9850000 GEOSYNTHETIC MATERIALS
COMMENTS FROM INTERNAL/INDUSTRY REVIEW

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Comments: (11-22-21, Industry)
In section 9850000. "985-4 Erosion Control Applications. 985-4.1 Application Nonstructural: Materials may contain natural fibers added to acceptable plastic erosion mats for the sole purpose of facilitating turf growth. However, **materials used for erosion control applications must be tested without any natural fiber components** in accordance with and meet the physical requirements Table 985-6."

No erosion control blanket manufacture tests individual components of their blankets or TRMs. This is true for required NTPEP/ASSHTO tests and most other states. The natural components in a TRM are not going to impact the performance results. Please allow all TRMs to be tested as produced. Not allowing this will not add value to your approval process and it will cost all manufacturers a great deal of money to test their products twice. Thank you, Craig Shultz
Response:

1. Requirements have not changed with the re-formatting of this specification.
2. Disagree with proposed change to testing requirements. Products to remain in place are tested without added natural fibers, to determine properties of material that will remain for long term application.

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Comments: (12-7-21, Industry)
There are 3 categories of TRMs - E-3, E-4 and E-5. The specifications are not as definitive in delineating the differences in products. I would recommend organic fill material be restricted from E-4 and E-5. Then the tensile strength requirement for category E-5 be increased to 3,000 lb/ft x 3,000 lb/ft (MD x TD, ASTM D6818). With these changes, FDOT would have basic performance, organic fill materials in E-3, mid-grade, full synthetic fill products in E-4 and High Performance (typically woven) TRMs in E-5. In its current form, basic materials can occupy any of the three categories. No matter which category an FDOT design requires, they are really getting the same thing. There is no way to get a high performing material on a project because basic materials can qualify as E-5, as written. Please feel free to contact me for a more detailed discussion. Thank you for the efforts in collecting industry input.
Response:

1. Requirements have not changed with the re-formatting of this specification.
2. Your recommendations will be forwarded to Technical Experts for future specification changes.

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Comments: (12-13-21, Industry)

I would like to confirm that the NTPEP requirements in the revised section 985-2.1 only pertain to structural geosynthetics and are not applicable to the erosion control applications such as silt fence, wind screen, and plastic erosion mat?
Response:

Per the specification, the NTPEP test results are used for all products, to verify that they meet the physical requirements of the specification.

The NTPEP Audit Report is limited to Structural Geosynthetic Materials.

NTPEP Audit Report, for Structural Geosynthetic Materials Only	manufacturer's facility included on NTPEP's list of compliant producers.
NTPEP Test Results	Product meets requirements of this Section

Further details on NTPEP geotextile testing are available at:
https://ntpep.transportation.org/technical-committees/geosynthetics-gtx-regeo/

FDOT utilizes NTPEP testing when it is consistent with our specifications.

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Comments: (12-15-21, Industry)
Two comments related to proposed Geosynthetic Materials specs: 1. Section 985-2.5 Packaging and Labeling: Geosynthetics shall be packaged in a protective covering sufficient to protect the material from temperatures greater than 140 F, sunlight, dirt, and other debris during shipment and storage. The manufacturer's name, product name, style number, roll dimensions and LOT numbers must be clearly labeled on all packaging. Comment: Tensar PP and HDPE products are resistance to UV and historically not covered with a protective covering. Our UX HDPE geogrids are shrink-wrapped on a pallet. 2. Section 985-2 General Requirements: NTPEP requirements for Structural Geosynthetics Material Comment: The Structural Geosynthetics Material covered R1 through R-5 which will include All Tensar and other PP biaxial geogrids. These products are used specifically under Roads and there is no NTPEP program applicable for this right now. Requiring NTPEP where the program does not exist for PP biaxial geogrids will eliminate this material/product from the state.
Response:

1. Requirements have not changed with the re-formatting of this specification.

Per the spec, the requirement is *"sufficient to protect the material from temperatures greater than 140 F, sunlight, dirt, and other debris during shipment and storage."* The shrink-wrap was previously determined to be acceptable for protecting the product from dirt and debris.

2. New NTPEP program (SSGEO) will include biaxial products; independent lab testing is accepted in the interim.

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