed with Compaction with Moisture Control. As a minimum, the Quality Control Technician shall have a high school education. The Technician shall obtain 'Grade Soils Technician Lab Certification' through a ~~one~~ two day course held at Des Moines Area Community College in Boone through the Technical Training and Certification Program (TTCP) of the Department. Arrange training through the Iowa DOT's Office of Construction (telephone 515.239.1280). TTCP requirements of Materials I.M. 213 apply.
3. Ensure the Quality Control Technician is present on the project when embankment is being placed with Compaction with Moisture Control.
4. Provide laboratory facility and calibrated equipment to perform required tests.

##### B. Test Procedures.

1. Use test procedures and equipment complying with applicable Materials I.M.'s, Iowa DOT Materials Laboratory Test Methods, or equivalent standards of AASHTO or ASTM.

2. Allow the Engineer to review equivalent standards. Use equivalent standards only if approved by the Engineer.
3. Acceptable test methods for determining moisture content are:
  - Oven drying AASHTO T 265
  - Pan drying AASHTO T 265 modified to use an open burner
  - Microwave ASTM D 4643
  - Nuclear gauge Materials I.M. 334
4. Use AASHTO T 265 oven drying method for the reference method for calibration.
- ~~5. Minimum sample size is 1 pound (450 g).~~

**C. Embankment Construction.**

**1. General.**

Apply Section 2107 of the Standard Specifications, except when amended by requirements of this specification. Verify embankment placed with moisture control meets the requirements of Article 2107.03, I of the Standard Specifications.

**2. Moisture Control.**

- a. Determine the optimum moisture content by Proctor testing of soil being placed. Determine optimum moisture for each type of excavated or mixed soil which varies as to change the expected AASHTO classification, or if directed by the Engineer.
- b. With the Engineer's approval, and for soils that can be identified during excavation, the Contractor may use the optimum moisture content as shown on the soils 'Q' sheets in the contract documents. In lieu of using values from the 'Q' sheets, the Contractor may choose to determine optimum moisture from a field sample.
- c. If the Engineer deems the optimum moisture of material being excavated and/or mixed is not represented by that shown on the 'Q' sheets, determine optimum moisture from a field sample.
- d. When determined from a field sample at the option of the Contractor or at the Engineer's request, the optimum moisture value from the field sample prevails over that shown on the 'Q' sheets.
- e. Test and verify that moisture content of material placed under the item 'Compaction with Moisture Control' is within the optimum range for the soil being placed. Upper and lower control limits for field moisture content of embankment material will be shown in the contract documents.
- f. Disk to reduce moisture if, after initial disking to break down lumps greater than 12 inches (0.3 m) as required by Article 2107.03, D, 2, d, of the Standard Specifications, the deposited soil material contains moisture in excess of the specified moisture limits.
- g. If, after initial disking as required by Article 2107.03, D, 2, d, of the Standard Specifications, the material is dry to the extent that it is not within the range of the optimum moisture of the soil to allow satisfactory compaction by rolling, uniformly moisten the material to required limits before it is compacted.
- h. Proceed with aeration, watering, and compaction operations in an orderly fashion without unreasonable and unnecessary delay. Compensation will not be allowed for delays resulting from the ordering of moistening or disking.
- i. Verify soil accepted for final placement is within the specified moisture control limits.

**3. Compaction.**

Apply Article 2107.03, E, of the Standard Specifications.

**4. Equipment.**

Apply Article 2107.03, B, of the Standard Specifications, except that for compaction of granular sand soils classified as AASHTO A-1, A-2, or A-3 and having 15% or less combined silt/clay content (percent passing the No. 200 (75  $\mu\text{m}$  sieve) use:

- Pneumatic tired rollers as described in Articles 2001.05, C and 2001.05, D, of the Standard Specifications, or
- Self-propelled vibratory rollers as described in Article 2001.05, F, of the Standard Specifications.

**D. Test Frequency during Embankment Construction.**

1. Test moisture at a minimum frequency of one test per lift per 1500 feet (450 m) of roadway, for a maximum compacted volume of 1300 cubic yards (1000  $\text{m}^3$ ). Test for proctor optimum moisture content and embankment moisture content at minimum frequencies in Materials I.M. 204. Samples will be randomly selected.
2. If source of excavation and moisture have been consistent and within moisture control limits, moisture testing of each lift by Article 2107.03, I, of the Standard Specifications will be waived for areas of less than 1300 cubic yards (1000  $\text{m}^3$ ), or for embankment placed as median dikes (Standard Road Plan RL-4) or safety dikes (Standard Road Plan RL-7). Where testing per lift is waived, test randomly selected samples at a minimum frequency of one test per compacted volume of 1300 cubic yards (1000  $\text{m}^3$ ).

