

Comments Received From Industry Review

Mark Minich

From: "Mark Minich" [Mminich@ajaxpaving.com]
Sent: 09/16/2005 11:45 AM
To: <duane.brautigam@dot.state.fl.us>
Cc: "Christie Alvaro" <Calvaro@ajaxpaving.com>
Subject: Proposed Spec Change 1620000.D01 Prepared Soil Layer and 9870000 Prepared soil layer material

Here we go again.

1620000 - The first paragraph 162-1.1 requires import material whether or not it is needed. Probably not a great cost to benefit ratio on that one. Many projects only require processing of existing material, mixing etc.

Also, 162.5 Acceptance testing - The former frequency of 1 test per 2 shoulder miles is substantially increased on most projects by going to a frequency of 1000 SY/ test. Again, probably not a great cost to benefit ratio. Based on typical widths on resurfacing projects, this change would increase frequency testing 5 to 10 times what is used now. I am thinking a more reasonable approach may be every 5000 SY with no less than 3 tests per project with over 1000 SY of prepared soil layer. I think that is more reasonable and will provide an effective level of quality control without disregarding smaller projects.

Section 987 - 2.5% organic is not just a small change from 1% organic. In most cases, this requirement will have a substantial cost that in our experience will not have a noticeable effect on the growth of sod, or the establishment of grass. I guess if the Department wants to find a way to get rid of some extra money, this works.

Dave Reid

From: "Dave Reid" [dreid@ajaxpaving.com]
Sent: 09/16/2005 12:35 PM
To: Mark Minich" <Mminich@ajaxpaving.com>
Cc: Christie Alvaro" <Calvaro@ajaxpaving.com>
Subject: RE: Proposed Spec Change 1620000.D01 Prepared Soil Layer and 9870000 Prepared soil layer material

One of the things I heard at the recent FTBA roundtable seemed to make sense, although that question pertained to asphalt.

Why not just warranty the grass? Either the grass grows or it doesn't. Let the contractor be responsible and you'll have the most cost effective product. Nobody wants to come back and rework the grass. With this spec, even if we do all this, if the grass dies, we still replace it, right?

This spec change will probably mean that in most cases, in addition to spending a lot of money testing dirt underneath grass that will grow in almost any location or condition, we'll need to wait between finishing the dirt and grassing to see if our tests pass, and in order to assure that, we'll need to purchase 6" of topsoil, which means we'll need to be purchasing material that is priced at \$15-20 per CY delivered, or more if the site is remote. The direct cost of this work – the QC and the additional material alone, means that to put down bahia sod that grows anywhere you set it down and water it, which can be installed at about \$2.00 per SY, for a typical 1000 SY area, we would have to add another \$5.50 a SY. In addition, somewhere else in our bid, we'd need to cover cost to overexcavate to make room for that 6" of select material, and we'll need to allow for reworking these areas anytime we're doing this during the summer, since there will be lots of occasions where our finished soil layer just washes away in summer rain, and anytime an inspection reveals topsoil that isn't perfect. Is the Department ready for Bahia that costs \$10.00/SY? Is the problem with getting grass to grow really that bad? When I drive around the state, I am struck by how good all of the finished projects look. I never would have guessed that in general, the grass isn't growing well on highway projects.

Mark is right. This is a great way for the department to get rid of extra money on something with little or no benefit to the state.

John Shoucair

File: 9870000 - Prepared Soil Layer Materials

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Comments:

Why is the upper limit of organic content being changed?
