

**120 EARTHWORK AND RELATED OPERATIONS FOR LAP (CLASS - D).  
(REV 1-13-26) (FA 7-13-21) (FY 2026-27)**

SECTION 120 is deleted and the following substituted:

**SECTION 120  
EARTHWORK AND RELATED OPERATIONS FOR LAP (CLASS - D)**

**120-1 Description.**

**120-1.1 General:** Perform earthwork and related operations based on the type of work specified in the Contract and the Earthwork Categories as defined below. Meet the applicable requirements for materials, equipment and construction as specified.

Earthwork and related operations consist of excavation for the construction of the roadway, excavation for structures and pipe, constructing backfill around structures and pipe, and constructing embankments as required for the roadway, ditches, and channel changes.

**120-1.2 Earthwork Categories:** Performance of Earthwork Operations will fall into one of the following Earthwork Categories:

**120-1.2.1 Earthwork Category 1:** Includes the earthwork and related operations associated with the construction of non-traffic bearing applications such as sidewalks and bike paths along with any drainage structures associated with these facilities that are considered non-mainline.

**120-1.2.2 Earthwork Category 2:** Includes the earthwork and related operations associated with the construction of non-traffic bearing applications such as roadway shoulder-only areas, shared use paths, concrete box culverts, retaining walls, and other drainage structures on the non-mainline pavement.

**120-1.2.3 Earthwork Category 3:** Includes the earthwork and related operations associated with the construction of mainline traffic bearing applications such as pavement lanes, turn lanes, ramps, parking lots, concrete box culverts, emergency shoulder use, retaining wall systems, and other drainage structures on the mainline pavement.

**120-1.3 Unidentified Areas of Contamination:** When encountering or exposing any abnormal condition indicating the presence of potentially contaminated materials, cease operations immediately in the vicinity and notify the Engineer. The presence of storage tanks or drums; observation of discolorations or sheens on earth; or other conditions that appear abnormal may indicate the presence of contaminated materials and must be treated with extreme caution.

Once determined safe, take measures if needed, to minimize the spread of contamination into uncontaminated areas. Immediately provide for the health and safety of all workers at the job site and make provisions necessary for the health and safety of the public that may be exposed.

The Engineer will notify the Department's Contamination Impact Coordinator who will then coordinate selecting and tasking the Department's Contamination Assessment/Remediation Contractor (CAR). Provide access to any potentially contaminated area. Preliminary investigation by the CAR Contractor will determine the course of action necessary for site security and the steps necessary under applicable laws, rules, and regulations for additional assessment and/or remediation work to resolve the contamination issue.

## **120-2 Classifications of Excavation.**

**120-2.1 General:** The Engineer may classify excavation specified under this Section for payment as any of the following: regular excavation, subsoil excavation, lateral ditch excavation, and channel excavation.

If the proposal does not show subsoil excavation or lateral ditch excavation as separate items of payment, include such excavation under the item of regular excavation.

If the proposal shows lateral ditch excavation as a separate item of payment but does not show channel excavation as a separate item of payment, include such excavation under the item of lateral ditch excavation. Otherwise, include channel excavation under the item of regular excavation.

**120-2.2 Regular Excavation:** Regular excavation includes roadway excavation and borrow excavation, as defined below for each.

Roadway excavation consists of the excavation and the utilization or disposal of all materials necessary for the construction of the roadway, ditches, channel changes, etc., except as may be specifically shown to be paid for separately and that portion of the lateral ditches within the limits of the roadway right-of-way as shown in the Plans.

Borrow excavation consists of the excavation and utilization of material from authorized borrow pits, including only material that is suitable for the construction of roadway embankments or of other embankments covered by the Contract.

A Cost Savings Initiative Proposal (CSIP) submittal based on using borrow material from within the project limits will not be considered.

**120-2.3 Subsoil Excavation:** Subsoil excavation consists of the excavation and disposal of muck, clay, rock, or any other material that is unsuitable in its original position and that is excavated below the existing surface. For ponds and ditches that identify the placement of a blanket material, the existing surface is template as the bottom of the blanket material. Subsoil excavation also consists of the excavation of all suitable material within the above limits as necessary to excavate the unsuitable material. Consider the limits of subsoil excavation indicated in the Plans as being particularly variable, in accordance with the field conditions encountered.

The quantity of material required to replace the excavated material and to raise the elevation of the roadway to the bottom of the template will be paid for under embankment or borrow excavation (Truck Measure).

**120-2.4 Lateral Ditch Excavation:** Lateral ditch excavation consists of all excavation of inlet and outlet ditches to structures and roadway, and ditches parallel to the roadway right-of-way. Dress lateral ditches to the grade and finished graded surface shown in the Plans.

**120-2.5 Channel Excavation:** Channel excavation consists of the excavation of channels of streams and satisfactory disposal of all materials from the limits of the channel as shown in the Plans.

