



Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.
SECRETARY

July 31, 2024

Cathy Kendall
Director, Office of Technical Services
Federal Highway Administration
3500 Financial Plaza, Suite 400
Tallahassee, Florida 32312

Re: State Specifications Office
Section: 145
Proposed Specification: **1450300 Geosynthetic Reinforcement**

Dear Ms. Kendall:

We are submitting, for your approval, two copies of the above referenced Supplemental Specification.

The changes are proposed by Melissa Hollis to update submittal requirements to be consistent with other geosynthetic materials and update APL/BABA formatting.

Please review and transmit your comments, if any, within two weeks (10 business days). Comments should be sent via email daniel.strickland@dot.state.fl.us.

If you have any questions relating to this specification change, please call me at (850) 414-4130.

Sincerely,

Signature on File

Daniel Strickland, P.E.
State Specifications Engineer

DS/dh

Attachment

cc: Florida Transportation Builders' Assoc.
State Construction Engineer

**GEOSYNTHETIC REINFORCEMENT
(REV 6-17-24)**

ARTICLE 145-3 is deleted and the following substituted:

145-3 Materials.

Meet the following requirements:

Geosynthetic Material*Section 985

*Use products listed on the Department’s APL.

145-3.1 Geosynthetic Materials: ~~Use geosynthetic materials meeting the requirements of Section 985 and listed on the Approved Product List (APL).~~ Ensure the geosynthetic materials received at the job site are in unopened shipping packages and the packages are clearly labeled with the manufacturer’s name, product name, style number, roll dimension and LOT number, otherwise, the Engineer will reject the material. Store geosynthetic materials in accordance with the manufacturer’s instructions ensuring to protect the geosynthetic material from physical damage, debris, and temperatures greater than 140° F. Prevent mud, fluid concrete, asphalt, or other deleterious materials from coming in contact with the geosynthetic materials that could impact the performance of the geosynthetic material. Replace geosynthetic materials with defects, tears, punctures, flaws, deterioration, or other damage at no additional cost to the Department.

145-3.2 Geosynthetic Reinforced Soil Slopes:

145-3.2.1 Backfill Materials: Use only free draining backfill material in the reinforced fill volume as shown in the Plans meeting the following gradation limits as determined in accordance with AASHTO T 27 and FM 1-T011:

Table 145-1	
Sieve Size	Percent Passing
3-1/2 inches	100
3/4 inch	70 to 100
No. 4	30 to 100
No. 40	15 to 100
No. 100	5 to 65
No. 200	0 to 15

Do not use backfill material containing more than an average of 2.0% by weight of organic material, as determined by FM 1-T267 and by averaging the test results for three randomly selected, representative samples from each stratum or stockpile of a particular material. Consider the stratum or stockpile unsuitable for construction of the reinforced fill volume if an individual test value exceeds 3.0%.

Use backfill material with a maximum plasticity index of 6 as determined by AASHTO T 90, and a maximum liquid limit of 15 as determined by AASHTO T 89. Use backfill material with a pH between 5.0 and 10.0 as determined by FM 5-550. For polyester geosynthetic reinforcement, use backfill material with a pH between 5.0 and 9.0. Do not use soil cement or lime stabilized backfill unless approved by the Engineer.

145-3.2.2 Slope Face Treatment: For reinforced soil slopes, provide slope face material, if applicable, as shown in the Plans and listed on the APL.

145-3.3 Geosynthetic Reinforced Foundations Over Soft Soils: Use backfill material meeting the requirements of Section 120, all Contract Documents, and any other applicable specification requirements. Meet the pH criteria specified in 145-3.2.1 as determined by FM 5-550.

145-3.4 Geosynthetic Reinforced Embankment: Use backfill material meeting the requirements of Section 120 for Embankment, Section 160 for Stabilization, Section 200 for Rock Base, and Section 204 for Graded Aggregate Base, all Contract Documents, and any other applicable specification requirements. Meet the pH criteria specified in 145-3.2.1 as determined by FM 5-550.

SUBARTICLE 145-4.1 is deleted and the following substituted:

145-4 Construction Requirements.

145-4.1 General: At least fourteen days prior to installation of geosynthetic materials, submit the product sample and certification in accordance with 145-5. ~~Obtain from the geosynthetic supplier, technical instructions, guidance in preconstruction activities, and on-site technical assistance during construction. Submit a copy of any instructions provided by the supplier to the Engineer prior to beginning installation.~~ Install in accordance with Manufacturer's Instructions.

ARTICLE 145-5 is deleted and the following substituted:

145-5 Certification.

For geosynthetic materials, submit to the Engineer ~~the product label with the manufacturer's name, product name, style number, roll dimension and LOT number at least fourteen days prior to placement~~ a certification from the manufacturer confirming that the material is appropriate for the intended use. The manufacturer's certification shall be attested to within the past one year by a person having legal authority to bind the manufacturing company, and must include the project number, APL product number, LOT number, and product name.

_____ In addition, provide two 8-inch by 10-inch samples of geosynthetic materials for product identification to the Engineer. The acceptance of the geosynthetic material is subject to the approval of the State Materials Office (SMO).

For backfill materials, submit to the Engineer a signed and sealed certification by a Professional Engineer registered in the State of Florida, that the pH meets the requirements of 145-3.

GEOSYNTHETIC REINFORCEMENT (REV 6-17-24)

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Geosynthetic Material*Section 985

*Use products listed on the Department's APL.

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