

**Technical Specification**

**Transport and Main Roads Specifications  
MRTS04 General Earthworks**

**March 2025**



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## 1 Introduction

### 1.1 General

This Technical Specification applies to the construction of earthworks in roadworks and bridgeworks.

This Technical Specification shall be read in conjunction with MRTS01 *Introduction to Technical Specifications*, MRTS50 *Specific Quality System Requirements* and other Technical Specifications as appropriate.

Specific earthwork requirements covered elsewhere are:

- reinforced soils structures which are specifically covered by MRTS06 *Reinforced Soil Walls*
- cast-in-place piles which are specifically covered by MRTS63 *Cast-In-Place Piles*, and
- footings for poles which are specifically covered by MRTS92 *Traffic Signal and Road Lighting Footings*.

This Technical Specification forms part of the Transport and Main Roads Specifications Manual.

### 1.2 Scope

'Earthworks' refers to all operations involved in loosening, removing, depositing, shaping and compacting soil or rock, and is also used to describe the structure resulting from these operations. The aim of the earthworks is to facilitate construction of other components such as pavements and structures, and to provide a long-term, stable platform of sufficient strength to enable these components to function for their intended life. Earthworks are undertaken using materials won from the Site or, if suitable or sufficient materials are not available within the Site, using materials from offsite.

The earthworks formation comprises a series of earth or rock structures, which must be constructed by the controlled excavation and placement of materials, and the use of associated structural treatments. Better-quality materials are typically used in the upper portion of the earthworks.

The execution of earthworks involves safety and environmental risks, and attention is drawn to the requirements of the relevant Technical Specifications.

## 2 Definition of terms

The terms used in this Technical Specification shall be as defined in Clause 2 of MRTS01 *Introduction to Technical Specifications*. Additional terms used in this Technical Specification shall be as defined in Table 2.

**Table 2 – Definition of terms**

Term	Definition
Acid Sulfate Soils	Materials which contain iron sulfides in concentrations which have the potential to produce acidic conditions in the earthworks if left untreated. Acid Sulfate Soils shall include all materials which are actual Acid Sulfate Soils or potential Acid Sulfate Soils as indicated by the testing regime described in Clause 10.

Term	Definition
Amelioration	The process of modifying a soil to improve its quality.
Approval	Any permit, authority, licence, self-assessable code, statutory exemption with conditions, protocol, agreement or plan, or other statutory instrument with conditions.
Backfill	Material placed in Confined Excavations for culverts, structures, conduits, pits and so on, or, in some instances, to fill excavations of Unsuitable Material. Backfill includes Bedding Material and materials placed in the Foundation Bedding, Haunch, Side and Overlay Zones during culvert Backfill.
Bedding Material	Material suitable for use in the Foundation Bedding Zone of culverts and for bedding of pipes, conduits, pits, and so on.
Borrow Area	An area: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) on the Site outside the excavation lines, or</li> <li>b) an area off the Site</li> </ul> which can be developed by the Contractor as a source of Borrow Material.
Borrow Material	Material, sourced from Borrow Areas, which is used to supplement a shortage of material sourced from excavations.
Cement Stabilised Unbound Granular Material	Unbound granular material stabilised with cement.
Cohesive / Cohesionless Soil	This definition applies for compaction purposes only. This definition does not apply for general geotechnical descriptions, where cohesive material is considered as > 35% passing the 75 µm sieve.  Cohesive soil is a material which has a well-defined moisture density relationship when tested accordance with AS 1289.5.1.1 <i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes – Soil compaction and density tests – Determination of the dry density / moisture content relation of a soil using standard compactive effort</i> . This soil is typically over 12% fines (passing the 75 µm sieve, by weight), but may still apply to above 5% fines in some cases. Whilst Cohesive Soils are typically clayey in nature, for the purpose of this definition only, these may also include well-graded granular materials such as crushed rock.  Cohesionless (non-cohesive) Soils typically have less than 5% fines, are non-plastic and do not exhibit a well-defined moisture density relationship.
Confined Excavation	An excavation for a culvert, pipe or conduit trench or an excavation for a structure which requires the use of an excavator or similar machine fitted with a bucket. An excavation shall not be classed as a Confined Excavation where the excavation is of sufficient size to allow the operation of a crawler tractor of Class 150C or larger, as determined in Table 3.3.2 of MRTS04, the Specification (Measurement) to this Technical Specification.
Core Zone	The central zone of an Embankment.
Cut surfaces	Surfaces formed by the removal of overlying natural materials (existing vegetation, soils or rock) by excavation to a specified design geometry.
Cutting	Earthworks constructed by excavation to the lines shown on the drawings.



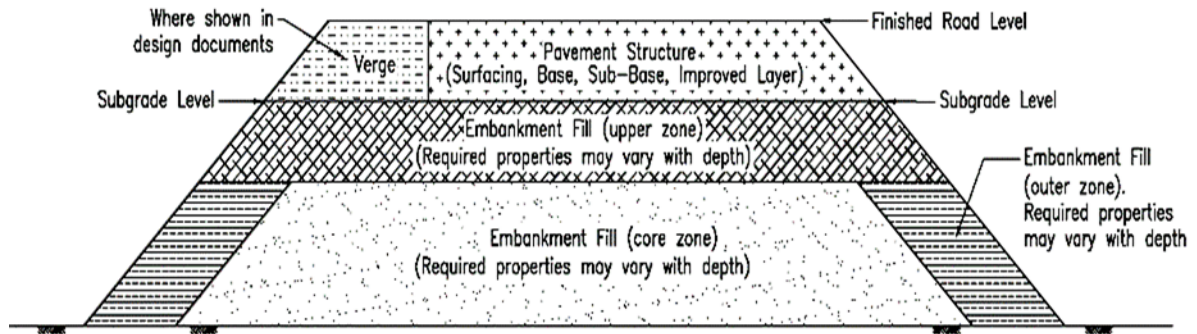
<b>Term</b>	<b>Definition</b>
Deposition	Intentional placement of material in a specified location for a purpose.
Deposition Area	An area of land where Surplus Material is deposited by the Contractor with the consent of the Landowner.
Dispersive Soil	Soil with an unstable chemical structure that is prone to breaking down and separating into individual particles under the action of wetting. The breakdown is a result of clay particles expanding, and the soil structure that binds the fine aggregates and larger particles together breaks down.
Diversion channels	Open channels that divert or redirect a given water flow from its natural flow path.
Drainage Layer	A layer of permeable material placed within the Subgrade in wet cuttings.
Earth Backfill Material	Earth Fill Material Class A1 or B predominantly less than 25 mm Stone size used as Backfill.
Earth Fill Material	Fill material for an Embankment that can be placed using the compacted layer method.
Embankment	Earthworks constructed by placement of Fill Material to the shapes and dimensions shown on the drawings.
EMP (C)	Environment Management Plan (Construction)
Existing Subgrade Material	Existing insitu material that will form part of the Subgrade, other than that moved from another location and/or compacted as part of the Works. May include material placed and compacted as part of previous Works (such as existing Fill Material), completed under a separate Contract or material that is naturally occurring. Typically, this is unprocessed material, but may include processed materials from previous Works (such as existing pavement layer).
Fill Material	Material making up an Embankment to Subgrade Level, used to Backfill Subgrade treatments or to replace Unsuitable Material. Includes both Earth Fill and Rock Fill. Fill Material used in Embankments may be interchangeably described as 'Embankment Fill' in this Technical Specification.
Foundation Bedding Zone	The layer of material forming the bedding for culverts as shown on Standard Drawing 1359 <i>Culverts – Installation, Bedding and Filling / Backfilling Against / Over Culverts</i> .
Foundation Surface	The level of an excavation for a structure at which the material with the required bearing capacity exists.
Free-Draining Granular Material	Coarse graded Backfill material used behind retaining walls.
Haunch Zone	The layer of material immediately above the Foundation Bedding Zone for installation of pipe culverts as shown on Standard Drawing 1359 <i>Culverts – Installation, Bedding and Filling / Backfilling Against / Over Culverts</i> .
Lean Mix Concrete	Low strength concrete used for Backfill of over-excavation for structures and as otherwise directed.

Term	Definition
Lot	A portion of material or a section of the Works which has been constructed and/or supplied under essentially uniform conditions and contains material of essentially uniform quality, or A single finished item of work which includes several materials and/or work types (for example, a culvert in place).
Lot CBR	The California Bearing Ratio (CBR) assigned to a Lot of Existing Subgrade Material in accordance with this Technical Specification.
Lot (Embankment)	A single continuous layer of Earth Fill placed such that it is homogeneous in relation to its material properties, moisture condition during compaction, rolling response and compaction technique.
Lot swell	The swell (%) assigned to a Lot of Existing Subgrade Material based on swell test values obtained in conjunction with the soaked CBR test in accordance with this Technical Specification.
Monosulfidic Black Oozes	Monosulfidic Black Oozes are highly reactive organic-rich gels with extremely high Moisture Content. They are commonly enriched in ultra-fine-grained reactive iron sulfides.
Natural Ground Surface	The ground surface which exists prior to any Works being carried out under the Contract.
Near-grade Embankments	Any part of an Embankment with less than 300 mm of new Fill Material between the Prepared Ground Surface and Subgrade Level.
Off-site	Land that does not form part of the Site.
Outer Zone	The Outer Zone of an Embankment.
Overlay Zone	The layer of material placed above pipe culverts as shown on Standard Drawing 1359 <i>Culverts – Installation, Bedding and Filling / Backfilling Against / Over Culverts</i> .
Prepared Ground Surface	The ground surface after clearing and grubbing and stripping of Site Topsoil operations have been completed.
Relative Compaction	The ratio, expressed as a percentage, of the insitu density (wet or dry) of the material presented for compliance testing and the maximum density (dry or converted wet density) of a reference sample compacted in accordance with a specified procedure.
Reuse	When material is used again with minimal modification or processing.
Road Excavation	All excavation except for Confined Excavation and excavation for open channels and drains.
Rock Fill	Fill Material consisting predominantly of stones and rock. Stability is achieved by mechanical interlock.
Sand	Natural or manufactured material with more than 85% passing 2.36 mm test sieve. No oversize shall be greater than 6 mm. Less than 5% and 10% passing 0.075 mm test sieve for natural Sand and manufactured Sand respectively.
Select Backfill Material	Backfill comprising gravel and/or loam materials with specified properties used for backfilling to trenches and structures.
Side Zone	The layer of material placed adjacent to the centre of pipe culverts as shown on Standard Drawing 1359 <i>Culverts – Installation, Bedding and Filling / Backfilling Against / Over Culverts</i> .

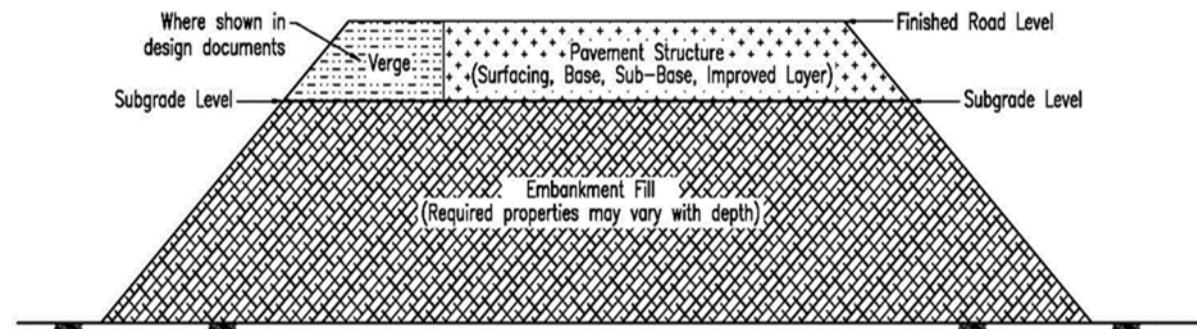
Term	Definition
Slacking Soil	Soil that is prone to breaking down from individual aggregates into smaller micro-aggregates under the action of wetting. The breakdown is mainly due to the forced and rupturing escape of trapped air as water is drawn into small pores between soil particles by capillary action, within the aggregate.
Stabilised Sand	Backfill material comprising Sand stabilised with cement.
Stone	Material including natural rock, natural gravel, processed crushed rock and construction rubble which does not break down significantly under compaction.
Structure Zone	<p>As per Transport and Main Roads' <i>Geotechnical Design Standard – minimum requirements (Geotechnical Design Standard)</i>, is not less than 25 m within the approach to any structure (for example, bridges, culverts, slabs used to support rigid inclusions, as well as embankments supported on rigid inclusions).</p> <p>In addition, the structure zone associated with bridge abutment construction shall also include the plan view area of any embankment spill-through and side batter slopes.</p>
Subgrade	<p>The portion of the formation on which the pavement is constructed, and which provides support to the pavement.</p> <p>All material within 1.5 m below Subgrade Level.</p>
Subgrade Depth	1.5 m below Subgrade Level.
Subgrade Level	The level of the top surface of the Subgrade on which a pavement is constructed. Refer Figures 2(a) to 2(f) for the definition of Subgrade Level.
Subsoil	<p>For the purposes of this Technical Specification, subsoil is considered:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) the soil below the topsoil layer</li> <li>b) the outer face / surface of a cutting batter, embankment batter, or drainage channel</li> <li>c) the exposed soil in areas that have been stripped of topsoil in broadacre areas.</li> </ul>
Surplus Material	Material that is surplus to the Contract requirements that is required to be managed as a Waste in accordance with MRTS51 <i>Environmental Management</i> Clause 8.13.
Topsoil	Surface soil that contains organic material. For the purposes of this Technical Specification Topsoil refers to on-site Topsoil.
Treated Subgrade	The Subgrade in cuttings which has been either modified or replaced to improve its engineering properties.
Upper Zone	The top zone of an Embankment, excluding pavement and verge.
Unsuitable Material	All materials as defined in Clause 9.2.
Waste	As defined by the <i>Environmental Protection Act</i> 1994, Section 13.

Figures 2(a)–(f) illustrate cross-sections of an embankment and the applicable terminology.

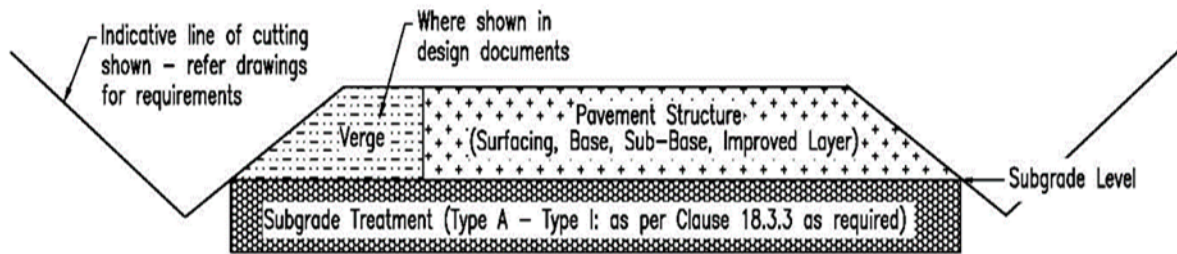
**Figure 2(a) – Embankment terminology – zoned**



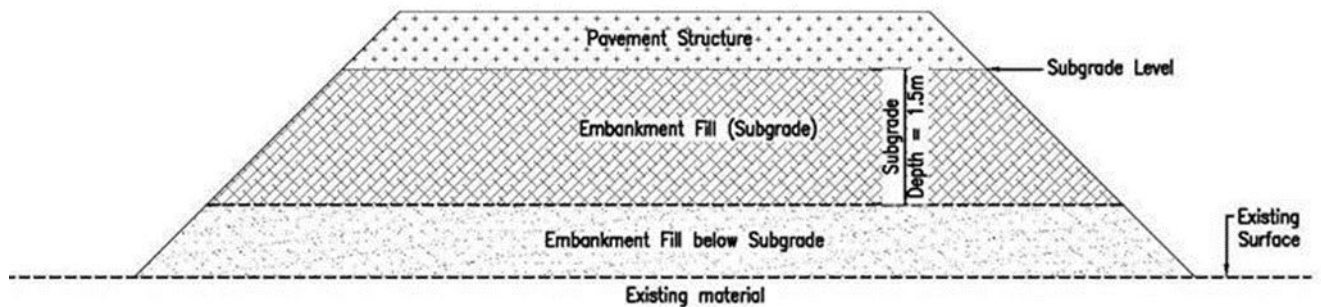
**Figure 2(b) – Embankment terminology – homogeneous**



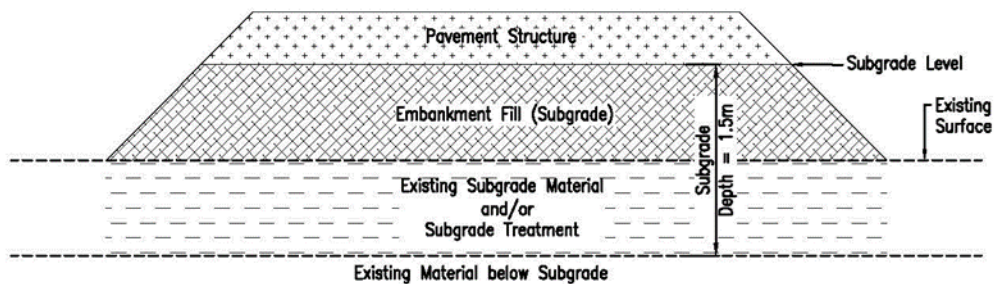
**Figure 2(c) – Cutting terminology**



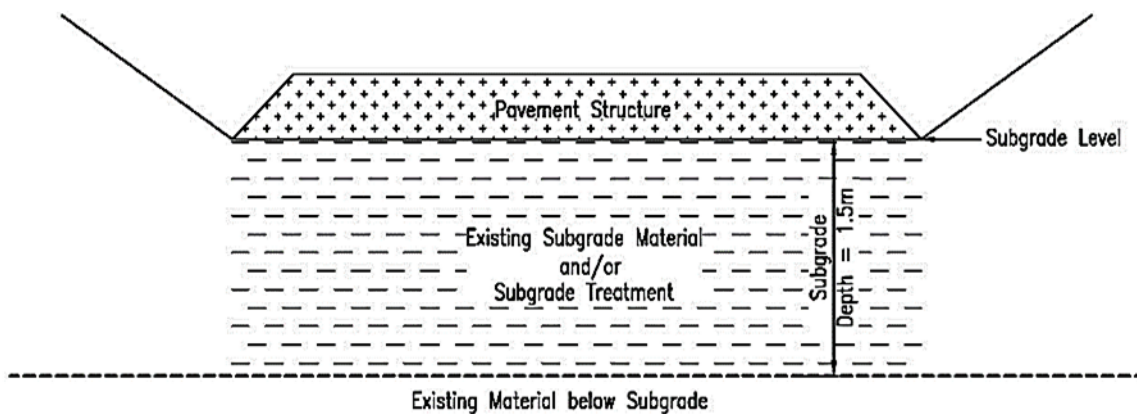
**Figure 2(d) – Subgrade Depth in an Embankment > 1.5 m high**



**Figure 2(e) – Subgrade Depth in an Embankment < 1.5 m high**



**Figure 2(f) – Subgrade Depth in cuttings or at grade**



### 3 Referenced documents

Table 3 list documents referenced in this Technical Specification.

**Table 3 – Referenced documents**

Reference	Title
Acid Sulfate Soils Guidelines	<i>Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual – Soil Management Guidelines</i> , Department of Resources and the Department of Environment, Science and Innovation, Queensland Government
Acid Sulfate Soils Sampling, Identification and Laboratory Methods	<a href="https://www.waterquality.gov.au/issues/acid-sulfate-soils">National Acid Sulfate Soils Guidance</a> <a href="https://www.waterquality.gov.au/issues/acid-sulfate-soils">https://www.waterquality.gov.au/issues/acid-sulfate-soils</a> <i>National Acid Sulfate Soil Sampling and Identification Methods Manual</i> (Water Quality Australia) <i>National Acid Sulfate Soils Identification and Laboratory Methods Manual</i> (Water Quality Australia)
AS 1141.3.1	<i>Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 3.1: Sampling – Aggregates</i>
AS 1141.6.1	<i>Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 6.1: Particle density and water absorption of coarse aggregate – Weighing-in-water method</i>
AS 1141.11.1	<i>Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 11.1: Particle size distribution – Sieving method</i>
AS 1141.22	<i>Methods for sampling and testing aggregates, Method 22: Wet / dry strength variation</i>

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Title</b>
AS 1289.1.2.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 1.2.1: Sampling and preparation of soils – Disturbed samples – Standard method</i>
AS 1289.1.4.2	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 1.4.2: Sampling and preparation of soils – Selection of sampling or test sites – Stratified random number method</i>
AS 1289.2.1.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 2.1.1: Soil moisture content tests – Determination of the moisture content of a soil – Oven drying method (standard method)</i>
AS 1289.2.1.2	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 2.1.2: Soil moisture content tests – Determination of the moisture content of a soil – Sand bath method (subsidiary method)</i>
AS 1289.2.1.4	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 2.1.4: Soil moisture content tests – Determination of the moisture content of a soil – Microwave-oven drying method (subsidiary method)</i>
AS 1289.2.1.5	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 2.1.5: Soil moisture content tests – Determination of the moisture content of a soil – Infrared lights method (subsidiary method)</i>
AS 1289.2.1.6	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 2.1.6: Soil moisture content tests – Determination of the moisture content of a soil – Hotplate drying method</i>
AS 1289.3.1.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 3.1.1: Soil classification tests – Determination of the liquid limit of a soil – Four point Casagrande method</i>
AS 1289.3.3.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 3.3.1: Soil classification tests – Calculation of the plasticity index of a soil</i>
AS 1289.3.3.2	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 3.3.2: Soil classification tests – Calculation of the cone plasticity index of a soil</i>
AS 1289.3.4.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 3.4.1: Soil classification tests – Determination of the linear shrinkage of a soil – Standard method</i>
AS 1289.3.6.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 3.6.1: Soil classification tests – Determination of the particle size distribution of a soil – Standard method of analysis by sieving</i>
AS 1289.3.8.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 3.8.1: Soil classification tests – Dispersion – Determination of Emerson class number of a soil</i>
AS 1289.4.2.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 4.2.1: Soil chemical tests – Determination of the sulfate content of a natural soil and the sulfate content of the groundwater – Normal method</i>
AS 1289.4.3.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 4.3.1: Soil chemical tests – Determination of the pH value of a soil – Electrometric method</i>
AS 1289.4.4.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 4.4.1: Soil chemical tests - Determination of the electrical resistivity of a soil - Method for fine granular materials</i>
AS 1289.5.1.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes – Soil compaction and density tests – Determination of the dry density / moisture content relation of a soil using standard compactive effort</i>



