

5480805 SPECIFICATION  
COMMENTS FROM INTERNAL/INDUSTRY REVIEW

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Ananth Prasad  
(850) 942-1405  
www.FTBA.com

Comments: (11-13-20, Internal)

In regards to 548-9.3 Density Testing Requirements: we take no exception to determining the moisture content by use of a Calcium Carbide Gas Pressure Moisture Tester ( Speedy) Test as well have found it to be more accurate and certainly more consistent than a Troxler Moisture Content reading.

The FM 5-535 Laboratory Determination by use of a microwave oven would cripple production in the daily operations as the CEI's are not set up to perform that test in the field. We require multiple density tests daily and it's simply not feasible.

We are also having trouble with the 548-8.5.2 Thick Lift Option for Compacted Select Backfill language.

Some CEI's interpretation of the language is that you must complete a full height test wall before using the thick lift option on any other walls on the project. As you are aware we may have several MSE walls going up at the same time on any given project.

If we are achieving the required density on one wall, we should be able to build multiple walls at the same time utilizing the thick lift spec before the "identified test wall" is 100% complete.

We have a project currently in Pasco County that has two walls only. They're adjacent to each other about 100' apart. The fill is coming from the same stockpile, using the same compactive effort, yet on one of the walls we are being held to 6" lift thickness until the "test wall" where we are using 10" compacted lift thickness is 100% complete.

This makes no sense at all as we are building them both at the same time.

The Thick Lift Option language needs to be clarified in this regard.

We need to keep it as simple as possible to avoid one person's interpretation of the language.

Response:

1. No changes have been made to moisture testing; the language is still the same. The industry has the option of speedy moisture or microwave oven testing, whichever is time/cost effective.
2. There have been no changes made to the MSE wall select backfill thick lift option with the 07/2021 specification modification. We can address this concern at the next FTBA Structures Committee meeting.

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