**120-2.6 Excavation for Structures and Pipe:** Excavation for structures consists of the excavation for bridge foundations, box culverts, pipe culverts, storm sewers and all other pipelines, retaining walls, headwalls for pipe culverts and drains, catch basins, drop inlets, manholes, and similar structures.

## **120-3 Preliminary Soils Investigations.**

When the Plans contain the results of a soil survey, do not assume such data is a guarantee of the depth, extent, or character of material present.

## **120-4 Excavation Requirements.**

### **120-4.1 Removal of Unsuitable Materials and Existing Roads**

**120-4.1.1 Subsoil Excavation:** Where rock, muck, clay, or other material within the limits of the roadway is unsuitable in its original position, excavate such material to the depths shown in the Plans as the removal limits or as indicated by the Engineer, and backfill with suitable material. Where the removal of plastic soils is required, meet a construction tolerance of  $\pm 0.2$  foot in depth and  $\pm 6$  inches (each side) in width.

**120-4.1.2 Construction over Existing Old Road:** Where a new roadway is to be constructed over an old one, completely remove the existing pavement for the entire limits of the width and depth. Remove the existing base beneath the pavement if indicated in the Plans. If the Plans provide that paving materials may be incorporated into the fill, distribute such material in a manner so as not to create voids. Recompact the old road meeting the requirements of 120-10.2.

### **120-4.2 Excavation for Structures and Pipe.**

**120-4.2.1 Requirements for all Excavation:** Perform all excavation to foundation materials, satisfactory to the Engineer, regardless of the elevation shown in the Plans. Remove rock, boulders or other hard lumpy or unyielding material to a depth of 12 inches below the bottom of pipes and box culverts elevations. Remove muck or other soft material to the depth indicated in the Plans or as directed by the Engineer.

#### **120-4.2.2 Earth Excavation:**

**120-4.2.2.1 Foundation Material other than the Rock:** When masonry is to rest on an excavated surface other than rock, take special care to avoid disturbing the bottom of the excavation, and do not remove the final foundation material to grade until just before placing the masonry. In case the foundation material is soft or mucky, the Engineer may require excavation to a greater depth and to backfill to grade with approved material.

**120-4.2.2.2 Foundation Piles:** Where foundation piles are used, complete the excavation of each pit before driving the piles. After the driving is completed, remove all loose and displaced material, leaving a smooth, solid, and level bed to receive the masonry.

**120-4.2.2.3 Removal of Obstructions:** Remove boulders, logs, or any unforeseen obstacles encountered in excavating.

**120-4.2.3 Rock Excavation:** Clean all rock and other hard foundation material, remove all loose material, and cut all rock to a firm surface. Either level, step vertically and horizontally, or serrate the rock, as may be directed by the Engineer. Clean out all seams and fill them with concrete or mortar.

**120-4.2.4 Pipe Trench Excavation:** Excavate trenches for pipes to the elevation of the bottom of the pipe and to a width sufficient to provide adequate working room. Remove soil not meeting the classification specified as suitable backfill material in 120-8.3.2.2 to a depth of 4 inches below the bottom of the pipe elevation. Remove rock, boulders or other hard lumpy or unyielding material to a depth of 12 inches below the bottom of the pipe elevation. Remove muck or other soft material to a depth necessary to establish a firm foundation. Where the soils permit, ensure that the trench sides are vertical up to at least the mid-point of the pipe.

For pipelines placed above the natural ground line, place and compact the embankment, prior to excavation of the trench, to an elevation at least 2 feet above the top of the pipe and to a width equal to four pipe diameters, and then excavate the trench to the required grade.

For pipe trenches utilizing trench boxes, ensure that the trench box used is of sufficient width to permit thorough tamping of bedding material under and around the pipes as specified in 125-8.1.6.

Do not disturb the installed pipe and its embedment when moving trench boxes. Move the trench box carefully to avoid excavated wall displacement or damage. As the trench box is moved, fill any voids left by the trench box and continuously place and compact the backfill material adjacent to and all along the side of the trench box walls to fill any voids created by the trench box.

## **120-5 Disposal of Surplus and Unsuitable Material.**

**120-5.1 Ownership of Excavated Materials:** Take ownership of the materials and dispose of them outside the right-of-way.

**120-5.2 Placement of Muck on Side Slopes:** As an exception to the provisions of 120-5.1, when approved by the Engineer, the Contractor may store muck (A-8 material) alongside the roadway, provided there is a clear distance of at least 6 feet between the roadway grading limits and the muck and the Contractor dresses the muck to present a neat appearance. Do not store such material in a manner which will impede the inflow or outfall of any channel or side ditches. All stored materials that is not used for the final surface material must be disposed of outside the right-of-way.