<b>Reference</b>	<b>Title</b>
AS 1289.5.4.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes – Method 5.4.1: Soil compaction and density tests – Compaction control test – Dry density ratio, moisture variation and moisture ratio</i>
AS 1289.5.4.2	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 5.4.2: Soil compaction and density tests – Compaction control test – Assignment of maximum dry density and optimum moisture content values</i>
AS 1289.5.5.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 5.5.1: Soil compaction and density tests – Determination of the minimum and maximum dry density of a cohesionless material – Standard method</i>
AS 1289.5.6.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 5.6.1: Soil compaction and density tests – Compaction control test – Density index method for a cohesionless material</i>
AS 1289.5.7.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 5.7.1: Soil compaction and density tests – Compaction control test – Hilf density ratio and Hilf moisture variation (rapid method)</i>
AS 1289.5.8.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 5.8.1: Soil compaction and density tests – Determination of field density and field moisture content of a soil using a nuclear surface moisture – Density gauge – Direct transmission mode</i>
AS 1289.6.1.1	<i>Methods of testing soils for engineering purposes, Method 6.1.1: Soil strength and consolidation tests – Determination of the California Bearing Ratio of a soil – Standard laboratory method for a remoulded specimen</i>
AS 3672	<i>Plastics – Unsaturated-polyester resins (UP-R);</i>
AS 3972	<i>General purpose and blended cement</i>
AS 4133.4.1	<i>Methods of testing rocks for engineering purposes: Method 4.1: Rock strength tests – Determination of point load strength index</i>
AS 5101.3.2	<i>Methods for preparation and testing of stabilized materials, Method 3.2: Lime or cement content of stabilized pavement materials (EDTA method)</i>
AS/NZS 3725	<i>Design for installation of buried concrete pipes</i>
ATM 710	<i>Austrroads Test Method ATM 710 Chloride Content of Soil</i>
ATS 3050	<i>Austrroads Technical Specification ATS 3050 Supply of Recycled Crushed Glass Sand</i>
EP175	<i>Engineering Policy EP175 – Deposition of Surplus Material - Assessment Methodology, Transport and Main Roads</i>
Geotechnical Design Standard	<i>Geotechnical Design Standard – Minimum Requirements, Transport and Main Roads</i>
Geotechnical terms and symbols	<i>Geotechnical terms and symbols, Transport and Main Roads</i>
MTM	<i>Materials Testing Manual, Transport and Main Roads</i>
MRTS01	<i>Introduction to Technical Specifications</i>
MRTS03	<i>Drainage Structures, Retaining Structures and Embankment Slope Protections</i>
MRTS05	<i>Unbound Pavements</i>
MRTS06	<i>Reinforced Soil Walls</i>
MRTS07A	<i>In situ Stabilised Subgrades Using Quicklime or Hydrated Lime</i>

<b>Reference</b>	<b>Title</b>
MRTS07B	<i>In situ Stabilised Pavements Using Cement or Cementitious Blends</i>
MRTS10	<i>Plant-Mixed Lightly Bound Pavements</i>
MRTS16	<i>Landscape and Revegetation Works</i>
MRTS27	<i>Geotextiles (Separation and Filtration)</i>
MRTS36	<i>Recycled Glass Aggregate</i>
MRTS50	<i>Specific Quality System Requirements</i>
MRTS51	<i>Environmental Management</i>
MRTS52	<i>Erosion and Sediment Control</i>
MRTS55	<i>Use of Explosives in Roadworks</i>
MRTS56	<i>Construction Surveying</i>
MRTS58	<i>Geosynthetics for Subgrade and Pavement Reinforcement</i>
MRTS63	<i>Cast-In-Place Piles</i>
MRTS70	<i>Concrete</i>
MRTS92	<i>Traffic Signal and Road Lighting Footings</i>
MRTS100	<i>High Strength Geosynthetic Reinforcement in Road Embankments</i>
Pavement Design Supplement	<i>Pavement Design Supplement to Austroads' Guide to Pavement Technology Part 2: Pavement Structural Design, Transport and Main Roads</i>
QRS	<i>Quarry Registration System as defined in MRTS50 Specific Quality System Requirements</i>
Standard Drawing 1149	<i>Traffic Signals / Road Lighting / ITS – Installation of Underground Electrical and Communications Conduit</i>
Standard Drawing 1178	<i>Diversion of Water – Diversion of Water from Roadway and Table Drains</i>
Standard Drawing 1359	<i>Culverts – Installation, Bedding and Filling / Backfilling Against / Over Culverts</i>
Standard Drawing 1651	<i>Vegetation Works - Seeding</i>
Standard Drawing 2232	<i>Abutment Protection – Type 1 – Rock Spillthrough – Up to 1700 Clearance</i>
Standard Drawing 2233	<i>Abutment Protection – Type 1 – Rock Spillthrough – Greater than 1700 Clearance</i>
Standard Drawing 2234	<i>Abutment Protection – Type 2 – Reinforced Concrete Over Spillthrough – Up to 1700 Clearance</i>
Standard Drawing 2235	<i>Abutment Protection – Type 2 – Reinforced Concrete Over Spillthrough – Greater than 1700 Clearance</i>
Standard Drawing 2236	<i>Abutment Protection – Type 4 – Rockwork Over Spillthrough – Up to 1700 Clearance</i>
Standard Drawing 2237	<i>Abutment Protection – Type 4 – Rockwork Over Spillthrough – Greater than 1700 Clearance</i>
Standard Drawing 2238	<i>Abutment Protection – Rock Masonry</i>
TN187	<i>Controlled Low-Strength Material for Pipe Installation</i>



Reference	Title
TN208	<i>Managing Slaking and Dispersive Soil risks in transport infrastructure projects</i>

#### 4 Standard test methods

Testing of all Works shall be undertaken in accordance with Clause 4 of MRTS01 *Introduction to Technical Specifications*.

Unless stated elsewhere herein, the standard test methods listed in Table 4 shall be used in this Technical Specification.

**Table 4 – Test methods**

Property to be Tested	Method No.
Acid Sulfate Soil Testing Field pH Tests (pHF and pHFOX) SPOCAS testing / Chromium Suite Monosulfidic Black Oozes (MBO)	<i>National Acid Sulfate Soils Guidance: National acid sulfate soils identification and laboratory methods manual</i>
Allowable working time	Q136A
California Bearing Ratio	AS 1289.6.1.1
Characteristic value	Q020
Chloride Content	ATM 710, other published or validated classical chemistry technique or instrumentation technique <sup>1</sup>
Compaction (Dry Density ratio or Hilf density ratio) and Moisture (moisture ratio, moisture variation or Hilf moisture variation)	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1
Density Index	AS 1289.5.5.1 and AS 1289.5.6.1
Dry Density – Moisture Relationship	AS 1289.5.1.1, AS 1289.5.4.2
Density – Moisture Relationship (rapid)	AS 1289.5.7.1
Degradation factor	Q208B
Electrical Conductivity / Resistivity	AS 1289.4.4.1
Emerson Class of a Soil (Modified)	Q168
Ferrous Oxide FeO content	Determination of ferrous iron by published or validated classical chemistry technique or instrumentation technique <sup>1</sup>
Field spread rate of solid stabilising agents – fabric mat	Q719
Insitu California Bearing Ratio (Dynamic Cone Penetrometer)	Q114B
Lime Content	AS 5101.3.2
Lime Demand	Q133
Linear Shrinkage	AS 1289.3.4.1
Liquid Limit	AS 1289.3.1.1 or AS 1289.3.9.1 <sup>2</sup>

Property to be Tested	Method No.
Moisture Content	AS 1289.2.1.1, AS 1289.2.1.2, AS 1289.2.1.4, AS 1289.2.1.5, AS 1289.2.1.6 and AS 1289.5.8.1
Moisture ratio (uncompacted)	Q250
Organic Content	Q120B
Particle Size Distribution	AS 1289.3.6.1, AS 1141.11.1
Particle Size Distribution and Shape – Rock	Q230
Petrographic Analysis	Q188
pH	AS 1289.4.3.1
Plasticity Index	AS 1289.3.3.1 or AS 1289.3.3.2
Point Load Index Test	AS 4133.4.1
Pre-treatment of Road Construction Materials	Q101E
Proof Rolling	Q723
Relative Compaction	Q140A
Sampling	AS 1141.3.1 or AS 1289.1.2.1
Selection of Sampling or Test Sites	AS 1289.1.4.2
Sulfate content	AS 1289.4.2.1, other published or validated classical chemistry technique or instrumentation technique <sup>1</sup>
Unconfined Compressive Strength (UCS) of Stabilised Materials	Q115
Water Absorption	AS 1141.6.1
Weighted Plasticity Index (WPI)	Q252
Wet Strength	AS 1141.22
Wet / Dry Strength Variation	AS 1141.22

Notes:

1. Instrumentation techniques may include Ion Chromatography / Inductively Coupled Plasma / Discrete Analyser and so on. NATA-endorsed test results are evidence of a validated technique.
2. Where Liquid Limit cannot be determined using AS 1289.3.1.1

#### **4.1 Supplementary requirements for Test Methods AS 1289.5.4.1, 5.7.1 and 5.8.1**

For compaction testing using Test Methods AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1, the depth tested shall be the full depth of the compacted layer, except for Test Method AS 1289.5.8.1 where the test depth shall be the greatest depth at which the source rod remains within the compacted layer.

#### **4.2 Supplementary requirements for Test Method AS 1289.6.1.1**

All laboratory California Bearing Ratio (CBR) and swell test conditions shall be as follows, unless otherwise specified in Clause 9.1 of the Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification:

- a) soaking period of four days
- b) for Earth Fill materials (other than subgrade) – target laboratory density ratio of 95.0%
- c) for subgrade materials – target laboratory density ratio of 97.0%

- d) target laboratory moisture ratio of 100%
- e) standard compactive effort
- f) surcharge mass during soaking of 4500 g
- g) surcharge mass during penetration of 4500 g
- h) minimum curing times in AS 1289.6.1.1 Table 1 shall apply, and
- i) swell, Dry Density after soaking and Moisture Content of the remaining depth of specimen after penetration to be reported.

**4.3 Supplementary requirements for Test Method Q115**

Unconfined Compressive Strength (UCS) testing shall be undertaken at the Optimum Moisture Content and Maximum Dry Density determined using standard compaction.

**4.4 Supplementary requirements for Test Method Q250**

For the determination of the moisture ratio (uncompacted) of soils with > 20%, ≤ 40% by mass retained on 37.5 mm test sieve using Test Method Q250, the test shall be undertaken without correction of the Optimum Moisture Content for oversized material.

**5 Quality system requirements**

**5.1 Hold Points, Witness Points and Milestones**

General requirements for Hold Points, Witness Points and Milestones are specified in Clause 5.2 of MRTS01 *Introduction to Technical Specifications*.

The Hold Points, Witness Points and Milestones applicable to this Technical Specification are summarised in Table 5.1.

**Table 5.1 – Hold Points, Witness Points and Milestones**

Clause	Hold Point	Witness Point	Milestone
5.2	1. Submission of construction procedures		
7.2.2	2. Trees and so on to be left undisturbed marked by Contractor		
7.2.3	3. Trees required by Administrator marked by Contractor		
9.4	4. Treatment of Unsuitable Material		
10.1.4	5. Testing for acid sulfate potential		
10.2.3	6. Approval of cut surface treatment		
10.2.4.1	7. Approval of Amelioration Treatment Plan for Earth Fill		

Clause	Hold Point	Witness Point	Milestone
10.2.4.3		1. Application rate for ameliorants – cut surfaces and fill layers 2. Application rate for ameliorants – Earth Fill stockpile	
13.3.2.1	8. Subgrade in cuttings treatment type		
13.3.4.1	9. Acceptance of foundation by Administrator	3. Inspection of Foundation Surface	
14.2.1	10. Submission of Fill Material stockpile / source testing		
15.3		4. Proof roll test for compacted layer method of compaction 5. Testing of each layer	
15.4		6. Rolling using mechanical interlock method of compaction	
16.1		7. Ameliorant agent applied to batter slope surface	
18.2.4.1			Submit <i>Quarry Registration Certificate</i>
18.2.5.4	11. Contractor to submit a mix design or nominate a registered mix design		
18.3.1	12. Subgrade testing prior to placement of pavement		
18.3.2		8. Visible vertical movement of Subgrade	
19.1	13. Submission of Backfill materials testing		
19.3.1		9. Backfill material compliance	
19.3.3	14. Backfill not placed before pipes, etc completed and inspected		
Appendix B B.2	15. Existing Subgrade design verification construction procedure		
Appendix B B.4		10. Existing Subgrade sampling	

Clause	Hold Point	Witness Point	Milestone
Appendix B B.5		11. Testing of Existing Subgrade Material	
Appendix B B.6.1	16. Reporting of existing Subgrade test results		

## 5.2 Construction procedures

Those construction procedures which are required to be prepared by the Contractor in accordance with the quality system requirements of the Contract are listed in Table 5.2. The Contractor shall submit the construction procedures to the Administrator at least 7 days prior to commencing the Works. **Hold Point 1**

**Table 5.2 – Construction procedures**

Clause	Procedure
5.2	Earthworks Construction Procedure
10.1.3	Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan
11.2	Surplus Material Management Plan
Appendix B B.2	Subgrade Design Verification Construction Procedure

The Earthworks Construction Procedure shall include, but not be limited to:

- a) details of the proposed sources of earthworks materials including but not limited to general fill, Rock Fill, aggregates and Sands, in addition to any proposed material suppliers (such as quarries) to be used
- b) details regarding borrow Site establishment, operation and finalisation
- c) details of proposed methodology for excavations and construction of cuttings and any proposed protective batter treatments
- d) details of the quality system requirements of MRTS55 *Use of Explosives in Roadworks*, if explosives are proposed for the removal of rock materials
- e) details of the proposed Embankment construction methodology; details shall include:
  - i. Embankment configuration (homogeneous or zoned)
  - ii. materials to be used and their proposed location within the Embankment
  - iii. any proposed re-use of poor-quality materials after amelioration, and
  - iv. proposed measures to be taken to ensure compaction is achieved on batters, shoulders and verges
- f) details of any proposed stockpile locations, temporary or permanent
- g) details of all plant and equipment associated with the work detailed in this Technical Specification
- h) a Mass Haul Diagram where total quantities of cut to fill from Site are 250,000m<sup>3</sup> or greater
- i) proposed measures for protection of Works during construction

- j) details of how services, utilities, buildings and drainage components shall be located and protected from damage,
- k) proposed testing frequencies, where greater than the minimum testing frequencies as given in Appendix A
- l) all proposed workplace health and safety measures to be adopted during earthworks construction
- m) all proposed environmental protection measures to be adopted during earthworks construction, and
- n) details of the proposed procedures for management and amelioration (if required) of any identified Slaking and/or Dispersive Soils on or within:
  - i. cut surfaces, and
  - ii. Earth Fill materials.

The Surplus Material Management Plan shall form part of the Contractors' Waste 2 Resource requirements under MRTS51 *Environmental Management* Clause 8.13.2 and include but not be limited to:

- a) locations of Deposition Areas or disposal sites for Surplus Material and Unsuitable Material
- b) volumes and types of Surplus Material and Unsuitable Materials to be deposited or disposed of at each Deposition Area or disposal site
- c) pre-treatment or processing of material required prior to Deposition or disposal
- d) pre-treatment of the Deposition Area prior to Deposition for management of impacts; and
- e) rehabilitation requirements of the Deposition Area at completion of Deposition.

The Surplus Material Management Plan shall form part of the Contractor's EMP(C) and shall be updated in accordance with MRTS51 *Environmental Management* Clause 6.4, as required.

MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works* has a requirement for the Contractor to develop a Soil Management Plan – Construction. The Soil Management Plan – Construction and the Earthworks Construction Procedure shall apply a consistent and integrated approach for management of soils as part of construction.

### **5.3 Protection of earthworks**

It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to provide protection of earthworks by (including, but not limited to, the following).

- a) Installing and maintaining effective erosion and sedimentation control measures.
- b) Maintaining drainage of all working areas at all times to ensure run-off of water without scour, except where ponding is off the formation and forms part of a planned erosion and sedimentation control system. Do not allow water to pond in the working areas, resulting in wetting up of the existing pavement or formation or foundation material.

- c) When rain is likely or when work is not proposed to continue in a working area on the following day, take precautions to minimise ingress of water into earthworks material. Seal off ripped material remaining in cuttings and material placed on Embankments with a smooth drum roller.
- d) Should earthworks material become over-wet (above the specified Moisture Content for compaction), the Contractor is responsible for replacing and/or drying out the material, and for any consequent costs.
- e) Do not allow the earthworks material to dry out to the point where excessive shrinkage occurs in the Embankment, and/or the surface is pulverised by traffic generating excessive dust.
- f) Installing final surface treatments progressively and in a timely manner to finished earthworks, including but not limited to landscape and revegetation works.

## **5.4 Compliance testing**

### **5.4.1 General**

Compliance testing of earthworks shall be undertaken on a Lot basis in accordance with MRTS01 *Introduction to Technical Specifications*.

For each material type / source / Lot, the Contractor is responsible for performing sufficient tests to ensure that the Works comply in all regards with the requirements of this Technical Specification. As a minimum, the Contractor's testing program shall not be less than that specified in Clause 5.6.

The Contractor shall ensure that sufficient, clearly-documented construction compliance records are provided to the Administrator to ensure that traceability of earthworks materials is provided from their source (for example, quarry face) to the constructed earthworks.

The Administrator should implement an audit and surveillance plan for the management of quality and conformance of Lots.

Audit and surveillance activities may be undertaken based on the Contractor's historical performance, the project's risk profile, or where there are any concerns regarding Lot compliance.

### **5.4.2 Sampling**

#### **5.4.2.1 General**

For the purpose of undertaking compliance testing, all materials used on the Works shall be sampled in accordance with Test Method AS 1289.1.2.1 or AS 1141.3.1.

#### **5.4.2.2 Sampling and pre-treatment of Earth Fill Material**

The Contractor shall sample Earth Fill Material for testing as follows:

1. from a source, where material is not stockpiled
2. from a source stockpile, and
3. after field compaction has been completed.

Earth Fill from each material source shall be assessed for its susceptibility to excessive breakdown under compaction during construction and/or from exposure to weathering, prior to commencement of testing.

Where the source material is assessed as susceptible to excessive breakdown, it shall be pre-treated by artificial weathering in accordance with Test Method Q101E prior to testing. Pre-treatment, in accordance with Q101E, is not required for the testing of Earth Fill Materials after compaction.

Some source materials will tend to breakdown under environmental and in-service conditions.

These are typically sedimentary and weathered rock materials (for example shales, sandstones, claystones, siltstones and other soft laminated or jointed rocks).

Where compaction during construction and/or long term exposure to weathering are likely to impact on the as-placed Earth Fill classification of the material, pre-treatment to Q101E is required.

#### **5.4.3 Sampling and test locations**

Locations for compliance sampling or testing shall be selected by random stratified sampling as specified in Test Method AS 1289.1.4.2.

#### **5.4.4 Compaction**

The compaction shall be determined by Test Method AS 1289.5.4.1 or Test Method AS 1289.5.7.1.

For stabilised materials, Relative Compaction shall be determined by Test Method Q140A.

The Density Index of non-cohesive materials shall be determined using Test Method AS 1289.5.5.1 and Test Method AS 1289.5.6.1.

### **5.5 Conformance requirements**

#### **5.5.1 Geometrics**

The geometric tolerances shall be as per Clause 6.

#### **5.5.2 Compaction**

The compaction standard for each Lot shall be represented by the minimum or maximum characteristic value of the compaction results. The characteristic value shall be calculated in accordance with Test Method Q020 using the individual compaction results reported for each Lot.

Moisture Content conformance shall be assessed using individual values.

### **5.6 Testing frequency and Lot sizes**

The maximum Lot sizes shall be as stated in Table A.2 of Appendix A.

The minimum testing frequencies shall be as stated in Tables A.1 and A.2 of Appendix A.

Source or stockpile compliance testing requirements shall be as specified in Table A.1 of Appendix A.

Construction compliance testing requirements shall be as specified in Table A.2 of Appendix A.



## 6 Geometrics

### 6.1 General

Earthworks shall be constructed so as not to depart from the widths, lengths, heights and shapes specified by more than the tolerances stated in this Clause 6.

The widths, lengths, and heights for the surfaces of a layer other than the final layer shall be calculated from interpolation and extrapolation of the design lines shown on the Standard Drawings.

If the location of batter toe points specified are found not to lie on the existing ground surface, derived batter points shall be established by interpolating or extrapolating batters to ground surface.

### 6.2 Horizontal tolerances

The horizontal location of any point on a surface or interface between material types shall not differ from the corresponding point shown on the Standard Drawings, or determined in accordance with Clause 6.1, by more than  $\pm 50$  mm except for the following situations:

- a) for edges not adjacent to a structure, the tolerance shall be  $- 50$  mm  $+ 250$  mm (where the  $+$  tolerance is in the direction which increases the width of the earthworks)
- b) the width of an Embankment at Subgrade Level shall not be less than that specified, and
- c) where alignment of the pavement with an existing road structure is necessary, the new Works shall be joined to the existing work in a smooth manner as shown on the drawings or, if not so shown, in a manner approved by the Administrator.

### 6.3 Vertical tolerances

#### 6.3.1 Primary tolerances

The heights of earthworks measured anywhere on a layer surface shall not vary from those shown on the drawings, or calculated in accordance with Clause 6.1, by more than the tolerance stated in Table 6.3.1 unless specified otherwise.

Average tolerances shall apply to the results for a completed Lot.

**Table 6.3.1 – Primary vertical tolerances**

Location	Tolerance (mm)
Subgrade Level (individual results)	$\pm 25$
Subgrade Level (average)	$\pm 10$
Top of Embankment, other than Subgrade Level	$\pm 50$
Top of insitu material below Subgrade (in cuttings other than rock)	$\pm 25$
Top of insitu material below Subgrade in cuttings that cannot be trimmed with a grader (refer to Clause 18.3.3.1).	$+ 25 / - 75$
Top of Rock Fill	
Top of high permeability Drainage Layer	
Top of insitu material below Subgrade (in rock cuttings)	
Top of verge	$\pm 15$ (provided the verge is free draining)

Location	Tolerance (mm)
Inverts of drains	± 40
Top of benches and berms	± 35
Other interfaces between earthworks materials	± 50

### 6.3.2 Additional tolerances

The gap beneath a three metre-long straight-edge placed anywhere on the surface at Subgrade Level shall not exceed 25 mm, due allowance being made for design shape where relevant.

All Embankments, Subgrade, benches, berms and drains shall not pond water and be free draining. Batters shall be finished in accordance with Clause 16.

## 7 Clearing and grubbing

### 7.1 General

Clause 7 applies to clearing and grubbing and bridge Site preparation, where shown on the Standard Drawings or specified elsewhere in the Contract. Clearing and grubbing activities shall also comply with the requirements of MRTS51 *Environmental Management*.

### 7.2 Construction

#### 7.2.1 Areas to be cleared and grubbed

Clearing and grubbing operations shall be limited to those areas required to construct the Works and/or meet specified visibility requirements. As a minimum, the following clearing and grubbing shall be carried out:

- a) where earthworks are to be constructed, the minimum width required to construct the Works, plus an additional width of not more than the distance stated in Clause 1.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or 3 m where not so stated, or the property boundaries, whichever is the lesser
- b) where a bridge is to be constructed, the part of the area beneath the bridge required to construct the bridge plus a margin of not more than the distance stated in Clause 1.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or 2 m beyond the plan limits of the bridge where not so stated, or the property boundaries, whichever is the lesser
- c) any areas specified for visibility, and
- d) other areas specified in Clause 1.2 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

#### 7.2.2 Limitation on clearing operations

Any trees, shrubs and overhanging branches to be left undisturbed shall be clearly marked by the Contractor. This marking shall be carried out prior to clearing operations reaching the areas concerned. **Hold Point 2**

Clearing operations within streams and waterways shall not include removal of stumps and roots below ground surface. Beyond the areas to be cleared, only those trees, shrubs and overhanging branches which are shown on the drawings shall be removed or pruned, as necessary. Such removal or pruning shall only be carried out after consultation with the Administrator.

