

Specification Section 160

Articles 160-1 and 160-2

ORIGINATION

Date: 5-22-25

Name: Dino Jameson

Email: dino.jameson@dot.state.fl.us

COMMENTARY

Clarification was needed to clearly differentiate the requirements for materials that are used for stabilizing and the final mixed product (stabilizer and embankment).

INTERNAL COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

(Please note all comments and responses are verbatim as received. The Specifications Office does not alter typos or grammar.)

BLACK = Comment **BLUE** = Specifications Response **GREEN** = Change Made to Specification

Name: Deborah Ihsan

Date: 7-22-25

COMMENT: 160-1: In the Description, the revised language appears to change the intent of this section. It now reads "... which may require stabilizing material mixed thoroughly with embankment to increase the bearing value specified in the Plans." However, the plans typically specify LBR 40 or LBR100 material for stabilization purposes. The specified value does not need to change. We would be mixing in stabilizing material to MEET or exceed the value specified in the plans, correct?

RESPONSE:

Correct, the specified LBR doesn't need to change. The Plans will indicate the required LBR value within the typical section. We added "may stabilize" to allow for certain regions of the state where the in-situ material naturally meets the specified LBR requirement without the need for adding stabilizing material. In such cases, the Contractor may choose to mix the embankment material alone—without adding any stabilizer—to produce a homogenous material that meets the LBR requirement when tested after mixing.

ACTION TAKEN:

To reduce confusion, we revised the language as follows:

Construct designated portions of the roadbed to provide a firm and unyielding subgrade, which may require stabilizing material mixed thoroughly with embankment to meet the minimum bearing value specified in the Plans.

Name: Deborah Ihsan

Date: 7-22-25

COMMENT : 160-2.1.2.1: From experience on previous projects and discussion with the State Office, it is my understanding that RAP use is widely misunderstood, due to language like "...

For the option to use 100% RAP material...” Please consider language to clarify that the specification intends to use RAP “as a stabilizing material” since the intent as the SMO explained to me is to use RAP blended with existing soils, as RAP does not otherwise typically pass testing for organic material content. This has been clarified in Table 160-3 during this revision, but the same clarifications are missing from 160-2.1.2.1.

RESPONSE:

All materials specified under sub-article 160-2.1 are considered stabilizing materials (sweetener), including commercial, local, and existing base. We classified RAP under local material, and therefore RAP is still a stabilizing material. The definition of 100% RAP is at the beginning of sub-article 160-2.1.2.1, which specifies that the material must be milled from the same project with the milling operation witnessed by the Engineer. Additionally, the material must be milled-and-stockpiled or windrowed without blending or contamination with any other materials. In other words, the Contractor is required to mill only the asphalt layer (i.e. 100% RAP) without disturbing the subsurface layers beneath. This milled RAP material is then used as stabilizing material, which is mixed with embankment material to create a stabilized subgrade. Table 160-3 refers to the testing requirement for the final mixed material (i.e. stabilized subgrade).

ACTION TAKEN:

To reduce confusion, we added “as stabilizing material” to the end of the following sentence: When Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement (RAP) is milled from the same project and milling operation is witnessed by the Engineer, obtain the Engineer’s approval in writing for the option to use 100% RAP material as stabilizing material.

Name: Charles Miller

Date: 7-24-25

COMMENT: Change in 160-1 will read: Construct designated portions of the roadbed to provide a firm and unyielding subgrade, which may require stabilizing material mixed thoroughly with embankment to increase bearing value specified in the Plans. This sounds like we're trying to increase the bearing in the plans. It would probably be helpful to change the wording to: Construct designated portions of the roadbed to provide a firm and unyielding subgrade, which may require stabilizing material mixed thoroughly with embankment to "meet the minimum bearing" value specified in the Plans.

RESPONSE:

Concur. Good comment.

ACTION TAKEN:

Changes made to replace “increase’ with “meet the minimum”.

Name: Charles Miller

Date: 7-24-25

COMMENT: 160-2.1.2.1 Reclaimed Asphalt Pavement reads: obtain the Engineer's approval in writing for the option to use 100% RAP material. Material must be milled -and -stockpiled To make sure it's understood that this 100% RAP is to be used as stabilizer and not 100% RAP subgrade substitute it should probably read: obtain the Engineer's approval in writing for the option to use 100% RAP material as a stabilizing material. Material must be milled -and -stockpiled...

RESPONSE:

This is under stabilizing material 160-2.1. Everything under this subsection refers to stabilizing material.

ACTION TAKEN:

Added "as stabilizing material" so there is no confusion.

Specification Section 160

Subarticle 160-1

ORIGINATION

Date: 5-22-25

Name: Dino Jameson

Email: dino.jameson@dot.state.fl.us

COMMENTARY

Clarification was needed to clearly differentiate the requirements for materials that are used for stabilizing and the final mixed product (stabilizer and embankment).

INDUSTRY COMMENTS AND RESPONSES

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Name: Thomas Edge

Date: 8-26-25

COMMENT: Specification 160-2.2.4 Granular Subbase Substitution, for unpaved shoulders please consider defining the soil layer thickness or reference the governing specification. Previous project experience has been the Contractor excavates to construct the subbase as one operation for the full width and consistent depth of the stabilization shown in the plans. As this subbase is below the roadway or shoulder base this would place the top of the constructed subbase deep than the standard six-inch topsoil layer in most cases.

RESPONSE:

In accordance with Section 160-2.2, the Department requires only 6 inches of granular subbase substitution in lieu of stabilized subgrade for both paved and unpaved shoulder areas. For unpaved shoulders where no base is specified in the Plans, this 6-inch granular subbase layer shall be placed directly beneath the turf establishment area. Refer to Index 570 to determine turf establishment limits.

The Contractor may construct the embankment layer in a boxed configuration like the method used for stabilized subgrade in the shoulders. Contrarily, the Contractor has the option to extend the granular subbase substitution throughout the entire paved and unpaved shoulder if facilitates the construction operation. However, whichever method the Contractor utilizes, the substitution is provided to the Department at no additional cost.

ACTION TAKEN:

No specification change required.