**120-5.3 Disposal of Paving Materials:** Unless otherwise noted, take ownership of paving materials, such as paving brick, asphalt block, concrete slab, sidewalk, curb and gutter, etc., excavated in the removal of existing pavements, and dispose of them outside the right-of-way. Existing base materials that are removed may be incorporated in the stabilized portion of the subgrade. If the construction sequence allows, incorporate all existing base material into the project as allowed by the Contract Documents.

**120-5.4 Disposal Areas:** Where the Contract Documents require disposal of excavated materials outside the right-of-way, and the disposal area is not indicated in the Contract Documents, furnish the disposal area without additional compensation.

Provide areas for disposal of removed paving materials out of sight of the project and at least 300 feet from the nearest roadway right-of-way line of any road. If the materials are buried, disregard the 300-foot limitation.

## **120-6 Materials for Embankment.**

**120-6.1 General Requirements for Embankment Materials:** Construct embankments using suitable materials excavated from the roadway or delivered to the jobsite from authorized borrow pits. The embankment materials must meet the requirements of Standard Plans 120 001. Embankment material shall not contain muck, stumps, roots, brush, vegetable matter, rubbish, reinforcement bar or other material that does not compact into a suitable and enduring roadbed.

Remove all waste material designated as undesirable. Use material in embankment construction in accordance with Plan details or as the Engineer directs.

Construct the embankment using maximum particle sizes as follows:

1. In top 12 inches: 3-1/2 inches (in any dimension).
2. 12 to 24 inches: 6 inches (in any dimension).
3. In the depth below 24 inches: not to exceed 12 inches (in any dimension) or the compacted thickness of the layer being placed, whichever is less.

Spread all material so that the larger particles are separated from each other to minimize voids between them during compaction. Compact around these rocks in accordance with 120-9.2.

When and where approved by the Engineer, larger rocks (not to exceed 18 inches in any dimension) may be placed outside the 1:2 slope and at least 4 feet or more below the bottom of the base. Compact around these rocks to a firmness equal to that of the supporting soil. Where constructing embankments adjacent to bridge end bents or abutments, do not place rock larger than 3-½ inches in diameter within 3 feet of the location of any end-bent piling.

**120-6.2 Use of Materials Excavated from the Roadway and Appurtenances:** Assume responsibility for determining the suitability of excavated material for use on the project in accordance with the applicable Contract Documents. Consider the sequence of work and maintenance of traffic phasing in the determination of the availability of this material.

**120-6.3 Authorization for Use of Borrow:** Use borrow pit only when sufficient quantities of suitable material are not available from roadway and drainage excavation, to properly construct the embankment, subgrade, and shoulders, and to complete the backfilling of structures and pipe. Do not use borrow material until so ordered by the Engineer, and then only use material from approved borrow pits.

**120-6.3.1 Haul Routes for Borrow Pits:** Provide and maintain, at no expense to the Agency, all necessary roads for hauling the borrow material. Where borrow area haul roads or trails are used by others, do not cause such roads or trails to deteriorate in condition.

Arrange for the use of all non-public haul routes crossing the property of any railroad. Incur any expense for the use of such haul routes. Establish haul routes which will direct construction vehicles away from developed areas when feasible and keep noise from hauling operations to a minimum. Advise the Engineer in writing of all proposed haul routes.

**120-6.3.2 Borrow Material for Shoulder Build-up:** When indicated in the Plans, furnish borrow material with a specific minimum bearing value, for building up of existing shoulders. Blend materials as necessary to achieve this specified minimum bearing value prior to placing the materials on the shoulders. Take samples of this borrow material at the pit or blended stockpile. Include all costs of providing a material with the required bearing value in the Contract unit price for borrow material. When the Plans indicate the use of drop-off soil on existing facilities as the shoulder buildup, no further testing is needed.

**120-6.4 Materials Used at Pipes, Culverts, etc.:** Construct embankments over and around pipes, culverts, and bridge foundations with selected materials.

## **120-7 Embankment Construction.**

**120-7.1 General:** Construct embankments in sections of not less than 300 feet in length or for the full length of the embankment. A LOT is defined as a single lift of finished embankment. Do not construct another LOT over an untested LOT without the Engineer's approval in writing.

Construct mainline traffic bearing applications such as pavement lanes, turn lanes, ramps, parking lots, concrete box culverts, emergency shoulder use, and retaining wall systems in LOTs not to exceed 500 feet.

Construct non-mainline LOTs, not to exceed 2,000 feet, for non-traffic bearing applications such as shoulder-only areas, shared use paths, and sidewalks areas.

When mainline and non-mainline areas are constructed in one operation, a LOT shall not exceed 500 feet. Isolated compaction operations will be considered as separate LOTs. For multiple phase construction, a LOT shall not extend beyond the limits of the phase.

**120-7.2 Dry Fill Method:**

**120-7.2.1 General:** Construct embankments to meet compaction requirements in 120-9 and in accordance with the acceptance program requirements in 120-10.