The Contractor shall take precautions to ensure that there is no unnecessary damage to stream beds or banks or any vegetation growing on them.

### 7.2.3 Trees required by the Administrator

Any trees required by the Administrator for use as marketable timber shall be as nominated in Clause 1.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification. Such trees shall be clearly marked by the Contractor prior to clearing operations reaching the areas concerned. **Hold Point 3**

Marked trees shall be felled and handled in a manner which avoids damaging the trunks. The trunks of these trees shall be trimmed of branches and the trunks stacked in neat manageable stockpiles at locations approved by the Administrator at spacings of not more than 500 m.

### 7.2.4 Material suitable for organic mulch

Where Site-manufactured mulch is required in accordance with MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works* or MRTS52 *Erosion and Sediment Control*, processing of such material shall also be carried out in accordance with the Material and Construction requirements of MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*.

Cleared and grubbed vegetative material, identified as being suitable for use as Site won mulch for use in MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works* or MRTS52 *Erosion and Sediment Control*, shall be set aside for processing. Additional requirements shall be nominated in Clause 1.4 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

Processing of such material shall be carried out in accordance with the Material and Construction requirements of MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*.

Payment Note: Payment for the processing and stockpiling of the Site-manufactured mulch material can be nominated in the Schedule of rates as per Specification (Measurement) MRS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*.

Payment for the spreading of mulch can be nominated in the schedule of rates as per Specification (Measurement) MRS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works* and as per Specification (Measurement) MRS52 *Erosion and Sediment Control*.

### 7.2.5 Fauna habitat logs

Hollow timber which is identified as being suitable for fauna habitat logs shall be relocated to areas clear of construction activities as follows:

- a) behind batters
- b) behind proposed safety barriers but not within any hazard-free zone, and
- c) areas at least 9 m clear of carriageways.

Fauna habitat log density shall not exceed 20 m length per 100 m<sup>2</sup> area. Logs shall not be placed in waterways or in any area where they are likely to be struck by errant vehicles or impact with bridge or culvert structures in the event of a flood.

### **7.2.6 Sugar cane and banana plants**

Banana plant root systems shall be completely removed and disposed of.

Sugar cane shall be either completely removed and disposed of or treated as follows:

1. Harvest the cane (if not already done prior to the Works). If outside the normal harvest period, turn off blower fans, harvest all material, including trash, then dispose of in a way approved by the Administrator. If done during the cane season, harvest the cane as normal, then rill the trash and burn as per normal farming practice.
2. Rotary hoe the top 300 mm of the ground twice. Perpendicular runs are preferred; however, if both passes need to be in the same direction, each run shall be overlapped.
3. The resulting mixture of Topsoil, soil and shredded cane stools can then be used in the ground surface treatment and/or Embankment where it is greater than or equal to 1.5 m below Subgrade Level or in the shoulder wedge between the theoretical 1 on 1 batter and actual 1 on X batter (where  $X > 2$ ).

Any regrowth of sugar cane and/or banana plants occurring during the Contract, including the Defects Liability Period, shall be removed.

### **7.2.7 Disposal of cleared and grubbed materials**

Cleared and grubbed material other than that mulched under Clause 7.2.4 may be deposited in accordance with Clause 11 in any areas stated in Clause 5 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification. If no such Deposition instructions are stated, or the material is not suitable for Deposition, the cleared and grubbed material shall be removed from the Site and disposed of in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements, including the requirements in MRTS51 *Environmental Management*.

Any burning of cleared and grubbed materials shall be carried out strictly in accordance with the requirements of the Contract.

### **7.2.8 Additional requirements**

Within the limits of the clearing and grubbing, but clear of earthworks operations, any existing local irregularities of the natural surface shall be trimmed so as not to cause a hazard to errant vehicles. The surface shall be lightly compacted, if necessary, to provide a surface consistent with that existing prior to the Works.

Any requirements listed in Clause 1.4 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification shall apply to clearing and grubbing operations in addition to all other requirements of Clause 7.

## **8 Stripping of Topsoil**

### **8.1 General**

Clause 8 applies to stripping of existing Topsoil where shown on the drawings. Site topsoil shall be prioritised for reuse in landscape works.

### **8.2 Topsoil stripping dimensions**

Where Topsoil is required to be supplied from the Site in accordance with MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*, Topsoil shall be stripped at a nominal depth of 75 mm ( $\pm 25$  mm), or from areas and depths as specified in Clause 2.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

Stripping shall be undertaken in layers and stockpiled in separate stockpiles to ensure the upper layers are kept separate to the lower layers.

### **8.3 Identification of Topsoil suitable for on-site use**

Stripped and stockpiled site Topsoil shall be tested in accordance with MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works* and associated MRTS16 Appendix Forms to determine material suitability and amelioration requirements.

Topsoil suitable for use on the Site is soil that complies with MRTS16 Appendix Forms Site Topsoil Testing or has potential to comply with ameliorated topsoil requirements.

Site Topsoil may be sampled insitu and assessed by an accredited soil scientist, prior to stripping, to allow selection and stockpiling of suitable Topsoil types requiring the same amelioration treatment. Topsoil that requires a unique amelioration treatment or has a specified limit of use, shall be stockpiled separately.

### **8.4 Construction**

#### **8.4.1 Stripping to stockpile**

Material determined suitable for use as Topsoil in accordance with Clause 8.3 shall be stripped from the Site in a separate operation to any other clearing and/or stripping operation.

Where stripping at depths greater than 100 mm, the upper 75-100 mm shall be stripped and stockpiled separately to layers deeper than 100 mm.

Stripped material shall be stockpiled in the locations shown on the drawings, as stated in Clause 2.2 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification. Material shall not be stockpiled within the drip lines of existing plants to be retained or drainage lines.

Unless otherwise specified in the Contract, areas stripped or disturbed by the Contractor for constructability beyond the footprint of design shall be remediated in a manner consistent with the adjoining landscape treatment, or as directed by the Administrator.

#### **8.4.2 Surplus Topsoil material**

Surplus Topsoil material, and material considered to be not suitable for use as Topsoil in accordance with Clause 8.3, shall be assessed for use as fill on-site or identified for high value reuse and recycling applications off-site in accordance with the Contractor's Waste 2 Resource requirements under Clause 8.13.2 of MRTS51 *Environmental Management*.

Where a feasible high-value reuse application cannot be identified, the material is deemed to be Surplus Material and shall be disposed of or deposited in accordance with Clause 11. In addition, where the materials are deemed to be Unsuitable Material it shall also be disposed of in accordance with Clause 11.

High-value reuse and recycling applications refers to elements of general earthworks construction where the Contractor may nominate to use surplus material in ways that maximise the value of the material without having to manage them as Waste materials.

### 8.4.3 Stripping limitations

Material shall not be removed from within drip lines of existing plants to be retained except where this would otherwise result in Unsuitable Material being left beneath embankments. The root systems of existing plants to be retained shall be preserved wherever practical.

### 8.4.4 Stockpiling of Topsoil

Where stockpiling of Site Topsoil is required, it shall be carried out in a manner which ensures that the properties of the Topsoil are not permitted to degrade such that it becomes unsuitable as Topsoil.

To assist preservation of Topsoil, the Contractor shall include the following provisions in the management of Topsoil stockpiles:

- a) limiting the height of stockpiles to three metres
- b) limiting the width of the base of stockpiles to 10 m
- c) adopting batter slopes, protective covers and drainage which reduce potential for erosion and/or segregation
- d) limiting the period of stockpiling to a minimum practical time
- e) where stockpiling for greater than three months, the stockpile shall be revegetated with grass to provide erosion and preserve the physical and chemical properties of the Topsoil, and
- f) undertake manual brush cutting activities to remove seed heads, from the vegetative cover, prior to seed maturing, and manual removal or target spraying of invasive weed species, upon detection and prior to seed maturing.

Amelioration of stripped Topsoil for re-use on-site shall be in accordance with MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*.

Wherever practical, Topsoil deemed suitable for use on-site shall be transferred directly to placement in accordance with the drawings.

Where space permits, topsoil may be windrowed to the outer edge of cleared and grubbed areas to create a linear stockpile less than 1.5 m tall, which may also function as a clean water diversion bank for erosion and sediment control purposes.

Consider testing and ameliorating the Topsoil prior to stripping, for efficient and effective incorporation of ameliorants prior to stockpiling.

Payment Note: Payment for the testing of Topsoil, supply of amelioration agents, incorporation of amelioration agent to Topsoil and installation of Topsoil can be nominated in the Schedule of Rates as per Specification (Measurement) MRS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*.

### 8.4.5 Finishing

All stripped areas, other than areas beneath road embankments or above road cuttings, shall be left in a neat, free-draining condition with side slopes not steeper than one in four unless otherwise specified.

Prior to any further Works over the stripped area, an As Constructed survey of the stripped area shall be undertaken as specified in MRTS56 *Construction Surveying* and notice of such Works provided to the Administrator.

## **9 Unsuitable Material**

### **9.1 General**

Clause 9 applies to the identification, excavation and disposal of Unsuitable Material where encountered on the Site and the backfilling of the resulting excavation.

### **9.2 Identification of Unsuitable Material**

Unsuitable Material shall include:

- a) material from swamps, marshes and bogs
- b) logs, stumps and perishable materials
- c) material susceptible to spontaneous combustion
- d) excavated material that has a Weighted Plasticity Index (WPI) greater than 4200 and/or a Plasticity Index (PI) greater than 50 (as stated in Clause 14.2)
- e) dry or wet material to a depth of 300 mm or the depth of Subgrade treatment, whichever is greater, which, in the opinion of the Administrator, cannot be reasonably worked or conditioned to achieve specified requirements
- f) all material removed, where the material below the depth defined in Clause 9.2(e) is, in the opinion of the Administrator, unsuitable for compacting subsequent layers
- g) material forming the foundation for a structure which has an allowable bearing pressure less than that nominated on the drawings
- h) material forming the foundation for an Embankment which has an allowable bearing pressure or CBR less than that stated in Clause 3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or, where not so stated, a CBR less than three, based on Dynamic Cone Penetrometer using Test Method Q114B
- i) material containing biosecurity matter, including noxious weeds and other matter which may adversely affect the local environment, except where these are treated in an appropriate manner – for management of contaminated land, refer MRTS51 *Environmental Management*
- j) Acid Sulfate Soils from within the Site which cannot be treated or managed in accordance with Clause 10
- k) stripped Topsoil which is deemed not suitable Topsoil for landscape and revegetation purposes, and is not suitable for use elsewhere in the Works
- l) building rubble, including concrete, asphalt and other materials except where broken down or otherwise treated and proved to be suitable for use, or
- m) abandoned Public Utility Plant and any associated material.

Material deemed to be Unsuitable Material under the Contract may still have feasible high-value reuse and recycling applications.

The Contractor shall identify the applicable reuse and recycling opportunities for all Wastes, including Unsuitable Materials from the Contract in accordance with the Waste 2 Resource requirements under Clause 8.13 of MRTS51 *Environmental Management*.

### **9.3 Unsuitable Material from inappropriate construction activities**

If suitable material was to become unsuitable because of inappropriate construction activities or failure to protect Works adequately, all costs associated with reworking or replacing such Unsuitable Material shall be borne by the Contractor.

Examples of inappropriate construction activities include, but are not limited to:

- poor surface drainage
- restricted or inoperative subsurface drains
- contamination
- excessive-sized construction plant where the imposed load exceeds the material strength
- poorly maintained construction plant allowing leakage of oils and water onto the formation, and
- leaving the surface unsealed allowing moisture ingress during wet weather.

### **9.4 Construction requirements**

It shall be the sole responsibility of the Contractor to prove that material is Unsuitable Material as defined in Clause 9.2.

Where Unsuitable Material or potentially Unsuitable Material is encountered on the Site, the Contractor shall, before proceeding to remove or cover such material, notify the Administrator and provide any test results required to justify such a claim. **Hold Point 4**

Within 24 hours of the above notification, the Administrator will advise the Contractor of the required treatment, if any, and the extent of such treatment.

Methods of excavation of Unsuitable Material shall be in accordance with the requirements of Clause 13. Excavated material shall be used, deposited or disposed of in accordance with Clause 11.

In general, backfilling of excavations of Unsuitable Material shall be carried out in accordance with the provisions of Clause 13.3.

Removal of Unsuitable Material from the Site and its disposal shall be in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements.

## **10 High risk soils**

### **10.1 Acid Sulfate Soils**

#### **10.1.1 General**

Clause 10 applies to the identification, testing and treatment of Acid Sulfate Soils where encountered on the Site and in imported materials. For the purposes of this clause, the term 'Sampling and Analysis Procedure' shall mean the current revision of the *National Acid Sulfate Soils Guidance – National acid sulfate soils sampling and identification methods manual* (Water Quality Australia).



Acid Sulfate Soils are predominantly found in sediments of marine origin in coastal areas where the ground surface elevation is less than five metres above sea level. Any tidal swamp or wetland which was once tidal, and some inland marshes subject to saline seepage, have the potential for the development of Acid Sulfate Soils.

#### **10.1.2 Initial assessment of Acid Sulfate Soils on the Site**

If Acid Sulfate Soil has been identified on the Site, its presence shall be indicated in Clause 4.1.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification and its location shall be stated in Clause 4.1.2 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

Where Acid Sulfate Soil is likely to occur by reference to elevation, geology, geomorphology or as shown on *Sulfate Soil Risk Maps* compiled by the Department of Natural Resources, Mines and Water, this shall be indicated in Clause 4.1.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification and the likely locations shall be stated in Clause 4.1.4 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

#### **10.1.3 Management of Acid Sulfate Soils**

The management of Acid Sulfate Soils shall be undertaken in accordance with the *Queensland Acid Sulfate Soil Technical Manual – Soil Management Guidelines* (Queensland Government).

Assessment of excavated materials, exposed Subgrade and borrow sources shall be undertaken by testing as specified in Clause 10.4. Where additional Site-specific requirements are stated in Clause 4.1.5 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, the additional requirements shall also be met.

Where potentially Acid Sulfate Soils are discovered, detailed methods for the identification, assessment and treatment of Acid Sulfate Soils shall be set out in an *Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan* as part of the *Environmental Management Plan*. The *Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan* shall comply with the *Sampling and Analysis Procedure*.

#### **10.1.4 Testing and reporting of Acid Sulfate Soils**

Testing for acid sulfate potential and reporting of test results shall be carried out on all excavated material and exposed cuttings on the Site which could reasonably be expected to have a possible acid sulfate potential.

The testing frequency and reporting shall be as detailed below.

- a) Visual testing undertaken by trained personnel shall be continuous throughout the earthworks phase of the Contract and shall be applied to all such areas on which work is performed including Borrow Areas.
- b) Field pH testing for both actual and potential Acid Sulfate Soils shall be carried out (on the same soil sample) on all Borrow Material to be imported to the Works and all material excavated or exposed in the Works in areas specified as having acid sulfate potential. A minimum of one test per soil type shall be carried out.

The results shall be documented and reported to the Administrator prior to such materials being used on the Site. **Hold Point 5**

- c) Where materials test positive to actual or potential acid sulfate contamination in the field, the Administrator shall be notified immediately. Such soils shall not be used on the Site until the results of subsequent quantitative laboratory testing negates the results of the field testing.

Quantitative laboratory testing shall be in accordance with the *National Acid Sulfate Soils Guidance: National acid sulfate soils identification and laboratory methods manual*.

#### **10.1.5 Assessment of potential Acid Sulfate Soils**

Visual assessment (as per *National Acid Sulfate Soils Guidance: National acid sulfate soils identification and laboratory methods manual*), followed by a soil pH test kit, can be used to indicate the presence of actual Acid Sulfate Soils. If the soil's field pH (pHF) is less than four, oxidation of pyrite has probably occurred in the past, indicating that actual Acid Sulfate Soil is present. The pHF test shall only be used as an indicator.

All samples collected for laboratory analysis shall be placed in sealed sample containers which exclude air and the containers shall be placed in an insulated container packed with dry ice or in a refrigerator.

The samples shall be transported to the laboratory within 24 hours of collection to reduce the possibility of biologically-catalysed oxidation. Specific soil sampling methods shall be outlined in the Contractor's Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan.

#### **10.1.6 Soil treatment**

Acid Sulfate Soils encountered below the base of excavations which will not be subjected to a change in water and oxygen regime do not require treatment; however, the high water content of such materials can be an issue for load bearing and subsidence.

Exposure of potential Acid Sulfate Soil (above the water table) exceeding 24 hours requires treatment. During hot weather, a covering may also be required. Actual Acid Sulfate Soil and Monosulfidic Black Oozes (MBO) are not allowed to be exposed without treatment.

Acid Sulfate Soils encountered as part of excavated materials and left exposed in cuttings or otherwise subjected to a change in water and oxygen regime will require treatment by the methods detailed below.

The treatment of positively identified actual or potential Acid Sulfate Soils shall be to neutralise their actual and potential acidity as specified in the Sampling and Analysis Procedure before use or transport off the Site. Methods of treatment shall be outlined in the Contractor's Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan.

Acid Sulfate Soils from within the nominated excavation lines shall generally be treated with agricultural lime during placement in Embankment as provided for in Clause 14.3.6. Acid Sulfate Soils which cannot practically be neutralised for use on Site, or which are classed as Unsuitable Material, shall be removed from the Site and treated in accordance with the Acid Sulfate Management Plan.

Acid Sulfate Soils outside the nominated excavation and drainage lines shall be treated by insitu stabilisation with lime in accordance with Clause 12.2.3.

#### **10.1.7 Water treatment**

Runoff from stockpiles of Acid Sulfate Soil and exposed groundwater potentially contaminated by Acid Sulfate Soils shall be contained and managed within the boundary of the Site or treated to acceptable levels before discharge to watercourses. Analysis shall be carried out for at least chloride, sulfate,

aluminium, calcium and iron content, pH and Electrical Conductivity. Water shall not be discharged unless it meets the standard specified in Clause 4.1.6 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

Treatment shall generally consist of introduction of a lime slurry to the contaminated water prior to discharge. Details of management and treatment methods and release parameters shall be included in the Contractor’s Acid Sulfate Soil Management Plan.

## 10.2 Slaking and Dispersive Soils

### 10.2.1 General

Clause 10.2 applies to the management and treatment of Slaking and Dispersive Soils where they are identified in cut surfaces or Earth Fill materials.

If Slaking and/or Dispersive Soils have been identified on the Site prior to construction, their presence and location shall be documented in Clause shall be specified in Clause 4.2.1 and Clause 4.2.2 of Annexure MRTS04.1.

All project specific design requirements for the management and treatment of Slaking and Dispersive Soils shall be specified in Clause 4.2.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1.

Refer to Technical Note TN208 *Managing Slaking and Dispersive Soil risks in transport infrastructure projects* for guidance on identification, management, and treatment of Slaking and Dispersive soils.

### 10.2.2 Earth Fill

All Earth Fill materials to be incorporated into the works shall comply with the slaking and dispersive requirements as shown in Table 14.2.2.

Where landscape and revegetation treatments are specified for embankment batters, the exposed subsoil materials shall also comply with the requirements of MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*.

Where Earth Fill materials do not comply with the slaking and dispersive properties in Clause 14.2.2 and are not able to be used in accordance with Table 14.3.1, these materials may be considered for use as Earth Fill if they are able to be ameliorated using agents such as agricultural lime, agricultural gypsum or other suitable ameliorants.

### 10.2.3 Cut surfaces

Exposed cut surfaces that are comprised of soil materials or extremely weathered rock, shall comply with the requirements of Table 10.2.3.

**Table 10.2.3 – Slaking and dispersive properties for cut surfaces**

Exposed material in cut surface	Emerson Class Number (Modified) (Q168)
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Alluvial or residual soil</li> <li>• Extremely weathered rock material</li> </ul>	4, 6, 7 or 8

Where landscape and revegetation treatments are specified for cut surfaces, the exposed subsoil materials shall also comply with the requirements of MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*.

Where cut surface materials do not comply with the slaking and dispersive properties in Table 10.2.3, these materials may be acceptable for use subject to the application of a surface treatment.

Where a surface treatment option is proposed for an exposed cut surface, that is additional to the requirements specified in the drawings and MRTS04.1 Annexure, the Contractor shall submit the details of the treatment to the Administrator for approval at least 10 working days prior to the nominated commencement date of the treatment. **Hold Point 6**

Suitable surface treatments may include (but are not limited to):

- amelioration using agricultural lime and gypsum or other suitable ameliorants and/or
- landscape and revegetation treatments, as per MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*, or
- engineered hardscape surface.

## 10.2.4 Soil amelioration

### 10.2.4.1 General

Where the Contractor proposes to ameliorate slaking and/or dispersive Earth Fill materials or exposed cut surface soils on Site for use in the Works, the Contractor shall submit a Soil Amelioration Plan to the Administrator for approval.

The Soil Amelioration Plan shall be submitted for a direction as to its suitability at least 10 working days prior to the nominated commencement date of the treatment. **Hold Point 7**

The Soil Amelioration Plan shall form part of the Contractor's Earthworks Construction Procedure, once deemed suitable.

Where the Contractor proposes to use externally supplied soil for Earth Fill Materials which does not comply with Clause 14.2.2 Slaking and Dispersive Soil properties, the Contractor shall ameliorate the materials at their own cost.

The amelioration shall be in accordance with the Soil Amelioration Plan deemed suitable by the Administrator and shall be undertaken prior to incorporating the Earth Fill into the Works.

Where Earth Fill material sourced from Site is ameliorated in stockpile, the pay item for supply of ameliorant and application of ameliorant will only apply to the volume required for the outer 2.5 m of the Earth Fill embankment.

### 10.2.4.2 Amelioration agents

Soil amelioration agents acceptable for amelioration treatments of Slaking and Dispersive Soils include (but are not limited to):

- agricultural lime, and
- agricultural gypsum.

Agricultural lime and agricultural gypsum shall comply with the requirements specified in MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*, Clause 7.2.1.

Other suitable amelioration agents may also be considered subject to approval from the Administrator.

### 10.2.4.3 Application rates for ameliorants

The nominated rate of application for each ameliorant shall be in accordance with the Contractor's Soil Amelioration Plan.

Where the ameliorant is to be applied to an area, such as a cut surface or an Earth Fill layer, the application rate shall be verified using Test Method Q719 – *Field spread rate of solid stabilising agents*. Test method Q719 shall be completed on the first spreader run of each day. **Witness Point 1**

Where the ameliorant is to be applied to a stockpile of Earth Fill material, the Contractor shall verify that the mass of ameliorant to be added complies with the nominated mass of ameliorant specified in the Contractor's Amelioration Plan. **Witness Point 2**

Refer to Technical Note TN208 *Managing Slaking and Dispersive Soil risks in transport infrastructure projects* for guidance on amelioration of Slaking and Dispersive Soils.

