5480206 RETAINING WALL SYSTEMS
COMMENTS FROM INTERNAL/INDUSTRY REVIEW

Ananth Prasad
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Comments: (11-13-18)
1. Can we get a list of suppliers that meet that spec(548-2.7)? The current manufacturer that is supplying the product in the FDOT market does not have a product that meets that spec. I am curious to know what the cost difference is.

Response:

2. Additionally, it appears they want the seal to be installed after the wall is built (548-8.6). "After the application of all coatings and treatments to the wall panels, seal all joints between panels of reinforced concrete panel MSE walls with compressible free draining material" I was under the impression when we met, that the time of installation of the seal was not going to change. Installing the seal after the wall is built can be difficult to do in limited access situations and may require traffic shifts just to install this product.

Response:

3. I would assume that a coating is applicable to paint or class 5, but what is a "treatment" to the wall panel?

Response:

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Paul Free
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Comments: (11-29-18)
Under section 548-8.5.2, third paragraph, third line, "feet" is missing after "three".

Response: Word added.

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Ronda S. Daniell
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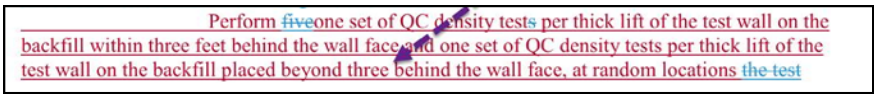
Comments: (12-18-18)
548-8.5.2, third paragraph: at the purple arrow they are missing a unit . I think they mean three feet



Response:

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Joe Rodriguez
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Comments: (12-21-18)
548.-8.6 Compressible Free Draining Seal Plant growth from seeds or spores that may be in retaining wall panel joints does not originate from the back face of the wall. As the current draft of this spec further explains, the seeds and spores are “transported to the joints by wind or rain”. By not applying the compressible seal at the front face of the wall “after the application of all coatings and treatments to wall panels” the seeds and spores transported by wind and rain will continue to deposit within the joints at the front face of the wall and germinate with the continued exposure to sunlight. Consequently, a compressible seal that is placed in the back of the wall is not effective in preventing the wind and rain transported spores from the front of the panel joint that is exposed to sunlight. The compressible seal placed at the back of the wall is not achieving the intent of this specification (to prevent plant growth) and becomes only an added cost item to the retaining wall system. The only way “to prevent plant growth from seeds or spores that may be in the joints or transported to the joints by the wind or rain” is to place a compressible free draining seal in the front joint of the panel so as to seal the joint from sunlight. Plants cannot grow without the photosynthesis process. To this point, the most recent elimination/strike out of “after the application of all coating and treatments to the wall panels” undermines the ultimate intention of the specification which is to prevent plant growth. The plant growth in the panel joints is not only an aesthetic issue but also compromises the integrity of the retaining wall system as the plant roots grow from the front facing joint back into the retaining wall structure as sunlight continues to generate growth. The specification has been recently revised in a way that does not take into account the long-term effects of vegetation growth on state owned and maintained infrastructure assets but through the lens of short-term cost and convenience. While the installing contractor may be more inclined to install the compressible seal while the panels are being constructed for ease of installation and production reasons, this should not override the proper sequence that is necessary in order for the compressible seal to be effective in preventing plant growth. It is of upmost importance that sealing MSE wall joints be performed after the wall has initially settled.

Response:

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Jeremy Wolcott
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Comments: (12-27-18)
548-8.5.2
1. The backfill may be constructed in successive courses of not more than 10 inches compacted thickness. The 10 inch thick lift seems excessive and may not work.

Response:

2. The backfill may be constructed in successive courses of not more than 10 inches compacted thickness. It may be hard to plot the 10 inch lifts and densities in the earthwork record system and construction documentation will be difficult. Also, you may not know that the contractor is proposing to use thick lifts when the density log books are put together.

Response:

3. The height of the test wall shall be at least 20 feet or the highest wall on the project. Many walls are variable height over their length and the test densities should include those areas that are not in the highest part of the wall.

Response:

4. The height of the test wall shall be at least 20 feet or the highest wall on the project. If the test wall passes can the contractor use thick lifts on all walls on the project regardless of height?

Response:

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