Construct embankment in the dry whenever normal dewatering equipment and methods can accomplish the needed dewatering.

**120-7.2.1.1 Maximum Compacted Lift Thickness Requirements:**

Construct the embankment in successive layers with lifts up to a maximum listed in the table below based on the embankment material classification group.

Group	AASHTO Soil Class	Maximum Lift Thickness	Thick Lift Control Test Section Requirements
1	A-3	12 inches	Not Needed
	A-2-4 (No. 200 Sieve $\leq$ 15%)		
2	A-1	6 inches without Control Test Section	Maximum of 12 inches per 120-7.2.1.2
	A-2-4 (No. 200 Sieve $>$ 15%)		
	A-2-5, A-2-6, A-2-7, A-4, A-5, A-6		
	A-7 (Liquid Limit $<$ 50)		

**120-7.2.1.2 Thick Lift Requirements:** For embankment materials classified as Group 2 in Table 120-1 above, the option to perform thick lift construction in successive layers of not more than 12 inches compacted thickness may be used after meeting the following requirements:

1. Demonstrate the possession and control of compacting equipment sufficient to achieve density required by 120-10.5 for the full depth of a thicker lift.
2. Construct a test section of the length of one full LOT of not less than 500 feet.
3. Perform five density tests at random locations within the test section.
  - a. All five tests must meet the density required by 120-10.5.
  - b. Identify the test section with the compaction effort and soil classification in the project's records.
4. Obtain Engineer's approval for the compaction effort after completing a successful test section.

In case of a change in compaction effort or soil classification or failing density test, construct a new test section. The Contractor may elect to place material in 6 inches compacted thickness at any time. Construct all layers approximately parallel to the centerline profile of the road.

The Engineer reserves the right to terminate the Contractor's use of thick lift construction. Whenever the Engineer determines that the Contractor is not achieving satisfactory results, revert to the 6-inch compacted lifts.

**120-7.2.1.3 Dewatering Equipment and Methods:** Provide normal dewatering equipment including, but not limited to, surface pumps, sump pumps and trenching/digging machinery. Provide normal dewatering methods including, but not limited to, constructing shallow surface drainage trenches/ditches, using sand blankets, sumps, and siphons.

When normal dewatering does not adequately remove the water, the Engineer may require the embankment material to be placed in the water or in low swampy ground in accordance with 120-9.2.4.

**120-7.2.2 Placing in Unstable Areas:** When depositing the material in water, or in low swampy ground that will not support the weight of hauling equipment, construct the embankment by dumping successive loads in a uniformly distributed layer of a thickness not greater than necessary to support the hauling equipment while placing subsequent layers. Once sufficient material has been placed so that the hauling equipment can be supported, construct the remaining portion of the embankment in layers in accordance with the applicable provisions of 120-9.2.3 and 120-9.2.6.

**120-7.2.3 Placing on Steep Slopes:** When constructing an embankment on a hillside sloping more than 20 degrees from the horizontal, before starting the fill, deeply plow or cut into steps the surface of the original ground on which the embankment is to be placed.

**120-7.2.4 Placing Outside Standard Minimum Slope:** The standard control line is defined as the plane described by a one (vertical) to two (horizontal) slope downward from the roadway shoulder point or the gutter line, in accordance with Standard Plans, Index 120-001 and 120-002.

For sidewalks, the standard control line is a vertical line one foot from the left and right edge of the sidewalk. When the sidewalk is immediately adjacent to another roadway element such as curb-and-gutter, the control line is the distance between the two elements when the distance is less than a foot. The vertical control lines for sidewalks are referenced as the area to be compacted in 522-4.

For retaining wall system, the standard control line is a vertical line along the inside edges of the left and right side of the retaining wall face. For gravity walls and cast-in-place (CIP) retaining walls, the standard control line is a vertical line originating at the inside edge of the top of the gravity or CIP retaining wall.

When various elements are present in a single operation, a hierarchy for standard control line is as follows:

1. Retaining wall system,
2. CIP retaining wall systems,
3. Gravity walls,
4. Curb-and-gutter,
5. Shoulder break point,
6. and concrete driveway and sidewalk.

Where material that is unsuitable for normal embankment construction is to be used in the embankment outside the standard control line, place such material in layers of not more than 18 inches in thickness, measured loose. The Contractor may also place material, which is suitable for normal embankment, outside such standard minimum slope in 18-inch layers. Maintain a constant thickness for suitable material placed within and outside the standard minimum slope, unless placing in a separate operation.

### **120-7.3 Hydraulic Method:**

**120-7.3.1 Method of Placing:** When the hydraulic method is used, as far as practicable, place all dredged material in its final position in the embankment by such method. Place and compact any dredged material that is reworked or moved and placed in its final position by any other method, as specified in 120-9.2. Baffles or any other form of construction may be used if the slopes of the embankments are not steeper than indicated in the Plans.