**E. Field Records.**

Document all observations, records and inspection, changes in soil type, soil moisture, fill placement procedures, and test results on a weekly basis. Note results of the observations and records of inspection in a permanent field record as they occur. Submit copies of field moisture tests to the Engineer on a weekly basis. Submit original testing records (raw field and lab data sheets) and control charts to the Engineer in a neat and orderly manner within five calendar days after completion of the project.

**F. Corrective Action.**

Notify Engineer when a moisture content falls outside the specified control limits. If a single moisture content falls outside control limits, fill material in this area will be considered unacceptable for compaction. Perform corrective action(s) to bring uncompacted fill material, after a retest, within specified moisture control limits. If material has been compacted, disk it, bring it to within moisture control limits, and recompact it.

**G. ~~Iowa DOT~~ Quality Assurance.****1. Required Testing.**

- a. The Contractor's Quality Control Technician shall perform all field testing and data analysis. The Quality Control Technician shall retain split samples of Materials I.M. 309 testing when requested by the Engineer. The Engineer may select any or all of the Contractor-retained split samples for independent assurance and verification testing.
- b. The Engineer will determine the frequency and random location of assurance verification moisture tests and will test at the minimum frequencies in Materials I.M. 204. The Contractor Quality Control Technician shall obtain a sample at the same location as directed by the Engineer and provide the results to the Engineer. Assurance Verification test results will be provided to the Contractor within one working day after the Contractor's quality control test results have been reported.
- c. The Engineer will periodically witness field testing being performed by the Contractor. If the Engineer observes the quality control field tests are not being performed according to the applicable test procedures, the Engineer may stop production until corrective action is taken. The Engineer will notify the Contractor of observed deficiencies, promptly, both verbally and in writing. The Engineer will document all witnessed testing.

d. All assurance quality control tests results become part of the project files.

**2. Verification and Independent Assurance Testing Precision.**

a. Differences between the Contractor's and Engineer's field moisture content tests will be acceptable if moisture content is within 1.5% based on dry weight (mass) of soil. The sample for the Engineer's assurance test will be taken from a split sample at the exact location of the Contractor's quality control test. The Contractor's quality control test results will be validated by the Engineer's verification test results using criteria in Materials I.M. 216. If the Engineer's verification test results validate the Contractor's test results, the Contractor's results will be used for material acceptance.

b. Differences between the Contractor's and Engineer's Proctor compaction results will be acceptable if optimum dry density is within 5 pounds per cubic foot ( $80 \text{ kg/m}^3$ ) and optimum moisture is within 1.5% based on dry weight (mass) of soil.

cb. In the event that comparison test results are outside the above allowable differences the Contractor's results cannot be validated, the Engineer will investigate the reason immediately. The Engineer's investigation may include:

- Testing of other locations,
- Observations of the Contractor's testing procedures and equipment, and
- Comparison of test results of the Contractor with those of the Engineer.

c. Personnel and laboratories performing tests used in the acceptance of material shall participate in the independent assurance program covered in Materials I.M. 205.

**3. Referee Testing.**

If a difference in procedures for sampling and testing and/or test results exists between the Contractor and the Engineer which they cannot resolve, the Iowa DOT's Central Materials Laboratory or another mutually agreed upon independent testing laboratory will be asked to provide referee testing. The Engineer and the Contractor will abide by the results of the referee testing. The party found in error will pay service charges incurred for referee testing by an independent laboratory.

**H. Acceptance.**

The Engineer will base final acceptance of tests and materials on the results of the Contractor's quality control testing as verified by the Engineer's quality assurance.

**09050.04 METHOD OF MEASUREMENT.**

A. The quantity of embankment requiring Compaction with Moisture Control, in cubic yards (cubic meters), will be the quantity shown in the contract documents as determined by the template fill volume. Shrinkage will not be included in moisture control quantity.

B. All excavation in preparation for and construction of embankment with moisture control will be included in Class 10 Excavation according to Article 2102.04 of the Standard Specifications.

**09050.05 BASIS OF PAYMENT.**

A. Payment for Compaction with Moisture Control will be the contract unit price in cubic yards (cubic meters) for the quantity of embankment placed with moisture control.

B. Payment is full compensation for furnishing a Quality Control Technician, sampling and testing, process control inspection, working of drying material, furnishing and applying water, controlling moisture content of the materials, and compacting the materials, as specified.