## 11 Use of or Deposition of Surplus Material

### 11.1 General

Clause 11 applies to the methods for use of or Deposition of Surplus Material. Surplus Material shall be managed as a Waste in accordance with Technical Specification MRTS51 *Environmental Management* Clause 8.13 and Engineering Policy EP175 *Deposition of Surplus Material – Assessment Methodology*.

Where Surplus Material can be used for a higher-value reuse or recycling application, it shall be used for that purpose. Where a higher-value reuse or recycling application is not feasible, and the Surplus Material is considered low environmental risk, the Contractor may consider Deposition of Surplus Material.

Where there are no suitable options for Deposition of Surplus Material, including Unsuitable Material in accordance with Clause 9.2, the material shall be removed from the Site and disposed of in accordance with all relevant statutory requirements.

Management of Surplus Material shall be detailed in a Surplus Material Management Plan as part of the Environmental Management Plan (Construction) (EMP(C)).

Surplus Material that may be considered low environmental risk include:

- clean earth material
- natural and manufactured aggregates
- recycled aggregates including crushed concrete, brick, pavers, glass
- timber; and
- clear and grubbed material.

Material suitable for an alternative use shall be used for that purpose, if possible. Disposal of material shall be either to on-site Spoil areas or to Spoil off the Site.

### **11.2 Deposition in areas on the Site**

Deposition in areas on the Site shall be permitted only at the locations specified in Clause 5.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification. Where no such areas are specified in Clause 5.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, all Surplus Material including Unsuitable Material shall be removed from the Site in accordance with Clause 11.3.

Placement of Surplus Material including Unsuitable Material in areas on the Site shall be conditional on it being placed in neat and uniform lines which will remain stable and free draining in the long term. Deposited clean earth material shall be compacted by traversing with construction machinery and the finished surface of the material shall be treated by topsoiling and grassing or other equivalent methods, in accordance with MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*, so that it is not subject to erosion.

The following materials shall not be placed in disposal areas on the Site:

- a) material susceptible to spontaneous combustion
- b) Acid Sulfate Soils that are not identified for amelioration on Site
- c) materials containing rubbish, construction materials, organic materials other than would be acceptable as Topsoil and other deleterious, odorous or unsightly materials, and
- d) contaminated materials and materials containing biosecurity matter including noxious weeds or other matter which may affect the local environment or are considered environmentally hazardous.

### **11.3 Deposition in areas off-site**

The Contractor may elect to deposit Surplus Material in off-site Deposition Areas where there is no feasible higher value reuse or recycling application.

Principal-identified Deposition Areas for off-site Deposition of Surplus Materials shall be nominated in Clause 5.2 of Annexure MRTS04.1.

The Contractor may elect to utilise Principal-identified Deposition Areas. The Contractor shall make its own assessment of the access conditions or capacity of any Deposition Area proposed to be used.

Where no off-site Deposition Areas are specified in Clause 5.2 of Annexure MRTS04.1 or where the Contractor does not wish to utilise Principal-identified Deposition Areas, the Contractor may elect to identify and assess alternate sites for suitability.

The Contractor's assessment must consider environment, cultural heritage, native title and hydrologic / hydraulic impacts of both the Surplus Material and the Deposition Area in accordance with EP175 *Deposition of Surplus Material – Assessment Methodology*.

The Contractor is responsible for ensuring the conditions of use for each proposed Deposition Area are documented in the Surplus Material Management Plan.

Deposition of Surplus Material in off-site Deposition Areas shall be conditional on the material being placed in such a way that the material will be stable and free draining in the long term. Deposited clean earth material shall be compacted by traversing with construction machinery and the finished surface of the material shall be treated by topsoiling and grassing or other equivalent methods, in accordance with MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*, so that it is not subject to erosion.

## **12 Ground surface treatment**

### **12.1 General**

Clause 12 applies to ground surface treatment where shown on the drawings or specified elsewhere in the Contract. The requirements of Clause 12 shall apply following clearing and grubbing operations and the stripping of Topsoil where appropriate.

### **12.2 Construction**

#### **12.2.1 Ground surface treatment, standard**

##### **12.2.1.1 Areas to be treated**

The requirements specified in Clause 12.2.1 are those to be carried out on the ground surface in all areas beneath any part of a road Embankment or road pavement, and any additional areas specified in Clause 6.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, but excluding:

- a) any areas of excavation
- b) any areas where a special ground surface treatment or Subgrade preparation is required, and
- c) any areas underlaid by soft clay and where disturbance to the crust may give rise to construction issues (subject to confirmation by the Designer and agreed by the Administrator).

##### **12.2.1.2 Filling holes and localised depressions**

Any holes and localised depressions in the ground surface evident following clearing and grubbing and stripping of Topsoil shall be filled to the level of the surrounding ground surface. Fill Material shall be material similar to the surrounding ground material or material specified for the construction of embankments. The material shall be placed in the holes and depressions and compacted in accordance with Clause 15.

##### **12.2.1.3 Compaction of insitu material below embankments**

After any clearing and grubbing or stripping of Topsoil, the exposed ground surface on which an Embankment is to be placed shall, as a minimum, be scarified and re-compacted to a depth of at least 150 mm in accordance with the requirements of Clause 15.

If the material below the ground surface on which an Embankment is to be placed is too wet or too dry to compact in accordance with Clause 15 and the material does not meet the requirements for Unsuitable Material as specified in Clause 9, the Moisture Content shall be adjusted as necessary to the appropriate depth to a maximum of 300 mm. Material below this depth shall be assessed under Clause 9.2.

This work may include tining, adding water, mixing, draining, the addition of dry materials, removing and replacing and/or other appropriate treatments.

Alternatively, in the interests of expediency, the Contractor may elect to remove wet material and replace it with other material at the Contractor's own expense.

##### **12.2.2 Ground surface treatment, special**

Project-specific requirements for ground surface treatment shall be as specified in Clause 6.2 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

### **12.2.3 Ground surface treatment – Insitu treatment of Acid Sulfate Soils**

Where runoff or groundwater can leach from Acid Sulfate Soils, it shall be tested and neutralised in accordance with Clause 10.1.7.

Testing of Acid Sulfate Soils shall be in accordance with the requirements of Clause 10.

Lime shall be added to neutralise acidity. Addition and mixing of lime shall be in accordance with the requirements of MRTS07A *Insitu Stabilised Subgrades Using Quicklime or Hydrated Lime* with verification of Lime Content carried out in accordance with the requirements of MRTS07A *Insitu Stabilised Subgrades Using Quicklime or Hydrated Lime*.

Compaction shall be in accordance with the requirements of Clause 15.

### **12.2.4 Removal of Unsuitable Material**

Procedures and processes for the identification, removal and replacement of Unsuitable Material shall comply with the provisions of Clause 9.

## **13 Excavation**

### **13.1 General**

Clause 13 applies to excavation where shown on the drawings or specified elsewhere in the Contract.

### **13.2 Blinding concrete**

Blinding concrete shall be concrete of minimum Class N20/20 complying with the requirements of MRTS70 *Concrete*.

### **13.3 Construction**

#### **13.3.1 All excavations**

Excavations shall be constructed to the shapes, lines, dimensions and other requirements shown on the drawings. The areas detailed in Clause 7 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification shall be lightly tyned.

The use of excavated material in the construction of embankments, Subgrade treatments, or Backfill shall be subject to the requirements of the specific clauses.

Material within the lines of cuttings which is identified as Unsuitable Material in accordance with the provisions of Clause 9.2 shall not be used in the construction of embankments, Subgrade treatments or Backfill.

Excavated material which is surplus to the Project requirements shall be disposed of or deposited as stated in Clause 11. All permanent excavation batters shall be finished in accordance with Clause 16.

The bottom of excavations shall be trimmed to the tolerances specified in Clause 6 and any loose material removed from the surface.

In the event of any existing underground assets at risk of being fully or partly exposed during excavation Works, no backfilling or fill Works shall be undertaken until the surveying requirements have been met as specified in MRTS56 *Construction Surveying* and notice of such Works provided to the Administrator.



### **13.3.2 Special requirements for cuttings**

#### **13.3.2.1 Bottom of excavation**

When the level of excavation has reached Subgrade Level plus a nominal allowance determined by the Contractor, the Contractor shall carry out the requirements of the relevant provisions of Clause 18.3.3 and cease excavation until the Subgrade treatment type has been determined in accordance with Clause 18.3.3. **Hold Point 8**

When determining the depth to cease excavation to satisfy this Clause, the Contractor's nominal allowance shall allow for any potential consolidation of the underlying material during Subgrade treatment Works and any trimming required to achieve the Subgrade Level.

Once Works are completed to Subgrade Level (including all Subgrade treatments), an As Constructed Survey of the bottom of the excavated area shall be undertaken as specified in MRTS56 *Construction Surveying* and notice of such Works provided to the Administrator.

#### **13.3.2.2 Unsuitable Material below the lines of cuttings**

Material below the finished lines and levels of cuttings, which is Unsuitable Material in accordance with the provisions of Clause 9.2, shall be removed and disposed of or deposited in accordance with the provisions of Clause 9.4.

Backfilling of the excavation shall not commence until an As Constructed Survey of the excavation have been met as specified in MRTS56 *Construction Surveying* and notice of such Works provided to the Administrator.

Where Unsuitable Material has been removed, the excavation shall be backfilled to the finished surface level with appropriate Fill Material as specified on the drawings or in accordance with Clause 18 and Clause 19.

After backfilling of the excavated area has been completed, an As Constructed Survey shall be undertaken as specified in MRTS56 *Construction Surveying* and notice of such Works provided to the Administrator.

#### **13.3.2.3 Pre-splitting**

Batters specified in Clause 8 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification and batters of rock cuttings with a slope of 2 vertical to 1 horizontal or steeper shall be pre-split prior to burden blasts to ensure protection of the batters.

The spacing of pre-split drill holes shall not exceed 1000 mm centre to centre. The actual spacing shall be determined by the Contractor.

#### **13.3.2.4 Restoration of batters**

If any section of a batter has been over-excavated beyond the tolerance limit specified, the Contractor shall re-form the batter to the average batter slope shown on the drawings, using an approved rectification method.

#### **13.3.2.5 Berm drains**

Berm drains shall be constructed where shown on the drawings. Unless shown otherwise, berm drains shall have a nominal depth of 100 mm and shall be two metres wide. Berm drains shall be concrete-lined in accordance with the requirements of MRTS03 *Drainage Structures, Retaining Structures and Embankment Slope Protections*.

### **13.3.3 Special requirements for Confined Excavations**

#### **13.3.3.1 Dimensions of excavations**

Trench excavations and excavations for structures shall be carried out to the dimensions shown on the drawings or, where not so shown, to the minimum dimensions necessary to construct the Works accurately and safely under the Contract.

Prior to any excavation Works or trench excavations, an assessment is to be undertaken to identify cadastral marks that may need protecting as specified in MRTS56 *Construction Surveying* and notice of such Works provided to the Administrator.

#### **13.3.3.2 Unsuitable Material in Confined Excavations**

Material which is Unsuitable Material in accordance with the provisions of Clause 9.2 shall not be reused in the Works but shall be removed and disposed of in accordance with the provisions of Clause 9.4.

#### **13.3.3.3 Protection of excavations**

The Contractor shall take all necessary precautions to protect an excavation and all personnel and equipment in or about an excavation, including provision of all necessary temporary Works and equipment. Upon completion of construction within an excavation, all temporary Works shall be removed in such a way as not to damage any finished structure and ensure the finished Works meet the requirements of this Technical Specification in all regards.

#### **13.3.3.4 Bottom of excavation**

The material in the bottom of Confined Excavations shall comply with the density requirements of Clause 15. Where the insitu material does not comply, it shall be compacted to a depth of at least 150 mm in accordance with the requirements of Clause 15.

Placement of precast concrete items shall not be placed until the As Constructed Survey of the excavation for end structures have been met as specified in MRTS56 *Construction Surveying* and notice of such Works provided to the Administrator.

Where precast concrete items (end structures, walls, kerbs, kerb and channels and so on) are to be placed in an excavation, a 50 mm layer of Bedding Material complying with the requirements of Clause 19.2.7 shall be placed and compacted to provide continuous, even support to the structure.

### **13.3.4 Special requirements for structure foundations**

#### **13.3.4.1 Excavation for load bearing footings**

Excavation for foundations of structures shall be carried out to the dimensions and depths shown on the drawings. All excavations for foundations shall be drained.

When competent material has been reached at or below the depth shown on the drawings, the Foundation Surface shall be trimmed to a generally horizontal plane or to generally horizontal steps as appropriate, completely dewatered and presented for final inspection by the Contractor's Registered Professional Engineers of Queensland (RPEQ) geotechnical engineer. No work which will cover the surface of the foundation shall proceed until the foundation has been inspected and approved by the Contractor's RPEQ geotechnical engineer and approved by the Administrator. **Hold Point 9** The Contractor shall give the Administrator 3 days' notice of such inspection. **Witness Point 3**

A report from the Contractor's geotechnical engineer confirming that the profile of ground water and the strength and stiffness characteristics of foundation soil comply with the design assumptions shall be forwarded to the Administrator.

Where shown on the drawings or specified elsewhere, a layer of blinding concrete shall be placed over the foundation material as soon as practical. The top surface of the blinding concrete shall be screeded neatly to the shape and levels shown on the drawings. For pipe culvert construction, a layer of blinding concrete is not required to be placed over the foundation material, unless otherwise specified in the drawings or in Annexure MRTS04.1.

If the Foundation Surface has deteriorated since the time the foundation was approved and before blinding concrete or Backfill material has been placed, additional material shall be removed until competent material is reached as described above and then **Hold Point 9** shall be re-released.

No further work to cover the Foundation Surface shall proceed until the As Constructed Survey of the excavated area have been met as specified in MRTS56 *Construction Surveying* and notice of such Works provided to the Administrator.

Additional requirements for culverts are given in Clause 13.3.6.

#### **13.3.4.2 Excavation for pile caps**

Excavation for pile caps shall be carried out to the dimensions and levels shown on the drawings.

#### **13.3.5 Excavation to clear waterways**

Excavation shall be carried out, where shown on the drawings, to clear the waterways at bridge abutments. The surface so formed shall be sealed by using a smooth drum roller.

#### **13.3.6 Additional requirements for culverts**

The widths of excavations for culverts shall be the minimum necessary for their construction and placement of Backfill against them, provided that nowhere shall such widths be more than those shown on Standard Drawing 1359 *Culverts – Installation, Bedding and Filling / Backfilling Against / Over Culverts*.

The material in the bottom of an excavation shall comply with the density requirements of Clause 15. Where the insitu material does not comply, it shall be compacted to a depth of at least 150 mm in accordance with the requirements of Clause 15.

For pipe culvert construction, a layer of blinding concrete is not required to be placed over the foundation material, unless otherwise specified in the drawings or in Annexure MRTS04.1.

#### **13.3.7 Special requirements for drains**

##### **13.3.7.1 Culvert inlet / outlet drains**

Culvert inlet / outlet drains shall be constructed from the extremities of end structures to culverts and shall transition smoothly to existing adjacent natural drainage channels or to the boundary of the Site, whichever is closer.

##### **13.3.7.2 Diversion channels**

Diversion channels shall be constructed to the details shown on the drawings.

### **13.3.7.3 Diversion drains**

Diversion drains shall be constructed to the details shown on the drawings or, where not shown, as detailed on Standard Drawing 1178 *Diversion of Water – Diversion of Water from Roadway and Table Drains* and to any cross-sectional areas shown on the drawings.

### **13.3.7.4 Catch drains**

Catch drains shall be constructed before or during the early stages of construction of the adjacent roadworks and shall be located as close as practicable to the adjacent batter edges.

Where the transverse slope of the ground surface allows this, catch drains shall be turned out away from the roadworks at frequent intervals in a manner which will minimise the scouring effect of any surface flows. Catch drains shall, where practicable, be terminated at inlet / outlet drains to culverts.

### **13.3.7.5 Table drains**

Where table drains cross accesses to private properties and details of the crossings are not specified, the drains shall be so constructed as to be trafficable to normal passenger vehicles.

### **13.3.7.6 Slope of drains**

All drains shall have a continuous positive drainage slope in the required direction.

### **13.3.7.7 Slaking and Dispersive Soils**

Soil or extremely weathered rock materials exposed within the finished cut surfaces of drains, shall comply with the slaking and dispersive requirements of Clause 10.2.3.

Where the exposed drain surfaces do not comply, these surfaces may be deemed acceptable for use:

- if treated in accordance with design requirements as specified for Slaking and Dispersive Soils, and/or the requirements as stated in with Clause 4.2.3 of MRTS04.1 Annexure to this Technical Specification, or
- subject to the conditional requirements of Clause 10.2.3.

### **13.3.8 Dewatering of excavations**

Where dewatering of excavations is required, it shall be carried out in compliance with the requirements of the Environmental Management Plan. Under no circumstances shall water be disposed of to sanitary sewers unless explicit permission to do so is granted by the relevant asset owner.

## **14 Embankments**

### **14.1 General**

Clause 14 applies to embankments constructed up to Subgrade Level, Subgrade treatments or as otherwise shown on the drawings or specified elsewhere in the Contract.

### **14.2 Materials**

#### **14.2.1 Introduction**

Fill Material used in embankments shall be either Earth Fill or Rock Fill Material, and shall be sourced from:

- general excavations on the Site

- Borrow Areas on or off the Site, or
- other stockpiled materials (including quarried materials).

Where Fill Material is sourced from borrow, Borrow Areas shall be developed, operated and reinstated in accordance with the provisions of Clause 17.

Prior to incorporating any Earth or Rock Fill Material into the Works, the Contractor shall submit stockpile or source tests results as specified in Appendix A which demonstrate the source meets the specified material requirements. **Hold Point 10**

Where embankments are being constructed as the Subgrade for pavements, the requirements of Clause 18 shall also apply, in addition to the requirements of this Clause 14.2.1.

#### 14.2.2 Earth Fill Material

Earth Fill Material shall comply with the properties and classes stated in Table 14.2.2 and the additional requirements stated in Clause 9.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

The requirements for the percentage passing 0.075 mm and 0.425 mm test sieve, PI and WPI shall apply to source or stockpiled material (after pre-treatment as per Test Method Q101E where required as per Clause 5.4.2.2), as well as material compacted in place.

Lot conformance is undertaken on test results from both source or stockpile samples and material sampled from the completed layer. Conforming source or stockpile or quarry test results do not, on their own, constitute a conforming Lot and do not justify a nonconformance in the compacted-in-place material. The Contractor is responsible for performing sufficient tests to ensure that the Works comply in all regards with the requirements of this Technical Specification.

Where a Lot is required to be reworked for any purpose, the material properties of the completed layer must be reassessed.

Where Earth Fill Material is used in the final batter slope surface of an Embankment, the material shall be tested and ameliorated (if required), as per MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works* to ensure material in the outer 150 mm is chemically stable and capable of supporting long-term vegetation cover.

Where being used as Backfill, Earth Fill Material shall have all material passing the 25.0 mm test sieve (refer to Clause 19.2.2).

**Table 14.2.2 – Earth Fill Material properties**

Earth Fill Material	WPI	PI (%)	% passing 0.075 mm test sieve	Coefficient of Uniformity	Slaking and Dispersive Properties
					ECN Modified (Q168)
Class A1	≤ 1200	≥ 7	≥ 15	–	4, 6, 7 or 8 (Note 1 and Note 2)

Earth Fill Material	WPI	PI (%)	% passing 0.075 mm test sieve	Coefficient of Uniformity	Slaking and Dispersive Properties
					ECN Modified (Q168)
Class A2	$\leq 1200$	–	–	$> 5$	–
Class B	$> 1200$ to $\leq 2200$	–	–	–	4, 6, 7 or 8 (Note 1 and Note 2)
Class C	$> 2200$ to $\leq 3200$			–	
Class D	$> 3200$ to $< 4200$	$< 50$ (Note 3)	–	–	–
Unsuitable	$WPI \geq 4200$	–	–	–	–

**Notes:**

1. Earth fill materials with Emerson Class Numbers (ECN) Modified of 2, 3 or 5 (as per Q168) may be accepted as conforming material, subject to the requirements of Clause 10.2.2.
2. Earth Fill materials shall comply with Slaking and Dispersive properties where they are used for the purpose of:
  - Homogeneous embankment construction, or
  - the Outer Zone of a zoned embankment construction (Figure 14.3.1), and
  - the Upper Zone of a zoned embankment construction.
3. Class D material that has a PI  $> 50\%$  (as determined by AS 1289.3.3.1) is unsuitable for use as Earth Fill (refer Clause 9.2(d)).

Payment Note: Payment for the testing of final batter slope surface material (subsoil), supply of amelioration agents, spreading of amelioration agent on subsoil and incorporation with ground preparation work operations can be nominated in the Schedule of Rates as per Specification (Measurement) *MRS16 Landscape and Revegetation Works*.

In humid, tropical regions, the development of concretions in lateritic soils governs their engineering properties. Performance-based assessment applies. Details are required in the project-specific Annexure based on local experience.

### 14.2.3 Rock Fill

Rock Fill shall consist of sound igneous, metamorphic or sedimentary rock or combination of these rock groups that will not disintegrate in water or when exposed to the weather. Rock Fill shall be free from overburden, shale, clayey materials and organic matter. Rock Fill shall be either sourced from a quarry (or quarries) registered under Transport and Main Road's Quarry Registration System (QRS) or any other suitable source and shall comply with the properties stated in Table 14.2.3. Rock shall be angular in shape and the least dimension of the rock shall not be less than half its greatest dimension.

**Table 14.2.3 – Properties of Rock Fill prior to placement**

Property	Requirement
Particle Size Distribution (Test Method AS 1141.11.1 or Q230) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Maximum particle size</li> <li>• Percentage passing:                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>– 100 mm test sieve</li> <li>– 19.0 mm test sieve</li> <li>– 1.18 mm test sieve</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Refer Table 15.4  < 20 < 10 < 5
Wet / Dry strength variation (Test Method AS 1141.22)	35 (maximum)
Point load strength index $I_s(50)$ (Test Method AS 4133.4.1)	Percentage of + 100 mm fraction with $I_s(50)$ less than 1 MPa = 10% (max)
Water Absorption (Test Method AS 1141.6.1)	< 5
	< 2.5 in wet areas and drainage layers
Degradation Factor (Test Method Q208B) <sup>1</sup>	30 (minimum)

Note:

1. Degradation Factor testing is only required if Rock Fill is subject to inundation for more than 12 hours.
2. The Point Load Strength Index test is not required if the rock fill material is sourced from a quarry (or quarries) registered under Transport and Main Road's Quarry Registration System (QRS).