Remove all timber used for temporary bulkheads or baffles from the embankment and fill and thoroughly compact all voids. When placing fill on submerged land, construct dikes prior to beginning of dredging, and maintain the dikes throughout the dredging operation.

**120-7.3.2 Excess Material:** Do not use excess material placed outside the prescribed slopes, below the normal high-water level, to raise the fill. Remove only the portion of this material required for dressing the slopes.

**120-7.3.3 Protection of Openings in Embankment:** Maintain openings in the embankments at the bridge sites. Remove any material which invades these openings or existing channels without additional compensation to provide the same depth of channel as existed before the construction of the embankment. Do not excavate or dredge any material within 200 feet of the toe of the proposed embankment.

## **120-8 Backfilling Around Structures and Pipe.**

### **120-8.1 Requirements for Structures and Pipes:**

**120-8.1.1 General:** Backfill around structures and pipe in the dry whenever normal dewatering equipment and methods can accomplish the needed dewatering. A LOT is defined as one lift of backfill material placement, not to exceed 500 feet in length or a single run of pipe connecting two successive structures, whichever is less. Backfill for structures and pipe compacted in one operation will be considered as one LOT within the cover zone. Backfill around structures compacted separately from the pipe will be considered as separate LOTs. Backfill on each side of the pipe for the first lift will be considered a separate LOT. Backfill on opposite sides of the pipe for the remaining lifts will be considered separate LOTs, unless the same compaction effort is applied. Same compaction effort is defined as the same type of equipment (make and model) making the same number of passes on both sides of the pipe. For multiple phases of backfill, a LOT shall not extend beyond the limits of the phase.

When placing backfill within a trench box, each lift of backfill is considered a LOT. Placement of backfill within a trench box limits will be considered a complete operation before trench box is moved for next backfill operation. When the trench box is moved for next backfill operation this will start new LOTs for each lift. Follow the density testing frequency in 125-9.3.1.

**120-8.1.2 Dewatering Equipment and Methods:** Provide normal dewatering equipment including, but not limited to, surface pumps, sump pumps, wellpoints and header pipe and trenching/digging machinery. Provide normal dewatering methods including, but not limited to, constructing shallow surface drainage trenches/ditches, using sand blankets, perforated pipe drains, sumps, and siphons.

**120-8.1.3 Backfill Materials:** Backfill to the original ground surface or subgrade surface of openings made for structures, with a sufficient allowance for settlement. The Engineer may require that the material used for this backfill be obtained from a source entirely apart from the structure.

Do not allow heavy construction equipment to cross over culvert or storm sewer pipes until placing and compacting backfill material to the finished earthwork grade or to an elevation at least 4 feet above the crown of the pipe.

**120-8.1.4 Use of A-7 Material:** In the backfilling of trenches, A-7 material may be used from a point 12 inches above the top of the pipe up to the elevation shown in the Standard Plans as the elevation for undercutting of A-7 material.

**120-8.1.5 Time of Placing Backfill:** Do not place backfill against any cast-in-place concrete elements used for structural applications until the Engineer's approval, and in no

case until the structural concrete has been in place seven days or until the specified 28-day compressive strength is achieved. Do not place backfill against components used for non-structural applications such as mortar used for joints and concrete jackets for a minimum of 24 hours, or unless authorized by the Engineer.

**120-8.1.6 Placement and Compaction:** Place the material in horizontal layers not exceeding 6 inches compacted thickness in depth above water level, behind abutments, wingwalls and end bents or end rest piers, under the haunches of the pipes, around box culverts, and all structures including pipe culverts. When the backfill material is deposited in water, compact as specified in 125-8.2.5 and 125-8.3.4.

**120-8.1.6.1 Thick Lift Requirements:** The Contractor may elect to place material in thicker lifts of no more than 12 inches compacted thickness above the Soil Envelope if the embankment material is classified as Group 1 in the table below. If the embankment material is classified as Group 2 in the table below and the Contractor chooses to place material in thicker lifts of no more than 12 inches compacted thickness above the soil envelope, then the Contractor must demonstrate with a successful test section that density can be achieved. Thick lift around structures is only allowed above the soil envelope of the connecting pipe. Notify the Engineer in writing prior to beginning construction of a test section. Construct a test section of the length of one LOT. Perform five quality control tests at random locations within the test section. All five tests must meet the density required by 120-9.2. Identify the test section with the compaction effort and soil classification in the project's records. In case of a change in compaction effort or soil classification, construct a new test section. When a test fails the requirements of 120-9.2, construct a new test section. The Contractor may elect to place material in 6 inches compacted thickness at any time.

