



Florida Department of Transportation

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KEVIN J. THIBAUT, P.E.
SECRETARY

February 4, 2020

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: **5480805 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 Larry Jones from the Structures Design Office to clarify existing language, correct typographical errors and address FTBA requested revision to thick lift compaction language.

Please review and transmit your comments, if any, within two weeks. Comments should be sent via email to daniel.strickland@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 Strickland, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer

DS/rf

Attachment

cc: Florida Transportation Builders' Assoc.
State Construction Engineer

RETAINING WALL SYSTEMS(REV ~~12-320~~-20)

SUBARTICLE 548-8.5.2 is deleted and the following substituted:

548-8.5.2 Thick Lift Option for Compacted Select Backfill: If through field tests, the Contractor can demonstrate that the compaction equipment can achieve density for the full depth of a thicker lift, ~~and if approved by the Engineer,~~ the backfill may be constructed in successive courses of not more than 10 inches compacted thickness.

~~Based on the results of a full-height test wall constructed by each Contractor or MSE wall sub-contractor, t~~The Engineer will ~~approve~~ ~~base approval on results of a full height test wall constructed using each Contractor's or MSE wall sub-contractor's~~ the Contractor's specified compaction ~~procedures~~ ~~effort~~. The length of the test wall shall be the length required to produce one LOT of ~~not less than~~ 500 feet at the top of the wall. ~~When all individual walls using this option are less than 500-feet long, the test wall may be broken into two segments comprising separate LOTs. Both segments must be accepted to determine the required % compaction for the remaining walls. For each Contractor or MSE wall sub-contractor, t~~The height of the test wall shall be ~~at least~~ 20 feet or the highest wall ~~in the project~~ ~~using this option,~~ whichever is less. ~~Lower height walls may be constructed using these procedures until a full height test wall is constructed.~~ Notify the Engineer prior to beginning construction of a test wall.

Perform one set of QC density tests per thick lift of the test wall on the backfill within three feet behind the wall face and one set of QC density tests per thick lift of the test wall on the backfill placed beyond three feet behind the wall face, at random locations within each LOT. At each QC density test, the set will include testing the entire lift thickness and a dig down test of the bottom 6 inches. Excavate materials as needed to allow testing of the bottom 6 inches, at no expense to the Department. Maintain the exposed surface as close to undisturbed as possible; no further compaction will be permitted during the test preparation. The Department will perform verification testing of density for the bottom 6 inches and the entire lift thickness at the frequency indicated in 548-9.6. All QC tests and a Department Verification test must meet the density required by 548-9.4.

Identify the test wall with the required % compaction effort and thickness in the Logbook. ~~For the material within three feet behind the wall face, the minimum density required on the thick lift will be the average of all the passing QC results obtained on the thick lifts of the test wall within the three feet behind the wall face. For the material placed beyond three feet behind the wall face, the minimum density required will be the average of all the passing QC results obtained on the thick lifts of the test wall beyond three feet behind the wall face.~~ If the thick lift density does not meet or exceed the thick lift density results during the test wall, perform dig-down density tests to verify the density of the bottom 6 inches of the lift. The Contractor may elect to place material in 6 inches compacted thickness at any time. Once approved, a change in the source of backfill material will require the construction of a new test wall. Do not change the compaction effort once the test wall is approved. The Engineer will periodically verify the density of the bottom 6 inches during thick lift operations. If unable to achieve the required density, remove and replace or repair the test wall to comply with the specifications at no additional expense to the Department. The Engineer may terminate the use of

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thick lift construction and instruct the Contractor to revert to the 6 inches maximum lift thickness if the Contractor fails to achieve satisfactory results or meet the requirements of this Section.

RETAINING WALL SYSTEMS**(REV 2-3-20)**

SUBARTICLE 548-8.5.2 is deleted and the following substituted:

548-8.5.2 Thick Lift Option for Compacted Select Backfill: If through field tests, the Contractor can demonstrate that the compaction equipment can achieve density for the full depth of a thicker lift, the backfill may be constructed in successive courses of not more than 10 inches compacted thickness.

Based on the results of a full-height test wall constructed by each Contractor or MSE wall sub-contractor, the Engineer will approve each Contractor's or MSE wall sub-contractor's specified compaction procedures. The length of the test wall shall be the length required to produce one LOT of 500 feet at the top of the wall. When all individual walls using this option are less than 500-feet long, the test wall may be broken into two segments comprising separate LOTs. Both segments must be accepted to determine the required % compaction for the remaining walls. For each Contractor or MSE wall sub-contractor, the height of the test wall shall be 20 feet or the highest wall using this option, whichever is less. Lower height walls may be constructed using these procedures until a full height test wall is constructed. Notify the Engineer prior to beginning construction of a test wall.

Perform one set of QC density tests per thick lift of the test wall on the backfill within three feet behind the wall face and one set of QC density tests per thick lift of the test wall on the backfill placed beyond three feet behind the wall face, at random locations within each LOT. At each QC density test, the set will include testing the entire lift thickness and a dig down test of the bottom 6 inches. Excavate materials as needed to allow testing of the bottom 6 inches, at no expense to the Department. Maintain the exposed surface as close to undisturbed as possible; no further compaction will be permitted during the test preparation. The Department will perform verification testing of density for the bottom 6 inches and the entire lift thickness at the frequency indicated in 548-9.6. All QC tests and a Department Verification test must meet the density required by 548-9.4.

Identify the test wall with the required % compaction effort and thickness in the Logbook. If the thick lift density does not meet or exceed the thick lift density results during the test wall, perform dig-down density tests to verify the density of the bottom 6 inches of the lift. The Contractor may elect to place material in 6 inches compacted thickness at any time. Once approved, a change in the source of backfill material will require the construction of a new test wall. Do not change the compaction effort once the test wall is approved. The Engineer will periodically verify the density of the bottom 6 inches during thick lift operations. If unable to achieve the required density, remove and replace or repair the test wall to comply with the specifications at no additional expense to the Department. The Engineer may terminate the use of thick lift construction and instruct the Contractor to revert to the 6 inches maximum lift thickness if the Contractor fails to achieve satisfactory results or meet the requirements of this Section.