Treat and shape the foundations under Rock Fill to maintain drainage and so erosion of the foundation will not occur. Place and spread the Rock Fill in such a way as to avoid segregation and so it is not contaminated with foreign material. The uncompacted Rock Fill layer thickness must not exceed the thickness given in Table 15.4. Do not dump rock against the columns or retaining walls but build it up evenly by gradually placing it around or against such structures. Compact the Rock Fill using the mechanical interlock method of construction as per Clause 15.4. When Rock Fill is used in the Core Zone or Outer Zone (Figure 14.3.1), or within a homogeneous Embankment, an Upper Zone of Class A1 or B material is required as a capping layer immediately above the Rock Fill.

#### 14.2.4 Verge material

Verge material shall be Earth Fill Material Class A1 or Class B complying with the properties stated in Clause 14.2.2.

#### 14.2.5 Water retaining embankments

Fill Material used for the construction of levee banks, catch banks and other water retaining embankments shall be Earth Fill Material which complies with the requirements for Class A1 or Class B material in accordance with Clause 14.2.2 and Tables 14.2.2 and 14.2.3; however, the maximum particle size shall be limited to 50 mm.

The batter of the Embankment subject to temporary or permanent inundation shall be protected from saturation and slumping failures. Any Embankment batters subject to flood velocity greater than 2 m/s must be appropriately designed (not limited to scouring and Embankment stability).

### 14.2.6 Geotextile

Geotextile shall be a material of the appropriate strength class and filtration class, complying with the requirements of MRTS27 *Geotextiles (Separation and Filtration)*.

### 14.2.7 Geosynthetic reinforcement

Geosynthetic reinforcement in road embankments below Subgrade Level shall comply with the requirements of MRTS100 *High Strength Geosynthetic Reinforcement in Road Embankments*.

### 14.2.8 Special Embankment materials

Where special Embankment materials are required to be used, the material requirements are specified in Clause 9.2 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

## 14.3 Construction

### 14.3.1 General

Embankments shall be constructed to the shapes, zones and other requirements shown on the drawings or as otherwise specified.

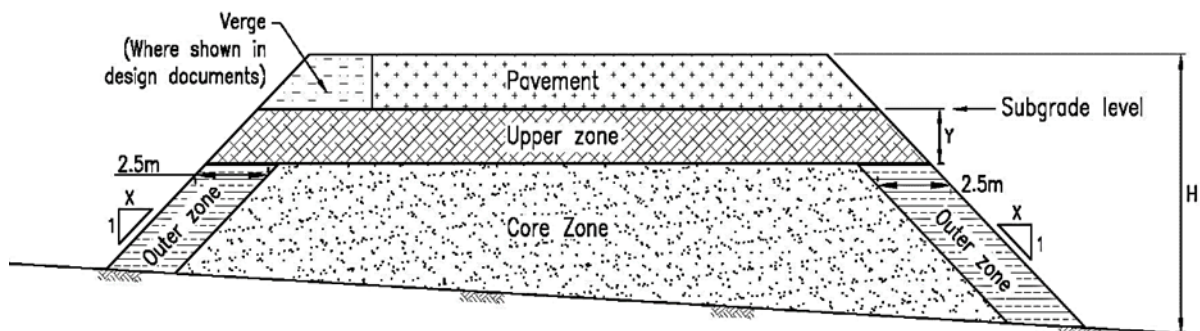
Where so stated in Clause 9.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 of this Technical Specification, Fill Material shall be placed in zones as shown in Figure 14.3.1. Where not shown as being placed in zones, Fill Material shall be homogeneous.

Notwithstanding any other specific requirement for Fill Material, material placed in an Embankment within a height 600 mm below Subgrade Level shall consist of material suitable for placement using the compacted layer method.

Prior to construction of the Subgrade, further construction of the Embankment shall not proceed until an As Constructed Survey of the Embankment, including batters, have been met as specified in MRTS56 *Construction Surveying* and notice of such Works provided to the Administrator.

Earth Fill Material requirements for both homogeneous and zoned embankments, and cover requirements for zoned embankments, depend on Embankment height and rainfall zone. Unless shown otherwise in Clause 9.4 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, the requirements shall be as given in Table 14.3.1. The zone definitions for the cross-section and rainfall are shown in Figure 14.3.1 and Table 15.3(c) respectively.

**Figure 14.3.1 – Embankment zones**



Note: It is preferred to construct the Core Zone and Outer Zone simultaneously in layers. If not, provide stepping as per Clause 14.3.3 between the Core Zone and Outer Zone.



**Table 14.3.1 – Embankment fill properties**

Height (H)	Batter slope 'x' <sup>1,6</sup>	Rainfall zone <sup>2</sup>	Zoned cross-section				Homogeneous cross-section <sup>3,5,7,8,9</sup>
			Upper Zone Thickness Y (m) <sup>1,4</sup>	Earth Fill class <sup>3</sup>			
				Core <sup>1</sup>	Upper <sup>1,5</sup>	Outer <sup>1,5</sup>	
≤ 3 m	≥ 4	Low / Medium / High	–	–	–	–	A1, A2, B, C <sup>10</sup>
≤ 10 m <sup>6</sup>	≥ 2	Low / Medium	<b>1.2 m</b> when Class C and <b>1.5 m</b> when Class D in Core	A1, A2, B, C, D	A1, B	A1, B	A1, B
		High	<b>1.0 m</b> when Class C and <b>1.2 m</b> when Class D in Core				
≤ 10 m	≥ 1.5	–	600 mm of Class A1 or Class B <sup>9</sup>	Rock Fill, maximum rock size 300 mm (refer Table 15.4 for compaction)			
> 10 m <sup>6</sup>				Rock Fill, maximum rock size 400 mm (refer Table 15.4 for compaction)			

**Notes:**

1. Refer to Figure 14.3.1 for definitions of x, y and Core, Upper and Outer Zones.
2. Refer to Table 15.3(c) for rainfall zone definitions.
3. Refer to Table 14.2.2 for definitions of Earth Fill classes A1, A2, B, C and D.
4. As the Upper Zone (and Core Zone / Outer Zone) will form part of the pavement Subgrade, additional requirements stated in Clause 9.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification must also be satisfied.
5. For Outer Zone and Upper Zone materials as well as homogeneous cross sections, only Earth Fill materials complying with Slaking and Dispersive properties (Table 14.2.2) are acceptable for use, unless otherwise approved by the Administrator, in accordance with Clause 10.2.2.

6. Minimum requirements are given in Figure 14.3.1 and Table 14.3.1. Any embankments (Rock Fill or Earth Fill) with height (H) > 10 m shall be geotechnically designed (example, Outer Zone thickness may need to be increased to satisfy the stability requirements). Materials permitted for use shall include Class A1, Class B and Rockfill.
7. For embankments within the Structure Zone of bridges over land, only Class A1 and/or Class B materials shall be used. For embankments within the Structure Zone of bridges over water, only Class A1 material shall be used. The maximum particle size shall be 75 mm. Where pre-boring is required for the driving of pre-cast piles through embankment fill, the maximum particle size shall be no greater than 50 mm.
8. For embankments within the Structure Zone of culverts, only Class A1 and/or Class B materials shall be used.
9. A geotextile separator as per Clause 14.3.2 shall be provided.
10. Class C materials shall not be used at least in the top 300 mm below Subgrade Level.

The required Upper Zone thickness in Table 14.3.1 is mainly to minimise shrink / swell effects of the Core Zone materials on the pavement. As the Upper Zone, Core Zone and Outer Zone contribute to pavement support, the additional requirements stated in Clause 9.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, and/or in the pavement design documentation, must also be satisfied to meet the pavement design requirements.

Where excess Fill Material is available from general excavations on the Site, care shall be taken to ensure that material in classes with the highest WPI is disposed of progressively.

Care shall be taken when sourcing Fill Material so that sufficient Class A1 and Class B materials are available to complete the Embankment in accordance with the requirements of this Technical Specification.

The method of construction employed shall be the compacted layer method and/or the mechanical interlock layer method in accordance with the requirements of Clause 15. Construction operations which involve tipping of material over the sides of a constructed section of Embankment are not permitted.

Compaction standards shall be as specified in Clause 15.

Permanent Embankment batters shall be finished in accordance with Clause 16.

#### **14.3.2 Geotextile at changes in material type**

Where Fill Material changes from material compacted by the mechanical interlock method to material compacted by the compacted layer method, a geotextile complying with the requirements of MRTS27 *Geotextiles (Separation and Filtration)* shall be installed at the interface unless approved by the Administrator.

Prior to installing the geotextile, the surface voids in the material at the interface shall be completely filled with smaller stones and fines to provide effective support for the geotextile.

#### **14.3.3 Stepping the ground surface on which embankments are to be constructed**

Where embankments are to be constructed on or against any slopes or batter of existing embankments (including batters resulting from the partial construction of Embankment, for example, Core Zone), steps shall be cut as follows:

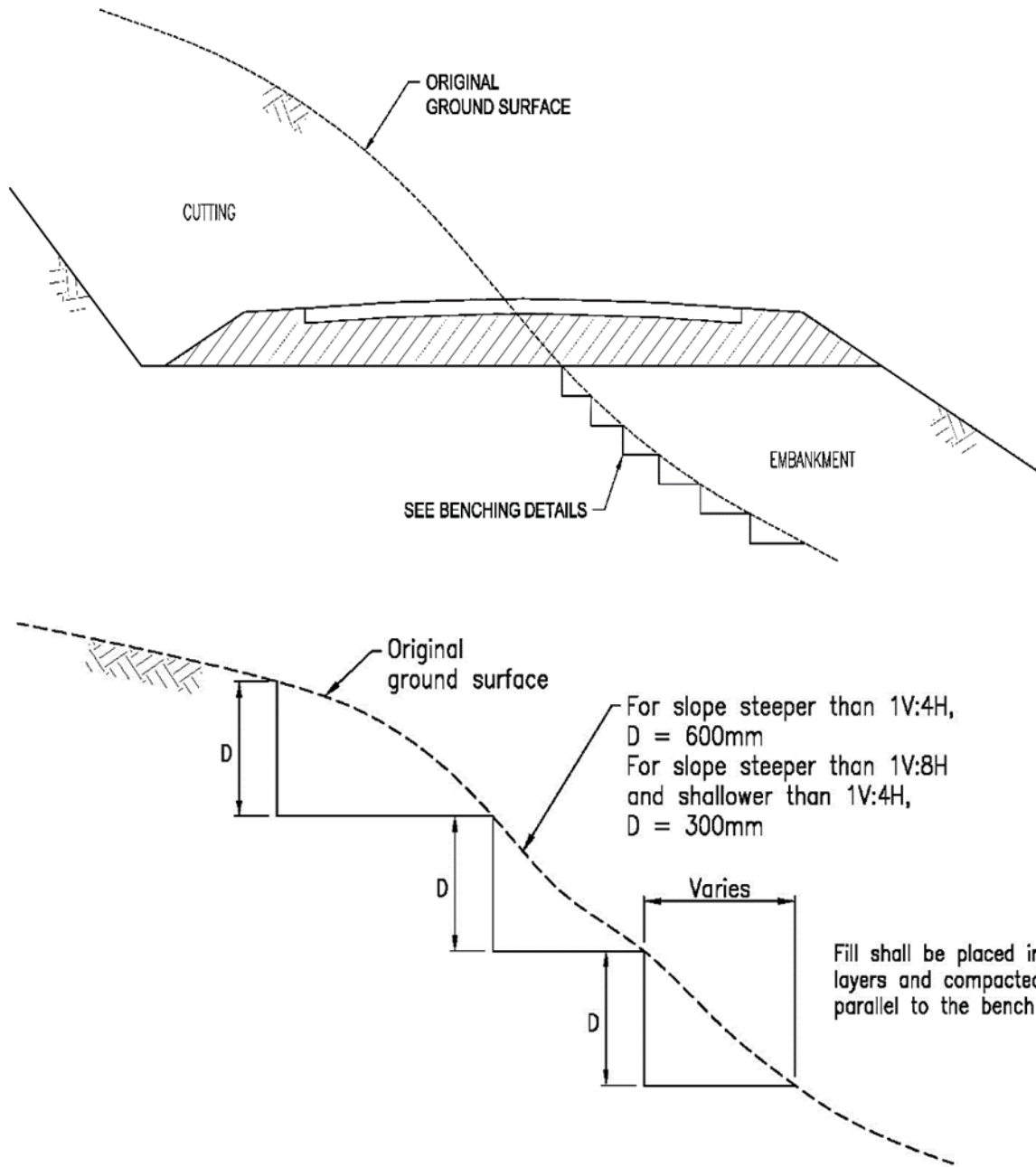
- a) where the ground surface has a slope steeper than 1V to 8H and shallower than 1V to 4H, a series of horizontal steps not less than 300 mm high shall be cut into the ground surface to be covered by the Embankment.

Such steps shall be constructed both longitudinally and transversely (refer Figure 14.3.3(a))

- b) where the existing slope or batter has a slope steeper than 1V to 4H, a series of horizontal steps not less than 600 mm high shall be cut into the ground surface to be covered by the Embankment.

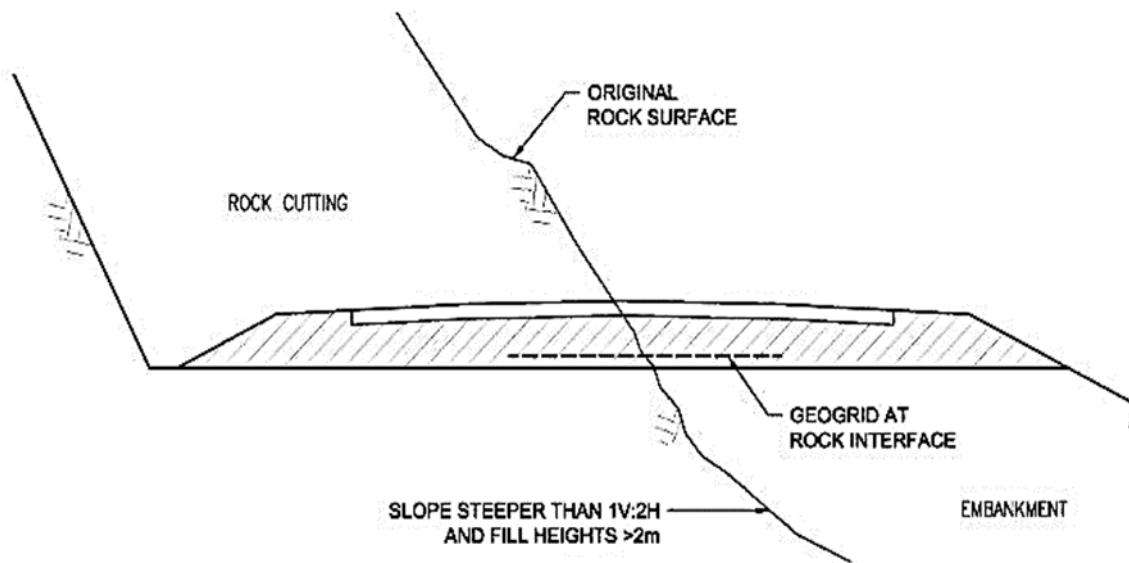
Such steps shall be constructed both longitudinally and transversely (refer Figure 14.3.3(b))

**Figure 14.3.3(a) – Transverse transition in earth Cutting (also applies to longitudinal transition)**



- c) Where the material to be benched is hard rock, as a minimum, a geogrid reinforcement shall be placed at least 2 m either side of this interface at or below Subgrade Level (specific location to be nominated by the Designer) (refer Figure 14.3.3(b)).

**Figure 14.3.3(b) – Transverse transition in hard rock (also applies to longitudinal transition)**



Inspect the floor of each step, in accordance with Clause 9 to check for any Unsuitable Material. Unless directed otherwise by the Administrator, incorporate the material thus excavated in embankments in accordance with Clause 14 or dispose of, or deposit it as Surplus Material in accordance with Clause 11.

No account will be taken of the material removed in stepping when determining the general earthworks excavated volume.

Additional requirements for side-long embankments are given in Transport and Main Roads' *Geotechnical Design Standard – Minimum Standards*.

#### **14.3.4 Special requirements for diversion blocks**

Diversion blocks shall be constructed to the details shown on Standard Drawing 1178 *Diversion of Water – Diversion of Water from Roadway and Table Drains*.

The volume of each diversion block shall be not less than 1 m<sup>3</sup>.

#### **14.3.5 Special requirements for catch banks**

Catch banks shall be constructed before or during the early stages of construction of the adjacent roadworks and shall be located as close as practicable to the adjacent batter edges of the roadworks.

Where the transverse slope of the ground surface allows this, catch banks shall be turned out away from the roadworks at frequent intervals in a manner which will minimise the scouring effect of any surface flows.

Catch banks shall be terminated at inlet drains to culverts.

#### **14.3.6 Special requirements for Acid Sulfate Soil materials**

Testing of Acid Sulfate Soils shall be in accordance with the requirements of Clause 10.

Where lime is to be added to Fill Material to neutralise acidity, the addition and mixing of lime shall be in accordance with the requirements of MRTS07A *In situ Stabilised Subgrades Using Quicklime or*

*Hydrated Lime* with verification of Lime Content carried out in accordance with the requirements of MRTS07A *In situ Stabilised Subgrades Using Quicklime or Hydrated Lime*.

## 15 Compaction

### 15.1 General

Clause 15 applies to the requirements for compaction of all earthworks materials.

### 15.2 Method of compaction and testing

The method of compaction and the required methods for verifying compliance with density requirements are dependent on the properties of the material being compacted. The categories of materials, their required method of compaction and the method for determination of density are summarised in Table 15.2.

Where the Contractor proposes to use materials other than those in the categories given in Table 15.2, the Contractor shall submit samples of the material and details of their proposed compaction and testing methods to the Administrator for acceptance.

**Table 15.2 – Compaction method**

Material category (Notes 1 and 2)	Compaction method	Compaction compliance tests
Cohesionless Sand	Compacted layer method	Density Index
Soils with $\leq 20\%$ by mass retained on 37.5 mm test sieve	Compacted layer method	Dry Density ratio or Hilf density ratio
Soils with $> 20\%$ , $\leq 40\%$ by mass retained on 37.5 mm test sieve	Compacted layer method	Proof roll (Note 3)
Soils with $> 40\%$ by mass retained on 37.5 mm test sieve	Mechanical interlock method	As per Clause 15.4

Notes:

1. Stone that breaks down during compacting shall be included in this limit.
2. Any large stone within the loose layer must be broken down to smaller-sized particles and evenly distributed throughout the layer to prevent the formation of voids and to produce a densely compacted embankment.
3. Compaction compliance shall be determined using Test Method Q723 – *Proof Roll*.

### 15.3 Compacted layer method of construction

Where the compacted layer method of construction is employed, the provisions of Clause 15.3 shall apply.

The maximum particle dimension shall be no greater than two-thirds of the uncompacted layer thickness.

All Earth Fill Material shall be placed uniformly in layers. The allowable loose layer thickness for material compacted using the compacted layer method shall be as specified in Table 15.3(a).

The maximum allowable loose layer thickness for Earth Fill Material in road Embankment may be increased if the Contractor can demonstrate to the Administrator that the proposed compaction

plant and work procedure will achieve the specified densities throughout the full depth of the compacted layer.

Transport and Main Roads encourages such trials for Earth Fill Material and large earthworks projects, recognising that effective depth of compaction is dependent on the type of equipment being used; however, an equipment manufacturer’s claim is not sufficient, and a quality control validation is required.

**Table 15.3(a) – Layer thickness for compaction**

Material / Location	Loose layer thickness (mm)	
	Minimum	Maximum
Earth Fill Material (general)	150	300
Fill Material in water-retaining embankments	150	200
Backfill – except Sand	100	150
Backfill – Sand	150	300

In trenches and confined spaces, Backfill shall be placed at the minimum layer thickness in Table 15.3(a).

Where the uncompacted thickness of a layer would otherwise be less than the minimum thickness specified in Table 15.3(a), a lesser thickness of newly-placed Fill Material may be placed by loosening the underlying material to give a total depth equal to the minimum thickness.

Compaction conformance requirements for materials compacted using the compacted layer method shall be as specified in Table 15.3(b). Where Density Index, Dry Density Ratio or Hilt Density Ratio are specified for compaction conformance, the characteristic value shall be calculated in accordance with Test Method Q020 using the individual compaction results reported for each Lot.

Where proof rolling is specified for compaction conformance, the Contractor shall test for perceptible surface deformation in accordance with Test Method Q723 *Proof rolling test*, unless otherwise approved by the Administrator. Each layer shall not exhibit any permanent deformation, rutting, yielding, signs of distress or instability during the proof rolling test. **Witness Point 4**

Testing for perceptible surface deformation is exempt from the requirement for NATA accreditation or construction material testing registration.

**Table 15.3(b) – Density requirements**

Application (reference Clauses)	Material	Compaction standard <sup>1</sup>	
		Minimum <sup>2</sup>	Maximum <sup>3</sup>
<b>Existing Material and cuttings</b>			
Insitu material for placement of Embankment fill (12.2.1.2, 12.2.1.3, 12.2.3)	Existing	95%	–
Bottom of excavations (13.3.3.4, 13.3.6)			

Application (reference Clauses)	Material	Compaction standard <sup>1</sup>	
		Minimum <sup>2</sup>	Maximum <sup>3</sup>
<b>Subgrade Treatments</b>			
Subgrade Treatment – specified layer thickness up to maximum 300 mm below Subgrade Level (18.3.3.3, 18.3.3.6)	Existing	97%	–
	Earth Fill		
	Unbound granular or stabilised material		
	Cohesionless <sup>6</sup>	70% (Density Index)	–
Subgrade Treatment – > 300 mm below Subgrade Level (18.3.3.3, 18.3.3.6)	Existing	95%	–
	Earth Fill		
	Unbound granular or stabilised material		
	Cohesionless <sup>6</sup>	70% (Density Index)	–
<b>Fill Material (including Embankment and Subgrade)</b>			
Top 300 mm below Subgrade Level	Earth Fill	97%	–
	Unbound granular or stabilised material		
	Cohesionless <sup>6</sup>	70% (Density Index)	–
> 300 mm below Subgrade Level	Class A1, A2, or B	95%	–
	Unbound granular or stabilised material		
	Class C or D (low or medium rainfall zone) <sup>4</sup>	95%	–
	Class C or D (high rainfall zone) <sup>4</sup>	90%	96%
	Cohesionless <sup>6</sup>	70% (Density Index)	–
<b>Other</b>			
Water retaining embankments and verge	Class A1 or B	97%	–
Embankment within Structure Zone	Class A1 or B	97%	–
Backfill (19.3.1)	Cohesive	95%	–
	Cohesionless <sup>6</sup>	70% (Density Index)	–
Bedding and Haunch Zone material (19.3.4)	Cohesionless	As per AS/NZS 3725, Table 5	–
Side zone material (19.3.4)	Cohesive	As per AS/NZS 3725, Table 5	–
	Cohesionless		
Non-trafficked trench areas and ground surface treatment	Cohesive	90%	–
	Cohesionless <sup>6</sup>	60% (Density Index)	
Non-trafficked landscaping areas <sup>5</sup>	Cohesive	80%	90%



## Notes:

1. The compaction standard shall be compaction (Dry Density ratio or Hilf density ratio) except for Cohesionless material where Density Index shall be used.
2. Lower characteristic value unless otherwise required (refer Clause 5.4.3)
3. Upper characteristic value unless otherwise required (refer Clause 5.4.3)
4. Refer Table 15.3(c)
5. Landscape area to be approved by Administrator. This recognises heavy compaction inhibits plant growth.
6. Where 10 mm or 20 mm nominal size drainage aggregate is used, Density Index testing is not required.