Table 120-2					
Group	AASHTO Soil Class	Maximum Lift Thickness		Thick Lift Control Test Section Requirements	
		Within Cover Zone	Above Soil Envelope	Within Cover Zone	Above Soil Envelope
1	A-3	6 inches	12 inches	N/A	Not Needed
	A-2-4 (No. 200 Sieve $\leq$ 15%)				
2	A-1	6 inches without control test section	N/A	Maximum of 12 inches per 120-7.2.1.2	
	A-2-4 (No. 200 Sieve $>$ 15%)				
	A-2-5, A-2-6, A-2-7, A-4, A-5, A-6				
	A-7 (Liquid Limit $<$ 50)				

**120-8.2 Additional Requirements for Structures Other than Pipe:**

**120-8.2.1 Density:** Where the backfill material is deposited in water, obtain a 12 inch layer of comparatively dry material, thoroughly compacted by tamping, before the Engineer verifies layer and density requirements. Meet the requirements of the density Acceptance Criteria.

**120-8.2.2 Box Culverts:** For box culverts over which pavement is to be constructed, compact around the structure to an elevation not less than 12 inches above the top of the structure, using rapid-striking mechanical tampers.

**120-8.2.3 Other Limited Areas:** Compact in other limited areas using mechanical tampers or approved hand tampers, until the cover over the structure is at least 12 inches thick. When hand tampers are used, deposit the materials in layers not more than 4 inches thick using hand tampers suitable for this purpose with a face area of not more than 100 in<sup>2</sup>. Take special precautions to prevent any wedging action against the masonry, and step or terrace the slope bounding the excavation for abutments and wingwalls if required by the Engineer.

**120-8.2.4 Culverts and Piers:** Backfill around culverts and piers on both sides simultaneously to approximately the same elevation.

**120-8.2.5 Compaction Under Wet Conditions:** Where wet conditions do not permit the use of mechanical tampers, compact using hand tampers. Use only A-3 material for the hand tamped portions of the backfill. When the backfill has reached an elevation and condition such as to make the use of the mechanical tampers practical, perform mechanical tamping in such manner and to such extent as to transfer the compaction force into the sections previously tamped by hand.

**120-8.3 Additional Requirements for Pipe Greater than 12 Inches Inside Diameter:**

**120-8.3.1 General:** Trenches for pipe may have up to four zones that must be backfilled.

**Lowest Zone:** The lowest zone is backfilled for deep undercuts up to within 4 inches of the bottom of the pipe.

**Bedding Zone:** The zone above the Lowest Zone is the Bedding Zone. Usually, it will be the backfill which is the 4 inches of soil below the bottom of the pipe. When rock or other hard material has been removed to place the pipe, the Bedding Zone will be the 12 inches of soil below the bottom of the pipe.

**Cover Zone:** The next zone is the backfill that is placed after the pipe has been laid and will be called the Cover Zone. This zone extends to 12 inches above the top of the pipe. The Cover Zone and the Bedding Zone are considered the Soil Envelope for the pipe.

**Top Zone:** The Top Zone extends from 12 inches above the top of the pipe to the top of embankment.

**120-8.3.2 Material:**

**120-8.3.2.1 Lowest Zone:** Backfill areas undercut below the Bedding Zone of a pipe with coarse sand, or other suitable granular material, obtained from the grading operations on the project, or a commercial material if no suitable material is available.

**120-8.3.2.2 Soil Envelope:** In both the Bedding Zone and the Cover Zone of the pipe, backfill with materials classified as A-1, A-2, or A-3. Material classified as A-4 may be used if the pipe is concrete pipe.

**120-8.3.2.3 Top Zone:** Backfill the area of the trench above the soil envelope of the pipe with materials allowed on Standard Plans, Index 120-001.

**120-8.3.3 Compaction:**

**120-8.3.3.1 Lowest Zone:** Compact the soil in the Lowest Zone to approximately match the density of the soil in which the trench was cut.

**120-8.3.3.2 Bedding Zone:** If the trench was not undercut below the bottom of the pipe, loosen the soil in the bottom of the trench immediately below the approximate middle third of the outside diameter of the pipe.

If the trench was undercut, place the bedding material and leave it in a loose condition below the middle third of the outside diameter of the pipe. Compact the outer portions to meet the density requirements of the Acceptance Criteria. Place the material in lifts no greater than 6 inches (compacted thickness).

**120-8.3.3.3 Cover Zone:** Place the material in 6 inches layers (compacted thickness), evenly deposited on both sides of the pipe, and compact with mechanical tampers suitable for this purpose. Hand tamp material below the pipe haunch that cannot be reached by mechanical tampers. Meet the requirements of the density Acceptance Criteria.

**120-8.3.3.4 Top Zone:** Place the material in layers not to exceed 12 inches in compacted thickness. Meet the requirements of the density acceptance criteria.

**120-8.3.4 Backfill Under Wet Conditions:** Where wet conditions are such that dewatering by normal pumping methods would not be effective, the procedure outlined below may be used when specifically authorized by the Engineer in writing.

The Engineer may permit the use of granular material below the elevation at which mechanical tampers would be effective, but only material classified as A-3. Place and compact the material using timbers or hand tampers until the backfill reaches an elevation such that its moisture content will permit the use of mechanical tampers. When the backfill has reached such elevation, use normally acceptable backfill material. Compact the material using mechanical tampers in such manner and to such extent as to transfer the compacting force into the material previously tamped by hand.

The Engineer may permit the use of coarse aggregate below the elevation at which mechanical tampers would be effective. Use coarse aggregate from approved sources for Aggregate Size Number 89, 8, 78, 7, 68, 6, or 57. Place the coarse aggregate such that it will be stable and firm. Fully wrap the aggregate with a layer of Type D4 geosynthetic as specified by the Engineer. Do not place coarse aggregate within 4 feet of the ends of the trench or ditch. Use normally accepted backfill material at the ends.

## **120-9 Compaction Requirements.**

**120-9.1 Moisture Content:** Compact the materials at a moisture content such that the specified density can be attained. If necessary, add water to the material, or lower the moisture content by manipulating the material or allowing it to dry, as is appropriate, to attain the specified density.

### **120-9.2 Compaction of Embankments:**

**120-9.2.1 Earthwork Category 1 and 2 Density Requirements:** The Engineer will accept a minimum density of 95% of the maximum density as determined by FM 1-T099 for all earthwork items requiring densities.

**120-9.2.2 Earthwork Category 3 Density Requirements:** The Engineer will accept a minimum of 100% of the maximum density as determined by FM 1-T099 for all densities required under category 3. Except for embankments constructed by the hydraulic method as specified in 120-7.3, and for the material placed outside the standard minimum slope as specified in 120-7.2.4, and for other areas specifically excluded herein, compact each layer of the material used in the formation of embankments to the required density stated above. Uniformly compact each layer using equipment that will achieve the required density, and as

compaction operations progress, shape and manipulate each layer as necessary to ensure uniform density throughout the embankment.

**120-9.2.3 Compaction Over Unstable Foundations:** Where the embankment material is deposited in water or on low swampy ground, and in a layer thicker than 12 inches (as provided in 120-7.2.2), compact the top 6 inches (compacted thickness) of such layer to the density as specified in 120-10.5.

**120-9.2.4 Compaction Where Plastic Material Has Been Removed:** Where unsuitable material is removed and the remaining surface is of soil classifications A-4, A-5, A-6, or A-7 per AASHTO M145, as determined by the Engineer, compact the surface of the excavated area by rolling with a sheepsfoot roller exerting a compression of at least 250 psi on the tamper feet, for the full width of the roadbed (subgrade and shoulders). Perform rolling before beginning any backfill and continue until the roller feet do not penetrate the surface more than 1 inch. Do not perform such rolling where the remaining surface is below the normal water table and covered with water. Adjust the procedure and equipment required for this operation at the discretion of the Engineer.

**120-9.2.5 Compaction for Pipes, Culverts, etc.:** Compact the backfill of trenches to the densities specified for embankment or subgrade, as applicable, and in accordance with the requirements of this section.

Thoroughly compact embankments over and around pipes, culverts, and bridges in a manner which will not place undue stress on the structures, and in accordance with the requirements of this section.

**120-9.2.6 Compaction of Plant Growth and Turf Areas:** Do not compact the upper shoulder layers or the outer embankment areas designated for turf or plant growth. Maintain these areas in a loose condition to a depth not exceeding 6 inches to facilitate turf establishment operations. When constructing shoulder areas on existing facilities, use shoulder drop-off soil as specified in the Plans and meet compliance with turf establishment requirements.

**120-9.3 Compaction of Subgrade:** If the plans do not provide for stabilizing, compact the subgrade in both cuts and fills to the density specified in 120-10.5. For cut areas, determine Standard Proctor Maximum Density in accordance with FM 1-T099 at a frequency of one per mile or when there is a change in soil type, whichever occurs first. For undisturbed soils, do not apply density requirements where constructing paved shoulders is 5 feet or less in width.

Where trenches for widening strips are not of sufficient width to permit the use of standard compaction equipment, perform compaction using vibratory rollers, trench rollers, or other type compaction equipment approved by the Engineer.

Maintain the required density until the base or pavement is placed on the subgrade.

## **120-10 Acceptance Program.**

**120-10.1 Density over 105%:** When a computed dry density results in a value greater than 105% of the applicable Proctor maximum dry density, the Engineer will perform a second density test within 5 feet. If the second density results in a value greater than 105%, investigate the compaction methods, examine the applicable Maximum Density and material description. If necessary, the Engineer will test an additional sample for acceptance in accordance with FM 1-T099.

**120-10.2 Maximum Density Determination:** The Engineer will determine the maximum density and optimum moisture content by sampling and testing the material in accordance with the specified test method listed in 120-10.3.