The Embankment material below Subgrade Level shall be placed and compacted at a Moisture Content within the range given in Table 15.3(c) or Table 15.3(d) where the values given are the moisture ratio or moisture variation (standard compaction). The rainfall zone shall be as given in Clause 10 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

Earth Fill with  $> 20\%$ ,  $\leq 40\%$  by mass retained on 37.5 mm test sieve, to be placed as embankment material below Subgrade Level, shall be placed and compacted at a moisture ratio (uncompacted) within the range given in Table 15.3(c). The moisture ratio (uncompacted) shall be determined in accordance with Test Method Q250.

Where water is added to achieve the required Moisture Content, water shall be free from oil, acids, organic matter and any other matter which could be deleterious to Earth Fill properties.

The Moisture Content of the compacted material shall be maintained within the specified range until covered with subsequent layers. Each layer shall be tested to conform the requirements as per Clause 5.6 before placing the subsequent layers. **Witness Point 5**

At all times, the Contractor shall ensure that no water is permitted to pond on or adjacent to an Embankment and that the surface of the Embankment is free draining. Any Unsuitable Material due to wetting up shall be reworked or removed and replaced as per Clauses 9.3 and 9.4. Such Unsuitable Material must be excavated to the extent and depth directed by the Administrator.

**Table 15.3(c) – Allowable moisture ratio range for Embankment material**

Rainfall zone	Median annual rainfall (mm)	Moisture ratio (%) – Earth Fill material (Note 1)			
		Class A1/A2 (Note 2)	Class B (Note 2)	Class C	Class D
High	> 1000	70 – 100	80 – 110	90 – 120 (Note 3)	100 – 130 (Note 3)
Medium	500 – 1000	70 – 90	70 – 100	80 – 110	80 – 110
Low	< 500	60 – 80	60 – 90	60 – 90	60 – 90

## Notes:

1. These limits also apply to moisture ratio (uncompacted).
2. For Class A1 and Class B materials within the Structure Zone, the moisture ratio shall be between 60 – 80% for Class A1 and 60 – 90% for Class B respectively for all rainfall zones.
3. These limits apply to material without added water. Where water is added to achieve compaction, the limits shall be 80 – 110.

**Table 15.3(d) – Allowable moisture variation range for Embankment material – for Hill compaction control testing**

Rainfall zone	Median annual rainfall (mm)	Moisture variation (%) – Earth Fill material			
		Class A1/A2 (Note 1)	Class B (Note 1)	Class C	Class D
High	> 1000	-2.5 to 0	-3.0 to +1.0	-2.0 to +3.0 (Note 2)	0 to +5.0 (Note 2)
Medium	500 – 1000	-2.5 to -1	-4.0 to 0	-3.0 to +2.0	-4.0 to +2.0
Low	< 500	-3.0 to -1.5	-4.0 to -1.5	(Note 3)	(Note 3)

Notes:

1. For Class A1 and Class B materials within the Structure Zone, the moisture variation must be between -1.5% to 3.0% for Class A1 and -1.5% to -4.0% for Class B respectively in all rainfall zones.
2. These limits apply to material without added water. Where water is added to achieve compaction, the adjusted moisture variation limits shall be +2.0% to -3.0%.
3. Allowable moisture content range shall be in accordance with Table 15.3(c).

#### **15.4 Mechanical interlock method of construction**

The mechanical interlock method of construction shall be employed for coarse granular soils and Rock Fill as specified in Clause 15.2, where mechanical interlock is relied upon for stability. All Fill Material shall be placed and compacted uniformly in layers. The maximum thickness of an uncompacted layer shall be determined from Table 15.4 unless otherwise agreed with the Administrator.

The module weights specified in Table 15.4 shall apply to drawn rollers and self-propelled single drum rollers. The maximum layer thicknesses for module weights between the values listed shall be interpolated.

The layer thickness and compaction equipment shall be chosen such that the maximum Stone size shall be less than or equal to half the uncompacted thickness.

Each layer shall be rolled until the rolled surfaces must not exhibit any permanent deformation, rutting, yielding, signs of distress or instability. **Witness Point 6**

Testing for perceptible surface deformation is exempt from the requirement for NATA accreditation or construction material testing registration.

**Table 15.4 – Maximum thickness of uncompacted layers for mechanical interlock**

Maximum thickness of uncompacted layer (mm)	Maximum rock size (mm)	Minimum static module weight or vibrating drum equivalent (tonnes)
300	150	5
400	200	10
600	300	15
800	400	20

## **16 Finishing batters**

### **16.1 General requirements**

Batters shall be free of loose material and shall be trimmed neatly to the shapes specified.

No portion of a batter shall project beyond the design shape specified by more than 300 mm or one-third of the height of the batter, whichever is the lesser.

No portion of a rock batter shall overhang the outside edge of a table drain.

Batters shall continue in regular lines around curves.

All specified batter treatments shall commence as soon as practicable, but not later than 14 days after substantial completion of earthworks on each batter.

Where subsoil amelioration is required, the ameliorant agents shall be applied to the surface of the batter slope immediately prior to any subsequent revegetation treatment or other surface treatments. **Witness Point 7**

### **16.2 Requirements for revegetation treatments**

Where revegetation treatments are specified for cut surfaces or fill batters, ground preparation works shall be undertaken as follows:

Where vegetation treatments on cut surfaces or fill batters are shown on the drawings and/or otherwise specified, the following ground preparation works shall be undertaken:

- a) where batter slopes are flatter or equal to 1V : 4H, cultivation in accordance with MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*, and Standard Drawing SD1651 *Vegetation Works - Seeding*, Detail 1, or
- b) where batter slopes are steeper than 1V : 4H, roughening in accordance with MRTS16 *Landscape and Revegetation Works*, and Standard Drawing SD1651 *Vegetation Works - Seeding*, Detail 2.

### **16.3 Other surface treatments**

For surface treatments other than revegetation, all subsoil preparation work for cut surfaces and fill batters shall be in accordance with the drawings or design documents.

## **17 Borrow operations**

### **17.1 General**

Where material obtained from construction of excavations is insufficient for the construction of embankments and other fills, suitable material may be borrowed from areas on or off the Site.

### **17.2 Borrowing operations on the Site**

Material may be borrowed on the Site from any areas stated in Clause 11.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification. Where no areas are stated in Clause 11.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, material shall not be borrowed from the Site. Borrowing operations on the Site shall comply with any additional requirements stated in Clause 11.2 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

Borrow Areas on the Site shall be developed, operated and reinstated in accordance with the following:

- a) Borrow Areas shall be cleared and grubbed in accordance with the provisions of Clause 7
- b) the area shall be stripped of Topsoil in accordance with the requirements of Clause 8.2 and the resulting material shall be stockpiled in accordance with the requirements of Clause 8.4.4 for subsequent reinstatement of the Borrow Area
- c) the edges of the excavations shall be at least three metres clear of the Works, property boundaries, fences, Public Utility Plant, drainage lines and structures and any other installed components
- d) excavations shall not be deeper than 500 mm, shall have side slopes not steeper than 1 on 4, and shall be graded to drain away from roadworks, and
- e) on completion of borrowing operations, the area shall be trimmed to a neat and tidy shape that is able to freely drain. Previously stockpiled Topsoil shall be spread uniformly over the area.

Development, operation and reinstatement of Borrow Areas shall comply with the environmental requirements of the Contract.

### **17.3 Borrowing operations off the Site**

Borrowing operations off the Site shall be carried out in compliance with all statutory requirements.

Borrow Material shall not be sourced from contaminated land and shall not contain Acid Sulfate Soils.

## **18 Subgrade**

### **18.1 General**

Clause 18 applies to the preparation of Subgrade below Subgrade Level in cuttings and Embankment.

All material within 1.5 m below Subgrade Level is considered to be Subgrade.

Stabilised Sand, Lean Mix Concrete, Sand and decomposed granite shall not be used in Subgrade fill except as shown on the drawings or specified elsewhere in the Contract.

Subgrade is defined as the portion of the formation on which the pavement is constructed, and which provides support to the pavement. The depth of Subgrade is measured below 'Subgrade Level'.

Embankments and cuttings are required to be constructed to achieve the required support conditions adopted in the pavement design. These support conditions are typically specified using a minimum CBR (tested at the design moisture and density conditions).

The pavement designer should nominate (in Clause 9.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification) requirements for all materials within 1.5 m below Subgrade Level that are expected to have an influence on pavement support.

## 18.2 Materials

### 18.2.1 Fill Material

In addition to the requirements of Clause 14, Fill Material used within 1.5 m below Subgrade Level (that is within, the Subgrade), shall comply with the requirements specified in Clause 9.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or elsewhere in the design documents. Where no indication is otherwise given, all Fill Material within the Subgrade shall have a minimum 4-day soaked CBR of 3% when tested at 97% standard compaction and optimum moisture.

These requirements shall apply to fill used in embankments, Subgrade treatments and Backfill.

### 18.2.2 Unbound granular material

Where unbound granular material is to be used for the construction of Subgrade (including where it will be stabilised), it shall conform with the requirements of MRTS05 *Unbound Pavements* and shall be at least of the subtype specified in Clause 12.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, or where no such subtype is specified, at least subtype 2.4.

### 18.2.3 Unbound granular Drainage Layer material

Where unbound granular drainage material is to be used for the construction of Subgrade (including where it will be stabilised), it shall be subtype 2.4 conforming with the requirements of MRTS05 *Unbound Pavements* unless otherwise approved by the Administrator or shown elsewhere in the design documents; however, the particle size distribution of the material shall comply with the limits stated in Table 18.2.3.

**Table 18.2.3 – Drainage Layer – particle size distribution**

Test sieve (mm)	Percent passing by mass
53.0	100
37.5	100
26.5	90 – 100
19.5	75 – 100
9.50	50 – 65
4.75	30 – 45
2.36	20 – 30
0.425	6 – 13
0.075	2 – 5

### 18.2.4 High-permeability drainage material

#### 18.2.4.1 General

The unbound granular Drainage Layer material specified in Clause 18.2.3 may not always be sufficient to ensure an adequately permeable material for all situations. A high-permeability Drainage Layer may be required in some locations where higher water flows are expected.

High-permeability drainage material shall be Rock Fill complying with the requirements of Clause 14.2.3 and the additional and overriding requirements given in Table 18.2.4.1(a).

All high-permeability drainage material shall be sourced from a quarry registered and operated in accordance with the Transport and Main Roads Quarry Registration System requirements. The current *Quarry Registration Certificate* shall be submitted to the Administrator at least 7 days before a material's supply or use. **Milestone**

**Table 18.2.4.1(a) – Additional properties for high permeability Drainage Layer**

Property	Requirement
Particle size distribution (Test Method AS 1141.11.1 or Q230)	Refer Table 18.2.4.1(b)
Wet strength (Test Method AS 1141.22)	100 kN (minimum)
Degradation Factor (Test Method Q208B)	40 (minimum)

The intent of this material specification is to provide a free-draining, highly permeable material that is sufficiently durable to withstand prolonged periods of inundation; therefore, the high permeable drainage material is intended to be supplied by a source registered and operated in accordance with the Department of Transport and Main Roads Quarry Registration System requirements. Where local conditions require otherwise, project-specific requirements will be specified at the time of tendering.

**Table 18.2.4.1(b) – Particle size distribution for high-permeability Drainage Layer**

Test sieve (mm)	Percent passing by mass
125*	100
19.0	0 – 15
2.36	0 – 5
0.075	0 – 1

\* The maximum particle size of the Rock Fill may be increased to 150 mm where the high-permeability Drainage Layer is at least 400 mm thick.

#### **18.2.4.2 Material beneath high-permeability Drainage Layer**

The CBR of the material on which the high-permeability Drainage Layer will be placed shall be determined by insitu DCP testing at the time of construction of the high-permeability Drainage Layer.

Where the CBR of the material is less than 1.0%, a specific assessment to determine the required properties and placement method of the Drainage Layer material is necessary.

Where the CBR of the material is greater than or equal to 1.0% at the time of construction, the high-permeability Drainage Layer should be a minimum thickness of 300 mm.

#### **18.2.4.3 Cover over high-permeability Drainage Layer**

Where the maximum particle size of the Rock Fill exceeds 100 mm, the top surface of the placed Rock Fill shall be covered (prior to encapsulating with geotextile) by smaller particle size Rock Fill, with a

maximum particle dimension of 75 mm, to 'infill' the voids in the surface of the high-permeability Drainage Layer.

The proof rolling test shall be undertaken after placement of the smaller particle size Rock Fill.

In addition, where the high-permeability Drainage Layer is immediately below the pavement, it shall be covered by a minimum thickness of 150 mm of plant-mixed stabilised material in accordance with Clause 18.2.5 or a lightly bound improved layer in accordance with the requirements of MRTS10 *Plant-Mixed Lightly Bound Pavements*.

#### 18.2.4.4 Construction requirements

The surface on which the Drainage Layer is placed shall be shaped in accordance with the design documents so that it does not pond water and is free draining.

High-permeability Drainage Layer material must be placed and compacted to achieve stability of the layer. The Administrator may require trial sections are constructed to verify that the proposed compaction procedure is acceptable.

High-permeability drainage layers shall be compacted using the mechanical interlock method of construction as per Clause 15.4.

#### 18.2.5 Stabilised Subgrade material

##### 18.2.5.1 General

The material to be stabilised may be Existing Subgrade Material or imported material. Existing Subgrade Material may be stabilised insitu. Imported materials may be stabilised either insitu or through plant-mixed stabilisation.

Insitu or plant-mixed stabilisation may be undertaken with either lime, cement or cementitious blends in accordance with the requirements of Clauses 18.2.5.2 and 18.2.5.3.

For insitu stabilisation, the stabilising agent and its rate of application are nominated in Clause 12.2 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

The following guidance is provided on the suitability of materials for either lime or cement / cementitious blend stabilisation. Material requirements for stabilisation:

Lime	Cement or cementitious blend
a) PI > 10	a) PI ≤ 10
b) WPI > 1200	b) percentage passing the 0.075 mm sieve ≤ 25, and
c) maximum aggregate size of 75 mm	c) maximum aggregate size of 75 mm
d) lime reacts as determined by Q133	
e) soluble sulfate ≤ 0.3%	
f) organic content* ≤ 1.0%, and	
g) ferric oxide* ≤ 2.0%	
* These limits are a guide only; advice should be obtained before stabilising materials with ferric oxide contents > 2.0% or organic content > 5.0%.	
UCS of 1.0 – 2.0 MPa at 28 days	UCS of 1.0 – 2.0 MPa at 7 days

#### **18.2.5.2 Lime stabilised Subgrade material**

Unless otherwise directed by the Administrator, the material shall be stabilised with the amount of lime determined through the mix design process described in Section 7 of the *Transport and Main Roads Materials Testing Manual, Part 2 Application*.

In doing so, the stabilised material shall achieve a UCS of not less than 1.0 MPa and not greater than 2.0 MPa at 28 days.

Lime stabilisation is to be carried out in accordance with MRTS07A *Insitu Stabilised Subgrades Using Quicklime or Hydrated Lime*.

Where construction conditions do not permit the time required to undertake UCS-mix design testing, the Administrator may direct the Contractor as to the lime content to be used in the stabilisation process. Generally, the value nominated in this circumstance would be the lime demand value plus 2%.

#### **18.2.5.3 Cement or cementitious blend stabilised Subgrade material**

Unless otherwise directed by the Administrator, the material shall be stabilised with the amount of cement or cementitious blend as described:

- for insitu stabilisation – determined through the mix design process described in Section 3 of the *Materials Testing Manual, Part 2 Application*, or
- for plant-mixed stabilisation – at a target content within the 'acceptable range for target content of stabilising agent' shown on the 'stabilised mix design certificate' and meeting the requirements for lightly bound improved layers specified in MRTS10 *Plant-Mixed Lightly Bound Pavements*.

In doing so, the stabilised material shall achieve a UCS of not less than 1.0 MPa and not greater than 2.0 MPa at 7 days.

Insitu stabilisation is to be carried out in accordance with MRTS07B *Insitu Stabilised Pavements Using Cement or Cementitious Blends*.

Plant-mixed stabilisation shall be carried out in accordance with MRTS10 *Plant-Mixed Lightly Bound Pavements*.

Where construction conditions do not permit the time required to undertake UCS-mix design testing, the Administrator may direct the Contractor on the stabilising agent content to be used in the stabilisation process. Generally, in this circumstance, GB cement (60% cement / 40% fly ash blend) at a target content of 2% (by mass) would be nominated.

#### **18.2.5.4 Stabilised Subgrade mix design submission or nomination**

At least 14 days prior to the commencement of stabilisation, the Contractor shall either:

- for insitu stabilisation – submit a mix design in accordance with Clause 18.2.5.4, or



- for plant mixed stabilisation – nominate a registered mix design including target content of stabilising agent in accordance with Clause 7 of MRTS10 *Plant Mixed Lightly Bound Pavements*. **Hold Point 11**

For insitu stabilisation, the mix design shall use the same materials, including stabilising agent type and source, proposed for incorporation into the Works.

The insitu stabilisation mix design report shall include as a minimum:

- a) details of the stabilising agent type and source
- b) details of the material to be stabilised, including material type
- c) test results for the material to be stabilised
- d) 7-day UCS test results (for cement or cementitious blend stabilised material) and 28-day UCS test results (for lime stabilised material) at a number of stabilising agent contents (minimum three) to cover the range of upper and lower UCS limits, and the design stabilising agent content (Note: in Test Method Q115, one UCS test result is the average of three specimens), and
- e) test results for determining the allowable working time in accordance with Test Method Q136A.

Where the properties of the material to be insitu stabilised vary significantly at different locations in the project, a mix design shall be submitted for each unique set of material properties.

For plant mixed stabilisation, the nominated registered mix design shall be a lightly bound improved layer mix design meeting the requirements of MRTS10 *Plant-Mixed Lightly Bound Pavements*.

Where the Administrator nominates the lime, cement or cementitious blend content to be used in the stabilisation process, the requirement for this mix design submission may be waived.

### 18.2.6 Geotextile filter fabric

Geotextile for use in a Drainage Layer shall be of the appropriate strength class and filtration class in accordance with the requirements specified in MRTS27 *Geotextiles (Separation and Filtration)*.

### 18.2.7 Geosynthetic reinforcement

Geosynthetic reinforcement in Subgrade shall comply with the requirements of MRTS58 *Geosynthetics for Subgrade and Pavement Reinforcement*.

## 18.3 Construction

### 18.3.1 General

The Subgrade shall be constructed and tested to Subgrade Level in accordance with the requirements of this Technical Specification prior to construction of the pavement. **Hold Point 12**

### 18.3.2 Proof rolling

At the completion of earthworks to Subgrade Level, the Contractor shall test for perceptible surface deformation by undertaking proof rolling. **Witness Point 8**

Testing shall be in accordance with Test Method Q723 unless otherwise approved by the Administrator. Testing for perceptible surface deformation is exempt from the requirement for NATA accreditation or construction material testing registration.

In areas where perceptible surface deformation is observed, the Contractor shall remove and replace the affected section, or take other corrective action to the satisfaction of the Administrator. In doing so, the Administrator may require the Contractor to carry out additional compliance testing to ensure that the affected section of pavement complies with the requirements of this Technical Specification. No additional payment will be made by the Principal for any such additional testing.

The proof rolling result reported for any Lot shall be representative of the condition of the Lot immediately prior to it being covered. If the Subgrade has been subjected to rainfall or moisture ingress in any way since proof rolling was undertaken, the Administrator may direct the Contractor to retest the Lot to prove conformance. If the retested results do not comply with the requirements of this Technical Specification, the Contractor shall dry back and/or reprepare the Subgrade such that it complies with the requirements of this Technical Specification. No additional payment will be made by the Principal for any such additional efforts.

Construction of the pavement shall not commence until an As Constructed Survey of the Subgrade has been met as specified in MRTS56 *Construction Surveying* and notice of such Works provided to the Administrator.

### **18.3.3 Subgrade treatment**

#### **18.3.3.1 General**

Clause 18.3.3 applies to the construction of Subgrade in cuttings when excavation has progressed to Subgrade Level in accordance with Clause 13.3.2.1, or in one or more of the following circumstances:

- where directed by the Administrator
- as shown on the drawings for embankments and at grade.

The Subgrade treatments are nominated in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or shown on the drawings. In directing the required Subgrade treatment and providing authorisation to proceed past **Hold Point 8** (refer to Clause 13.3.2.1), the Administrator will consider:

- a) the material encountered in the bottom of the excavation
- b) the results of testing of the insitu material, where required under the Contract or directed by the Administrator, and
- c) any adjustments to the pavement thickness considered necessary by the Administrator.

The Administrator may direct a Subgrade treatment that is not listed in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification in accordance with the Conditions of Contract.

Where the Contractor is required to undertake or is directed by the Administrator to undertake Existing Subgrade Material testing under the Contract, the period for determination by the Administrator of the Subgrade treatment to be adopted shall commence from the later of:

1. the time the test results are provided by the Contractor to the Administrator, and
2. when the level of excavation has reached Subgrade Level plus a nominal allowance (refer Clause 13.3.2.1).

A summary of the various types of Subgrade treatment is set out in Table 18.3.3.2.

Different Subgrade treatments may be required in separate areas of any Cutting or formation.

Material which is deemed to be Unsuitable Material, as defined in Clause 9, which is encountered in the zone below any Subgrade treatment shall be dealt with in accordance with Clause 13.3.2.2.

The Contractor shall clean out any loose material and ensure the bottom of the excavation is free-draining. Alternatively, where a free-draining state cannot be achieved, any undrained depressions shall be filled to provide a free-draining surface with a suitable crossfall. Unless otherwise directed by the Administrator, depressions shall be filled with a plant-mixed stabilised material in accordance with Clause 18.2.5.3.

#### **18.3.3.2 Subgrade treatment types**

Acceptable Subgrade treatments are described in Table 18.3.3.2.

**Table 18.3.3.2 – Summary of Subgrade treatments**

Treatment type	Clause reference	Description	Drainage Layer required	Replacement material	Stabilisation method	Depth of treatment (mm) <sup>1</sup>
A	18.3.3.3	Compact existing	No	–	–	150
B	18.3.3.4	Replace with Earth Fill Material	No	Earth Fill Material	–	150
C	18.3.3.5	Replace with unbound granular material	No	Unbound granular material	–	150
D	18.3.3.6	Insitu stabilise existing	No	–	Insitu	150
E	18.3.3.7	Replace with plant-mixed stabilised material	No	Stabilised granular material	Plant-mixed	200
F1	18.3.3.8	Plant-mixed stabilised upper layer and unbound drainage lower layer	Yes	Stabilised granular material	Plant-mixed	150
				Unbound granular drainage material		100
F2	18.3.3.8	Plant-mixed stabilised upper layer and high-permeability drainage lower layer	Yes	Stabilised granular material	Plant-mixed	150
				High-permeability drainage material		300
G	18.3.3.9	Insitu stabilised Drainage Layer	Yes	Stabilised granular drainage material	Insitu	150
H	18.3.3.10	Plant-mixed stabilised Drainage Layer	Yes	Stabilised granular drainage material	Plant-mixed	150
I	18.3.3.11	High-permeability Drainage Layer	Yes	High-permeability drainage material	–	300
J	18.3.3.12	Bridging layer	No	Rock Fill	–	–
K	18.3.3.13	Special	<sup>2</sup>	<sup>2</sup>	<sup>2</sup>	<sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Unless otherwise specified on the drawings or Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

<sup>2</sup> As specified on the drawings.