**120-10.3 Density Testing Requirements:** Compliance with the requirements of 120-10.5 will be determined in accordance FM 1-T310. The in-place moisture content will be determined for each density in accordance with FM 5-507 (Determination of Moisture Content by Means of a Calcium Carbide Gas Pressure Moisture Tester), or ASTM D 4643 (Laboratory Determination of Moisture Content of Granular Soils by Use of a Microwave Oven).

**120-10.4 Soil Classification and Organic Content:** The Engineer will perform soil classification tests in accordance with AASHTO T88, T89, T90, and FM 1-T267. The Engineer will classify soils in accordance with AASHTO M-145 in order to determine compliance with embankment utilization requirements. The Engineer will verify the organic content test with the criteria specified in Standard Plans, Index 120-001.

**120-10.5 Acceptance Criteria:** The Engineer will accept a minimum density in accordance with 120-9.2 with the following exceptions:

- 1) embankment constructed by the hydraulic method as specified in 120-7.3;
- 2) material placed outside the standard minimum slope as specified in 120-7.2.4;
- 3) other areas specifically excluded herein.

**120-10.6 Frequency:** The Engineer will conduct sampling and testing at a minimum frequency listed in the table below.

Test Name	Frequency
Proctor Maximum Density	One per soil type
Density	1 per LOT
Soil Classification and Organic Content	One per Maximum Density

### **120-11 Maintenance and Protection of Work.**

While construction is in progress, always maintain adequate drainage for the roadbed. Maintain a shoulder at least 3 feet wide adjacent to all pavement or base construction to provide support for the edges.

Maintain and protect all earthwork construction throughout the life of the Contract and take all reasonable precautions to prevent loss of material from the roadway due to the action of wind or water. Repair any slides, washouts, settlement, subsidence, or other mishap which may occur prior to final acceptance of the work. Maintain all channels excavated as a part of the Contract work against natural shoaling or other encroachments to the lines and grades shown in the Plans, until final acceptance of the project.

### **120-12 Construction.**

**120-12.1 Construction Tolerances:** Shape the surface of the earthwork to conform to the lines and grades shown in the Plans. In final shaping of the surface of earthwork, maintain a tolerance of 0.3 foot above or below the finished graded surface with the following exceptions:

1. Shape the surface of shoulders to within 0.1 foot of the finished graded surface.
2. Shape the earthwork to match adjacent pavement, curb, sidewalk, structures, etc.
3. Shape the bottom of ditches so that the ditch impounds no water.
4. When the work does not include construction of base or pavement, shape the entire roadbed (shoulder point to shoulder point) to within 0.1 foot above or below the Plan finished graded surface.

Ensure that the shoulder lines do not vary horizontally more than 0.3 foot from the true lines shown in the Plans.

**120-12.2 Operations Adjacent to Pavement:** Carefully dress areas adjacent to pavement areas to avoid damage to such pavement. Complete grassing of shoulder areas prior to placing the final wearing course. Do not manipulate any embankment material on a pavement surface.

When shoulder dressing is underway adjacent to a pavement lane being used to maintain traffic, exercise extreme care to avoid interference with the safe movement of traffic.

### **120-13 Method of Measurement.**

**120-13.1 Excavation:** Excavation will be paid for by volume, in cubic yards, calculated by the method of average end areas, unless the Engineer determines that another method of calculation will provide a more accurate result. The material will be measured in its original position by field survey or by photogrammetric means as designated by the Engineer. Measurement for payment will include the excavation of unsuitable material, lateral ditch excavation, channel excavation, and excavation for structures and pipe. Payment will not be made for excavation or embankment beyond the limits shown in the plans or authorized by the Engineer.

**120-13.2 Embankment:** Measurement will be made on a loose volume basis, as measured in trucks or other hauling equipment at the point of dumping on the road. Payment will not be made for embankment beyond the limits shown in the plans or authorized by the Engineer.

### **120-14 Basis of Payment.**

**120-14.1 General:** Prices and payments for the work items included in this Section will be full compensation for all work described herein, including excavating, dredging, pumping, hauling, placing, and compacting; dressing the surface of the earthwork; and maintaining and protecting the complete earthwork.

**120-14.2 Excavation:** The total quantity of all excavation specified under this Section will be paid for at the Contract unit price for Excavation. No payment will be made for the excavation of any materials which are used for purposes other than those shown in the plans or designated by the Engineer. No payment will be made for materials excavated outside the lines and grades given by the Engineer, unless specifically authorized by the Engineer.

**120-14.3 Embankment:** The total quantity of embankment specified in this Section will be paid for at the Contract unit price for embankment. No payment will be made for materials which are used for purposes other than those shown in the plans or designated by the Engineer. No payment will be made for materials placed outside the lines and grades given by the Engineer.