#### **18.3.3.3 Subgrade treatment Type A, compact existing**

For Subgrade treatment Type A, excavation shall be completed to Subgrade Level in accordance with Clause 13.3.1.

The material below Subgrade Level shall be compacted as specified in Clause 15.3 to a characteristic value of compaction as specified in Table 15.3(b).

The depth of compaction shall be as specified in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or, where no such depth is specified, to a depth of 150 mm.

#### **18.3.3.4 Subgrade treatment Type B, replace with Earth Fill Material**

For Subgrade treatment Type B, excavation shall be continued to a depth below Subgrade Level as specified in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or, where no such depth is specified, to a depth of 150 mm. Excavation shall comply with the requirements of Clause 13.3.1.

The excavation shall be backfilled to Subgrade Level with Fill Material in accordance with Clause 18.2.1 and compacted as specified in Clause 15.3 to a characteristic value of compaction as specified in Table 15.3(b).

#### **18.3.3.5 Subgrade treatment Type C, replace with unbound granular material**

For Subgrade treatment Type C, excavation shall be continued to a depth below Subgrade Level as specified in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or, where no such depth is specified, to a depth of 150 mm. Excavation shall comply with the requirements of Clause 13.3.1.

The excavation shall be backfilled to Subgrade Level with unbound granular material, in accordance with Clause 18.2.2, and shall be constructed as specified in MRTS05 *Unbound Pavements* to a characteristic value of compaction of not less than that specified in Table 15.3(b).

#### **18.3.3.6 Subgrade treatment Type D, insitu stabilise existing**

For Subgrade treatment Type D, excavation shall be completed to Subgrade Level in accordance with Clause 13.3.1.

The existing material below Subgrade Level shall be insitu stabilised in accordance with the requirements of Clause 18.2.5, to the depth below Subgrade Level specified in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, or where no such depth is specified, to a depth of 150 mm.

The stabilised material shall be compacted to a characteristic value of compaction not less than that specified in Table 15.3(b).

#### **18.3.3.7 Subgrade treatment Type E, replace with plant-mixed stabilised material**

For Subgrade treatment Type E, excavation shall be continued to a depth below Subgrade Level as specified in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or, where no such depth is specified, to a depth of 200 mm. Excavation shall comply with the requirements of Clause 13.3.1.

The excavation shall be backfilled to Subgrade Level with plant-mixed stabilised unbound granular material, in accordance with Clauses 18.2.2 and 18.2.5. The stabilised material shall be compacted to a characteristic value of compaction not less than that specified in Table 15.3(b).

### 18.3.3.8 Subgrade treatment Type F1 and F2, unbound granular Drainage Layer

For Subgrade treatment Type F1 and F2, excavation shall be continued to a depth below Subgrade Level as specified in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or, where no such depth is specified, as given in Table 18.3.3.8. Excavation shall comply with the requirements of Clause 13.3.1.

**Table 18.3.3.8 – Subgrade treatment Type F requirements**

Treatment type	Unbound Drainage Layer type	Depth of excavation (mm)	Minimum thickness of unbound Drainage Layer (mm)
F1	Unbound granular drainage material (refer Clause 18.2.3)	250	100
F2	High-permeability drainage material (refer Clause 18.2.4)	450	300

Unless otherwise specified in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, the unbound Drainage Layer of the nominated type shall be constructed to the thickness given in Table 18.3.3.8. The Drainage Layer shall be wrapped in a non-woven geotextile (top, bottom and all sides) in accordance with MRTS27 *Geotextiles (Separation and Filtration)*.

The remainder of the excavation shall then be backfilled to Subgrade Level with plant-mixed stabilised unbound granular material in accordance with Clauses 18.2.2 and 18.2.5.

The unbound granular drainage material and plant-mixed stabilised material shall be compacted to a characteristic value of compaction not less than that specified in Table 15.3(b).

### 18.3.3.9 Subgrade treatment Type G, insitu stabilised Drainage Layer

For Subgrade treatment Type G, excavation shall be continued to a depth below Subgrade Level as specified in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or, where no such depth is specified, to a depth of 150 mm. Excavation shall comply with the requirements of Clause 13.3.1.

The excavation shall be backfilled to Subgrade Level with unbound granular drainage material, in accordance with Clause 18.2.3 and insitu stabilised in accordance with the requirements of Clause 18.2.5. The stabilised material shall be compacted to a characteristic value of compaction not less than that specified in Table 15.3(b).

### 18.3.3.10 Subgrade treatment Type H, plant-mixed stabilised Drainage Layer

For Subgrade treatment Type H, excavation shall be continued to a depth below Subgrade Level as specified in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or, where no such depth is specified, to a depth of 150 mm. Excavation shall comply with the requirements of Clause 13.3.1.

The excavation shall be backfilled to Subgrade Level with plant-mixed stabilised unbound granular drainage material, in accordance with Clauses 18.2.3 and 18.2.5. The stabilised material shall be compacted to a characteristic value of compaction not less than that specified in Table 15.3(b).

#### **18.3.3.11 Subgrade treatment Type I, high-permeability Drainage Layer**

For Subgrade treatment Type I, excavation shall be continued to a depth below Subgrade Level as specified in Clause 12.3 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or, where no such depth is specified, to a depth of 300 mm. Excavation shall comply with the requirements of Clause 13.3.1.

The excavation shall be backfilled to Subgrade Level with high-permeability Drainage Layer material, in accordance with Clause 18.2.4. The Drainage Layer shall be wrapped in a non-woven geotextile (top, bottom and all sides) in accordance with MRTS27 *Geotextiles (Separation and Filtration)*.

Subgrade treatment Type I is primarily intended to be used where a stabilised or lightly-bound layer (satisfying the requirements of Clause 18.2.4.3) will already be provided as part of the pavement design (for example, as a lightly-bound improved layer).

Placing pavement directly over a high-permeability Drainage Layer without this overlying layer may lead to instability and difficulty achieving compaction in the structural pavement layers.

Furthermore, moisture may enter the pavement structure through the Drainage Layer, leading to premature failure of the pavement.

#### **18.3.3.12 Subgrade treatment Type J, bridging layer**

Subgrade treatment Type J may be applied to Subgrade in cuttings, at the base of embankments or otherwise as directed by the Administrator.

The Contractor shall place Rock Fill complying with Clause 14.2.3 to construct a stable bridging layer by using the mechanical interlock method of compaction in accordance with Clause 15.4.

Where directed by the Administrator:

- a) the bridging layer shall be wrapped in a non-woven geotextile (top, bottom and all sides) in accordance with MRTS27 *Geotextiles (Separation and Filtration)*, and/or
- b) the bridging layer shall be wrapped in a high-strength geosynthetic reinforcement in accordance with MRTS100 *High Strength Geosynthetic Reinforcement in Road Embankments*.

#### **18.3.3.13 Subgrade treatment Type K, special**

Subgrade treatment Type K shall be in accordance with the provisions specified in Clause 12.4 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

### **18.3.4 Earthworks transition from cut to fill**

#### **18.3.4.1 General**

At all such transitions from cut to fill or fill to cut, the Embankment shall continue longitudinally and transversely up to the line where the Subgrade Level intercepts the Prepared Ground Surface unless stated otherwise in Clause 18.3.4.2.

Earthworks transitions from cut to fill shall be benched in accordance with Clause 14.3.3.

### 18.3.4.2 Transition treatment

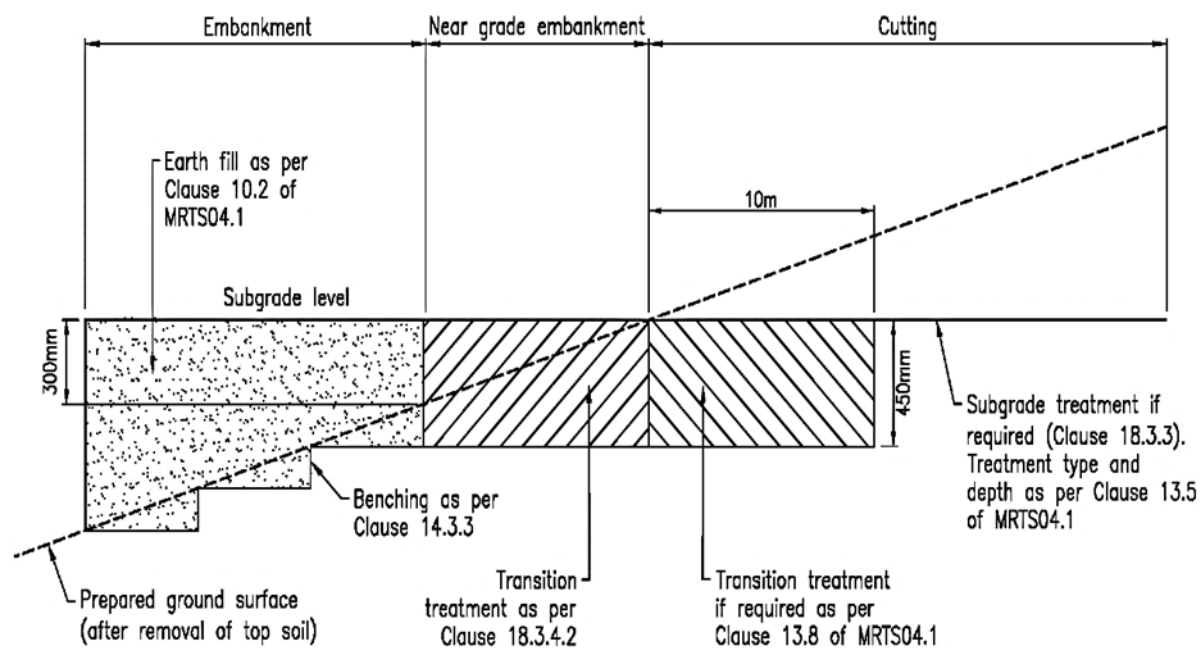
Where so stated in Clause 12.6 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, or directed by the Administrator in accordance with Clause 12.5 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, the properties of the existing foundation material beneath near grade embankments below Subgrade Level shall be tested for compliance with the requirements in Clause 9.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification to a depth of 450 mm. Existing foundation material which does not comply with these requirements shall be treated as Unsuitable Material.

Backfilling of Unsuitable Material excavations under near grade Embankments shall be carried out using material complying with the requirements of Clause 9.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification. Backfill shall be compacted to a characteristic value of compaction not less than that specified in Table 15.3(b) for material below Subgrade Level.

Where nominated in Clause 12.6 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, the transition treatment to test and replace Unsuitable Material shall be carried out 10 m into the Cutting beyond the line where the Subgrade Level intercepts the Prepared Ground Surface.

A schematic representation of the treatment required is shown in Figure 18.3.4.2. This treatment shall be carried out transversely and longitudinally, wherever applicable.

**Figure 18.3.4.2 – Longitudinal section of earthworks transition from fill to cut**



### 18.4 Existing Subgrade testing

Where testing of the existing Subgrade is required to be undertaken by the Contractor as nominated in Clause 12.5 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, the requirements of Appendix B of this Technical Specification shall apply. The Contractor shall undertake testing of all Existing Subgrade Material to the depth nominated in Clause 18.1.

Where testing of existing Subgrade is only required to be undertaken by the Contractor as directed by the Administrator, as nominated in Clause 12.5 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification, the requirements of Appendix B of this Technical Specification shall apply; however, the extents,



frequency and location of these tests will be nominated by the Administrator. The Contractor shall undertake testing of all Subgrade material to the depth directed by the Administrator (up to the maximum depth nominated in Clause 18.1).

This Clause is not applicable to testing of Subgrade Fill Material – these requirements are specified in Appendix A of this Technical Specification.

Where existing Subgrade testing is nominated 'as directed by the Administrator', it is intended this activity would be called up for specific activities such as determining Subgrade treatment types or verifying Subgrade conditions. In these instances, the Administrator may direct the Contractor not to test to the full depth of existing Subgrade (1.5 m below Subgrade Level) where only limited information on the upper layers is required (for example, where the investigations relate to insitu stabilisation of the upper Subgrade only).

## **19 Backfill**

### **19.1 General**

Clause 19 applies to backfilling adjacent to structures, pipes, culverts, conduits, pits, access chambers, gullies, sumps, end walls, and so on where shown on the drawings or specified elsewhere in the Contract. Clause 19 also applies to the backfilling of some excavations of Unsuitable Material in accordance with Clause 9.4.

Large areas of filling not in the immediate vicinity of structures, culverts, pipes and so on, shall be placed using the methods specified in Clause 14.

Prior to incorporating any Backfill material into the Works, the Contractor shall submit stockpile or source tests results as specified in Appendix A which demonstrate the source meets the specified material requirements. **Hold Point 13**

Where Backfill will form part of the Subgrade for pavements, the requirements of Clause 18 shall also apply in addition to the requirements of this Clause.

### **19.2 Materials**

#### **19.2.1 General**

All Backfill materials shall be free of soluble salts, organic matter and other deleterious matter.

#### **19.2.2 Earth Backfill Material**

Earth Backfill Material shall comply with the requirements of Earth Fill Material Class A1, Class A2 or Class B specified in Clause 14.2.2 except that 100% of the material shall pass 25.0 mm test sieve.

#### **19.2.3 Select Backfill Material**

Select Backfill Material shall be gravel or loam and shall have material properties as specified in Table 19.2.3.

**Table 19.2.3 – Select Backfill material properties**

Test sieve (mm)	Percent passing by mass	
	Gravel	Loam
37.5	100	100
9.5	60 – 85	100
2.36	25 – 70	70 – 100
0.425	10 – 40	10 – 40
0.075	3 – 30	3 – 30
Other properties - Linear shrinkage (%)	8 maximum	6 maximum

#### 19.2.4 Free Draining Granular Material (including recycled crushed glass)

Free Draining Granular Material shall be a non-cohesive well-graded granular material comprising either sound Sand and Stone particles, recycled crushed glass, or a blend of these materials, which do not break down under compaction, wetting or exposure to air.

Recycled crushed glass shall comply with the requirements of Austroads Technical Specification ATS 3050 *Supply of Recycled Crushed Glass Sand*.

The material properties shall comply with those specified in Table 19.2.4.

The grading and linear shrinkage requirements given in Table 19.2.4 are not applicable for recycled crushed glass.

**Table 19.2.4 – Free Draining Granular Material properties**

Property	Limit	Value
Stone size (mm)	maximum	19
Percent passing 0.150 mm	maximum	5
Linear shrinkage (%)	maximum	3

#### 19.2.5 Sand (including recycled crushed glass)

Sand shall be either recycled crushed glass, natural Sand, manufactured Sand, or a blend of these materials comprising hard durable particles with the properties specified in Table 19.2.5.

Recycled crushed glass shall comply with the requirements of MRTS36 *Recycled Glass Aggregate*.

**Table 19.2.5 – Sand properties (other than recycled crushed glass)**

Property	Natural Sand	Blended and manufactured Sand
Percent passing 2.36 mm test sieve	85 – 100*	85 – 100*
Percent passing 0.075 mm test sieve	≤ 5	≤ 10
Linear shrinkage	≤ 3	≤ 6

\* No oversize shall be greater than 6 mm.

The grading and linear shrinkage requirements given in Table 19.2.5 are not applicable for recycled crushed glass.

The Contractor's recycled glass aggregate production procedure (refer Austroads Technical Specification ATS 3050 *Supply of Recycled Crushed Glass Sand*) shall nominate the target particle size distribution (grading) envelope. Material incorporated into the Works shall comply with this grading envelope.

### 19.2.6 Coarse Sand (including recycled crushed glass)

Coarse Sand shall be either recycled glass, natural Sand, manufactured Sand, or a blend of these materials comprising hard durable particles with the properties specified in Table 19.2.6.

Recycled crushed glass shall comply with the requirements of MRTS36 *Recycled Glass Aggregate*.

**Table 19.2.6 – Coarse Sand properties (other than recycled crushed glass)**

Property	Coarse Sand
Percent passing 4.75 mm test sieve	100
Percent passing 0.300 mm test sieve	≤ 10
Linear shrinkage	≤ 3

The grading and linear shrinkage requirements given in Table 19.2.6 are not applicable for recycled crushed glass.

The Contractor's recycled glass aggregate production procedure (refer Austroads Technical Specification ATS 3050 *Supply of Recycled Crushed Glass Sand*) shall nominate the target particle size distribution (grading) envelope. Material incorporated into the Works shall comply with this grading envelope.

### 19.2.7 Bedding, Haunch and Side Zone material

Material for use within bedding, Haunch and Side zones of drainage structures and services, shall be gravel, Sand, loam or mixtures thereof and shall be free from soluble salts, organic material and other deleterious matter.

Materials for use in bedding and Haunch Zones shall have properties as given in Table 19.2.7(a).

Bedding and Haunch Zone materials may be manufactured from recycled crushed glass that complies with the requirements of Austroads Technical Specification ATS 3050 *Supply of Recycled Crushed Glass Sand*.

**Table 19.2.7(a) – Bedding and Haunch Zone material properties**

Test sieve (mm)	Percent passing by mass
19.0	100
2.36	50 – 100
0.600	20 – 90
0.075	0 – 10
Other properties - Linear shrinkage (%)	6 maximum

The linear shrinkage requirements given in Table 19.2.7(a) are not applicable for recycled crushed glass.

Materials for bedding, Haunch and Side Zones for drainage structures are limited to those that comply with support conditions H2 and above in accordance with AS/NZS 3725.

Materials for use in Side Zones shall have properties as given in Table 19.2.7(b).

**Table 19.2.7(b) – Side Zone material properties**

Test sieve (mm)	Percent passing by mass
75.0	100
9.5	50 - 100
2.36	30 - 100
0.60	15 – 30
0.075	0 - 25

AS/NZS 3725, Types U and H supports are not typically used.

A controlled low strength material (CLSM) as per Appendix A of AS/NZS 3725 and Transport and Main Roads Technical Note TN187 *Controlled Low-Strength Material for Pipe Installation* may provide a viable alternative to compacted Bedding Material where any or all of the following Site conditions apply:

- a) work area access is limited by time or congestion
- b) where narrow trench width makes mechanical compaction of other types of Bedding Material in the Haunch and Side zones difficult
- c) difficult to get the Bedding Material locally, and/or
- d) trench fill subsidence needs to be minimised.

### 19.2.8 Drainage aggregate

Drainage aggregate shall be a non-cohesive granular material and shall comply with the properties specified in Table 19.2.8.

Materials for use as drainage aggregate shall not break down under compaction, wetting or exposure to air.

Drainage aggregate shall be free from soluble salts, organic material, and other deleterious matter.

**Table 19.2.8 – Drainage aggregate properties**

Test sieve (mm)	Percent passing by mass	
	20 mm nominal	10 mm nominal
19.0	85 – 100	100
9.5	25 – 55	85 – 100
2.36	0 – 5	0 – 10
0.075	0 – 2	0 – 2

### 19.2.9 Filter material

Filter material shall be a natural or manufactured granular material free from organic matter with the particle size distribution limits as given in Table 19.2.9.

**Table 19.2.9 – Particle size distribution requirements for filter material**

Test sieve (mm)*	Percent passing by mass
26.5	100
19.0	95 – 100
13.2	50 – 70
6.70	30 – 55
2.36	20 – 30
0.150	0 – 5

\* Where filter material is used adjacent to slotted drainage pipe or proprietary drainage media, 98% of the filter material shall be retained on the test sieve size equal to or immediately greater than 1.5 times the slot width or opening diameter of the pipe or media.

### 19.2.10 Cement Stabilised Unbound Granular Material

Cement Stabilised Unbound Granular Material used as Backfill shall comply with the requirements of Clause 18.2.2 and Clause 18.2.5.

### 19.2.11 Stabilised Sand

Stabilised Sand shall comprise Sand meeting the requirements of Clause 19.2.5 in a mixture of (by volume) 12 parts Sand and 1 part of either Type GP or Type GB (as per AS 3972) cement mixed with the minimum quantity of water sufficient to allow ease of placement and compaction using concrete placement techniques.

### 19.2.12 Dry Stabilised Sand

Dry Stabilised Sand shall comprise Sand meeting the requirements of Clause 19.2.5 in a mixture of (by volume) 12 parts Sand and 1 part of either Type GP or Type GB (as per AS 3672) cement mixed with the minimum quantity of water to obtain a moisture content which is optimum for field compaction using compacted layer techniques.

### 19.2.13 Lean Mix Concrete

Lean Mix Concrete used as a Backfill material in Confined Excavations shall have a minimum strength of 5 MPa at 28 days and have nominal aggregate size of 20 mm in accordance with the provisions of MRTS70 Concrete.

The target slump shall be consistent with compacted layer method of construction (that is, the Lean Mix Concrete shall have nominally zero slump).

### 19.2.14 Backfill and Bedding Material for steel culverts

Backfill and Bedding Material for culverts fabricated from steel shall be in accordance with Clause 19.2.3 and Clause 19.2.7 respectively. Additionally, the material shall conform to the requirements for either Type 1 or Type 2 in Table 19.2.14.

**Table 19.2.14 – Properties of Backfill material for steel culverts**

Property	Unit	Value	
		Type 1	Type 2
Electrical resistivity	ohm m	> 50	10 – 50
pH	–	5 – 10	5 – 10
Chloride content	mg/kg	–	< 200
Sulfate content	mg/kg	–	< 1000

### 19.2.15 Rock Fill material

Rock Fill material used as Backfill shall comply with the requirements of Clause 14.2.3.

## 19.3 Construction

### 19.3.1 Backfilling general

Material for Backfill shall be as shown on the drawings or as specified elsewhere in the Contract. Where not so shown or specified, material shall be Earth Backfill Material complying with the requirements of Clause 19.2.2. **Witness Point 9**

Unless specified otherwise in Clause 19.3 or elsewhere in the Contract, Backfill shall be compacted using the compacted layer method of construction in accordance with the requirements of Clause 15, except as may be modified by the requirements of Clause 19.

Backfill which extends into the Subgrade shall conform to the requirements of Clause 18.

Construction operations which involve puddling or jetting of material shall not be employed. Sand may be compacted by flooding and the use of immersion vibrators, provided that the process does not cause damage to adjacent Works.

Dry Stabilised Sand and Lean Mix Concrete shall be compacted using the compacted layer method of construction in accordance with the requirements of Clause 15. Compaction standards shall comply with the requirements of Clause 15.3.

Unless specified otherwise in the Contract, conduit trenches shall be backfilled as per Standard Drawing 1149 *Traffic Signals / Road Lighting / ITS – Installation of Underground Electrical and Communications Conduit* (including trenches along the verge / shoulder).

### **19.3.2 Backfill beneath structure foundations**

Backfill beneath structure foundations to replace over-excavation or excavation of Unsuitable Material shall generally be Cement Stabilised Unbound Granular Material complying with the requirements of Clause 19.2.9 or Lean Mix Concrete complying with the requirements of Clause 19.2.12 to satisfy the foundation requirements of Clause 13.3.4.

### **19.3.3 Backfilling to in-place units**

Placement and compaction operations around and adjacent to in-place units (culverts, structures, pipes, conduits, pits, and so on) shall not cause movement or damage to the units. Where Backfill material is fluid, precautions shall be taken against floatation of the units.

Where the Backfill material is placed against precast structures, the operations shall be carried out in accordance with the precast component manufacturer's recommendations, except as otherwise provided for in the Contract.

Backfill material shall not be placed until culverts, structures, pipes, conduits, pits, and so on have been completed and inspected, and any specified curing periods have elapsed. **Hold Point 14**

Where the material is placed on opposite sides of a culvert, structure, pipe, conduit, pit, and so on, the difference in level of compacted material on the opposing sides shall not exceed 150 mm, unless shown otherwise on the drawings.

### **19.3.4 Backfill zones to concrete pipe culverts**

Foundation Bedding, Haunch, Side and Overlay zones for concrete pipe culverts shall be constructed as shown on Standard Drawing 1359 *Culverts – Installation, Bedding and Filling / Backfilling Against / Over Culverts*.

Materials for use in Foundation Bedding, Haunch and Side Zones shall comply with the requirements of Clause 19.2.7.

For Overlay Zones, material within 300 mm of the structure, culvert, pipe, and so on shall be Earth Backfill Material complying with the requirements of Clause 19.2.2. Elsewhere, Overlay Zone material may contain Stone sized up to 150 mm maximum dimension.

Compaction requirements for Foundation Bedding, Haunch, Side and Overlay Zone backfill materials shall be in accordance with Table 15.3(b).

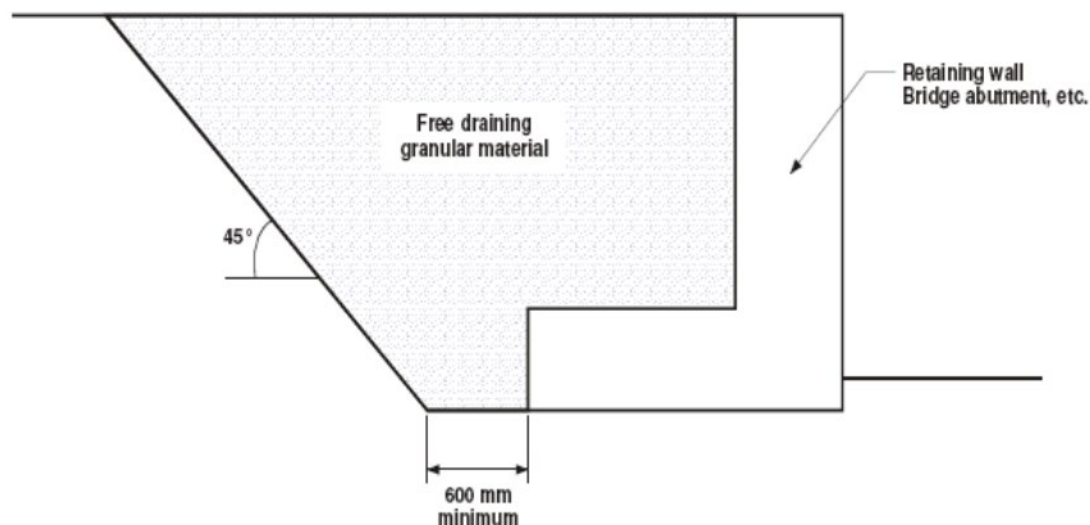
The construction loads which shall be placed on the culvert shall be as per Clause 11 of MRTS03 *Drainage Structures, Retaining Structures and Embankment Slope Protections*.

### **19.3.5 Backfill to soil retaining structures**

Unless otherwise shown on the drawings, backfilling to all soil retaining structures, including all retaining walls and bridge abutments, shall be carried out using Free-Draining Granular Material complying with the requirements of Clause 19.2.4. Free-draining Backfill requirements for bridge abutments are shown in abutment protection Standard Drawings 2232 to 2238.

Backfilling to soil retaining structures shall be to the extent shown on the drawings or, where no such extent is shown on the drawings, to the minimum extent shown in Figure 19.3.5.

**Figure 19.3.5 – Minimum extent of Free-Draining Granular Material behind soil retaining structure**



### 19.3.6 Special requirements for corrugated pipe, pipe-arch and arch-culverts

Backfilling against corrugated pipe, pipe-arch and arch-culvert components shall be carried out so as to not distort the components by more than 3% of the diameter, span or rise.

## 20 Turnouts, entrances and stopping places

Turnouts, entrances to private properties and stopping places shall be constructed to the shapes and other requirements shown on the drawings. The finished level and grade shall join smoothly with the new formation.

Construction of turnouts, entrances to private properties and stopping places shall comply with the provisions of the relevant clauses except where otherwise accepted by the Administrator.

## 21 Widening of existing formation to Subgrade Level

### 21.1 Construction

#### 21.1.1 General

The formation is to be constructed as shown on the drawings for the entire length of the project.

Clearing and grubbing shall be carried out where earthworks are to be constructed, to the minimum width required to construct the Works, plus a margin of not more than two metres.

Ground surface treatment (excluding the areas in Clause 12.2.1.1) is to be carried out on the existing ground surface in all areas beneath any part of road Embankment or road pavement.

Cut batters are to be constructed to the details shown on the drawings.

Road Excavation as required shall be constructed to the details shown on the drawings to achieve the required formation width.

Table drains shall be constructed to the details shown on the drawings. Where details are not shown on the drawings, table drains shall be constructed parallel to the centreline of the road and evenly graded so as to prevent obstruction to the flow of water.



At all culverts and at intervals not exceeding 120 m on grades up to 2%, 60 m on grades 2% – 4%, 30 m on grades 4% – 8%, and 15 m on grades over 8% (except in cuttings) and at the ends of cuttings, the table drain shall be blocked by a diversion bank and the water diverted by means of a diversion drain as shown on the drawings.

#### **21.1.2 Subgrade heights**

Where control is by reduced level, the Subgrade height shall be determined from the heights shown on the drawings.

Where control is by pavement depth and crossfall, the calculated Subgrade Level shall provide for a minimum total depth of pavement as shown on the drawings measured from the plane of the extension of the existing pavement surface, with due allowance for the specified crossfall.

## **22 Supplementary requirements**

The requirements of MRTS04 *General Earthworks* are varied by the supplementary requirements given in Clause 13 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.

## Appendix A – Testing frequencies

Table A.1 sets out the requirements for source and/or stockpile testing of materials prior to construction. These requirements apply in addition to the requirements specified in Table A.2.

Source and/or stockpile testing is undertaken to:

- provide an indication that the material is fit for purpose prior to placement
- assess properties with longer test times (for example, CBR) prior to incorporation into the Works rather than after compaction to reduce construction delays, and
- provide minimum material testing frequencies, assuming the materials are homogeneous. Further additional testing will be required, should the material type or classification change (based on visual assessment) during the period of supply.

Table A.2 sets out the requirements for construction testing – including, but not limited to geometrics, compaction, moisture and other post-compaction material properties.

Where a material has the same property specified in both Tables A.1 and A.2, the material needs to be testing both from the source / stockpile and after the completion of compaction.

**Table A.1 – Material testing – from source or stockpile, prior to incorporation into the Works (after pre-treatment in accordance with Test Method Q101E, where required as per Clause 5.4.2.2)**

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing frequency		Reduced testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	
		Description	Test required	Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>		Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>	
				Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>	Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>
1.1	Earth Fill Material – other than in Backfill, Subgrade or verge (Clause 14.2.2)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	5000 t	1000 m <sup>3</sup>	10,000 t	2000 m <sup>3</sup>
		PI	AS 1289.3.3.1 or AS 1289.3.3.2				
		WPI	Test Method Q252				
		Soaked / Unsoaked CBR and swell (where specified in Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or as per Drawings)	AS 1289.6.1.1				
		Slaking and dispersion	Q168				

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing frequency		Reduced testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	
		Description	Test required	Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>		Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>	
				Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>	Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>
1.2	Rock Fill (Clause 14.2.3)	Grading and shape <sup>5</sup>	Test Method Q230 / AS 1141.11.1	As directed by Administrator		As directed by Administrator	
		Point load strength index	AS 4133.4.1	Refer <i>Quarry Registration Certificate – Testing Frequency Schedule</i> (Clause 8.1.1 of MRTS50 <i>Specific Quality System Requirements</i> )	1000 m <sup>3</sup>	Refer <i>Quarry Registration Certificate – Testing Frequency Schedule</i> (Clause 8.1.1 of MRTS50 <i>Specific Quality System Requirements</i> )	2000 m <sup>3</sup>
		Wet / dry strength variation	AS 1141.22				
		Degradation factor	Test Method Q208B				
		Water absorption	AS 1141.6.1				
1.3	Verge (Clause 14.2.4)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	1000 t	250 m <sup>3</sup>	2500 t	500 m <sup>3</sup>
		PI	AS 1289.3.3.1 or AS 1289.3.3.2				
		WPI	Test Method Q252				
		Soaked / Unsoaked CBR and swell (where specified)	AS 1289.6.1.1				
		Slaking and dispersion	Q168				

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing frequency		Reduced testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	
		Description	Test required	Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>		Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>	
				Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>	Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>
1.4	Subgrade treatment – materials (Clause 18.2)	Refer to the following: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Earth Fill - Item No. 1.1</li> <li>• Rock Fill – Item No. 1.2</li> <li>• high-permeability drainage material – Item No. 1.6</li> <li>• unbound granular material – refer to MRTS05 <i>Unbound Pavements</i></li> <li>• stabilised granular material – refer to MRTS07B <i>In situ Stabilised Pavements Using Cement or Cementitious Blends (insitu)</i> or MRTS10 <i>Plant-Mixed Lightly Bound Pavements (plant-mixed)</i></li> </ul>					
1.5	Earth Fill Material – in Subgrade (Clause 18.2.1)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	4000 t	1000 m <sup>3</sup>	8000 t	2000 m <sup>3</sup>
		PI	AS 1289.3.3.1 or AS 1289.3.3.2				
		WPI	Test Method Q252				
		Soaked / Unsoaked CBR and swell	AS 1289.6.1.1				
		Slaking and dispersion	Q168				
1.6	High-permeability Drainage Layer (Clause 18.2.4)	Grading	AS 1141.11.1	2500 t	1000 m <sup>3</sup>	5000 t	2000 m <sup>3</sup>
		Wet strength	AS 1141.22				
		Degradation factor	Test Method Q208B				
		Point load strength index	AS 4133.4.1				
		Wet / dry strength variation	AS 1141.22				
		Water absorption	AS 1141.6.1				

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing frequency		Reduced testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	
		Description	Test required	Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>		Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>	
				Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>	Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>
1.7	Backfill materials – Earth Fill Material (Clause 19.2.2)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	5000 t	1000 m <sup>3</sup>	10,000 t	2000 m <sup>3</sup>
		PI	AS 1289.3.3.1 or AS 1289.3.3.2				
		Linear shrinkage	AS 1289.3.4.1				
		Slaking and dispersion	Q168				
1.8	Backfill materials - Earth Fill Material for Subgrade (Clause 19.2.2)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	4000 t	200 m <sup>3</sup>	8000 t	400 m <sup>3</sup>
		Plasticity Index	AS 1289.3.3.1 or AS 1289.3.3.2				
		Linear shrinkage	AS 1289.3.4.1				
		Soaked / Unsoaked CBR and swell	AS 1289.6.1.1				
		Slaking and dispersion	Q168				
1.9	Backfill materials – Select (Clause 19.2.3)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	2500 t	1000 m <sup>3</sup>	5000 t	2000 m <sup>3</sup>
		Linear shrinkage	AS 1289.3.4.1				
		Soaked / Unsoaked CBR and swell (where specified in Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification or as per Drawings)	AS 1289.6.1.1				

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing frequency		Reduced testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	
		Description	Test required	Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>		Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>	
				Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>	Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>
1.10	Backfill materials (excluding recycled crushed glass – refer to Austroads Technical Specification ATS 3050 <i>Supply of Recycled Crushed Glass Sand</i> ) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• free-draining granular</li> <li>• Sand / Coarse Sand</li> <li>• bedding and drainage</li> </ul> (Clauses 19.2.5 to 19.2.7)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	2500 t	1000 m <sup>3</sup>	5000 t	2000 m <sup>3</sup>
1.11	Backfill materials – Filter (Clause 19.2.9)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	2500 t	1000 m <sup>3</sup>	5000 t	2000 m <sup>3</sup>
1.12	Backfill materials – Cement Stabilised Unbound Granular Material (Clause 19.2.9)	Refer to MRTS10 <i>Plant Mixed Lightly Bound Pavements</i>					

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing frequency		Reduced testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	
		Description	Test required	Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>		Minimum testing frequency <sup>1</sup>	
				Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>	Material sourced from a registered quarry <sup>3</sup>	All other material <sup>4</sup>
1.13	Backfill materials (stabilised) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Stabilised Sand</li> <li>• Dry Stabilised Sand</li> </ul> (Clauses 19.2.10 and 11)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	2500 t	1000 m <sup>3</sup>	5000 t	2000 m <sup>3</sup>
1.14	Backfill materials – Lean Mix Concrete (Clause 19.2.12)	Refer to MRTS70 <i>Concrete</i>					
1.15	Backfill and Bedding Material for steel culverts (Clause 19.2.13)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	2500 t	1000 m <sup>3</sup>	5000 t	2000 m <sup>3</sup>
		Linear shrinkage	AS 1289.3.4.1				
		Electrical resistivity	AS 1289.4.4.1				
		pH	AS 1289.4.3.1				
		Chloride content	ATM 710 <sup>7</sup>				
		Sulfate content	AS 1289.4.2.1 <sup>7</sup>				
1.16	Backfill – Rock Fill (Clause 19.2.14)	Refer to Section 1.2 of this Table A.1.					

## Notes:

1. Maximum Lot Size shall be limited to each Material Type. Minimum number of two tests per material type is required. For material supplied from a registered quarry, historical test results (minimum of two per property), current within six months of supply, can be used to satisfy this requirement.
2. Reduced testing frequency can only be considered if the Fill Material is homogeneous and good quality and approved by the Administrator. Also refer Clause 8.6 of MRTS50 *Specific Quality System Requirements*.



3. Material supplied by a quarry registered under the department's Quarry Registration System, and a current registration certificate has been provided to the Administrator
4. Source materials such as materials won onsite and imported materials other than from the registered quarry.
5. The Administrator would typically direct the supplier for testing to confirm compliance only if it cannot be agreed upon from a visual inspection.
6. Material testing frequencies assume that the materials are homogeneous. For any change in materials, further testing is required.
7. Other published or validated classical chemistry technique or instrumentation techniques may also be used subject to approval from the Administrator

Test method references not previously cited in this Technical Specification:

- Q168 Emerson class of a soil (modified).

**Table A.2 – Testing frequencies – Construction**

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing level			Reduced testing level <sup>1</sup>		
		Description	Test required	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests
2.1	Clearing and grubbing (Clause 7)	Geometrics	Horizontal clearance limits	1000 m	10 m grid throughout the Lot	2 per Lot	–	–	–
2.2	Stripping Topsoil (Clause 8)	Geometrics	Horizontal clearance limits	Not applicable	1 test per 100 m per side	–	–	–	–
		Geometrics	Vertical	Not applicable	1 test per 100 m per side	–	–	–	–
2.3	Acid Sulfate (Clause 10.1.4)	Acid Sulfate Soil testing	Field pH tests (pHF and pHFOX) SPOCAS testing / Chromium Suite MBO	Acid Sulfate Soils sampling – National Acid Sulfate Soils Guidance: National acid sulfate soils sampling and identification methods manual Acid Sulfate Soils analysis – National Acid Sulfate Soils Guidance: National acid sulfate soils identification and laboratory methods manual					
2.4	Ground surface treatment (Clause 12)	Compaction	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1	5000 m <sup>2</sup>	1 test per 500 m <sup>2</sup>	1 per Lot	–	–	–
2.5	Bottom of excavations (general) (Clause 13.3.3.4)	Compaction – to a depth of 150 mm below bottom of excavation	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1	each excavation	1 test per 50 m <sup>2</sup>	2 per Lot	–	–	–
		Geometrics	Profile	each excavation	1 test per 100 m	1 test per Lot	–	–	–

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing level			Reduced testing level <sup>1</sup>		
		Description	Test required	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests
2.6	Bottom of excavations (for culverts and/or end structures) (Clause 13.3.6)	Compaction – to a depth of 150 mm below bottom of excavation	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1	each culvert or end structure	1 test per 50 m <sup>2</sup>	2 per Lot	–	–	–
		Geometrics	Profile	each culvert or end structure	All levels shown on drawings	–	–	–	–
2.7	Bottom of excavations (for channels and drains) (Clause 13.3.7)	Geometrics	Profile	each channel or drain	1 test per 100 m	2 per Lot	–	–	–
		Slaking and dispersion	Q168	each channel or drain	1 test per 100 m	1 per Lot	–	–	–
2.8	Earth Fill Material – other than in Backfill, Subgrade, or verge (Clause 14.2.2)  Compacted Layer Method (Soils with > 20%, ≤ 40% by mass retained on 37.5 mm test sieve)	Testing after completion of compaction onsite							
		Compaction	Q723	2000 m <sup>2</sup>	each layer	1 test per Lot <sup>3</sup>	4000 m <sup>2</sup>	each layer	1 test per Lot <sup>3</sup>
		Moisture ratio (uncompacted)	Q250		1 test per 500 m <sup>2</sup> (per layer)	4 tests per Lot		1 test per 1000 m <sup>2</sup>	4 tests per Lot
		Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1		1 test per 1000 m <sup>2</sup> (per layer)	2 tests per Lot			
		PI	AS 1289.3.3.1 or AS 1289.3.3.2						
WPI	Test Method Q252								

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing level			Reduced testing level <sup>1</sup>		
		Description	Test required	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests
		Geometrics	Horizontal position and vertical level	Single layer produced during one day of production	20 m intervals – all edges and interfaces, and an additional minimum of 3 vertical level checks along layer cross-section	As per minimum test frequency	–	–	–
	Earth Fill Material – other than in Backfill, Subgrade, or verge (Clause 14.2.2)  Compacted Layer Method Soils with ≤ 20% by mass retained on 37.5 mm test sieve OR Cohesionless Sand	Compaction	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1	2000 m <sup>2</sup>	1 test per 500 m <sup>2</sup> (per layer)	4 tests per Lot	4000 m <sup>2</sup>	1 test per 1000 m <sup>2</sup>	4 tests per Lot
Moisture ratio		AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1							
Grading		AS 1289.3.6.1	1 test per 1000 m <sup>2</sup> (per layer)		2 tests per Lot				
PI		AS 1289.3.3.1 or AS 1289.3.3.2							
WPI		Test Method Q252							
		Geometrics	Horizontal position and vertical level	Single layer produced during one day of production	20 m intervals - all edges and interfaces, and an additional minimum of 3 vertical level checks along layer cross-section	As per minimum test frequency	–	–	–

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing level			Reduced testing level <sup>1</sup>		
		Description	Test required	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests
2.9	Verge (Clause 14.2.4)	Testing after completion of compaction onsite							
		Compaction	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1	1000 m <sup>2</sup>	1 test per 200 m <sup>2</sup>	4 tests per Lot	–	–	–
		Moisture ratio or HILF moisture variation	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1				–	–	–
		Geometrics	Horizontal position and vertical level	Single layer produced during one day of production	20 m intervals - all edges and interfaces	As per minimum test frequency	–	–	–
2.10	Subgrade treatments (Clauses 18 and 13)	Compaction - depth as per Clause 13.5 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification.	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1	single layer produced in a continuous operation in one day	1 test per 500 m <sup>2</sup>	4 per Lot	single layer produced in a continuous operation in one day	1 test per 1000 m <sup>2</sup>	1 per Lot

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing level			Reduced testing level <sup>1</sup>			
		Description	Test required	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests	
		Geometrics	Horizontal position	Not applicable	All edges and interfaces (at 20 m intervals)	–	–	–	–	
			Vertical level		All edges and interfaces (at 20 m intervals)	–	–	–	–	
			Deviation from a straight edge		1 test per 20 m (left and right)	–	–	–	–	
			Crossfall		1 test per 10 m	–	–	–	–	
		Proof rolling (Subgrade Level only)	Q723	Refer to Clause 18.3.2						
		Stabilisation of existing material	Refer to MRTS07A <i>In situ Stabilised Subgrades Using Quicklime or Hydrated Lime</i> or MRTS07B <i>In situ Stabilised Pavements Using Cement or Cementitious Blends</i>							
		2.11	Earth Fill Material - in Subgrade (Clause 18.2.1 and Appendix B)	Testing after completion of compaction onsite						
Compaction	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1	2000 m <sup>2</sup>		1 test per 500 m <sup>2</sup> (per layer)	4 tests per Lot	4000 m <sup>2</sup>	1 test per 1000 m <sup>2</sup> (per layer)	4 tests per Lot		
Moisture ratio or HILF moisture variation	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1									

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing level			Reduced testing level <sup>1</sup>		
		Description	Test required	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests
		Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	2000 m <sup>2</sup>	1 test per 1000 m <sup>2</sup> (per layer)	2 tests per Lot	4000 m <sup>2</sup>	1 test per 2000 m <sup>2</sup> (per layer)	2 tests per Lot
		PI	AS 1289.3.3.1 or AS 1289.3.3.2						
		WPI	Test Method Q252						
		Geometrics	Horizontal position and vertical level	Single layer produced during one day of production	All edges and interfaces at 20 m intervals and an additional minimum of 3 vertical level checks along layer cross-section	–	–	–	–
		Proof rolling (Subgrade Level only)	Test Method Q723	Refer to Clause 18.3.2					
2.12	High-permeability Drainage Layer (Clause 18.2.4)	Insitu CBR, determined from DCP (material below Drainage Layer)	Test Method Q114B	1000 m <sup>2</sup>	1 test per 200m <sup>2</sup>	5 per Lot	–	–	–

No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing level			Reduced testing level <sup>1</sup>		
		Description	Test required	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests
2.13	Existing Subgrade Material (Clause 18.4)	Grading	AS 1289.3.6.1	Refer Clause B.3 in Appendix B	–	5 test locations per Lot 1 test for each different material at each test location	–	–	–
		Plasticity Index	AS 1289.3.3.1 or AS 1289.3.3.2						
		Liquid limit	AS 1289.3.1.1						
		Soaked CBR and swell	AS 1289.6.1.1						
		Insitu CBR, determined from DCP	Test Method Q114B						
		Slaking and dispersion	Q168						
		Insitu moisture content	AS 1289.2.1.1, AS 1289.2.1.2, AS 1289.2.1.4, AS 1289.2.1.5, AS 1289.2.1.6, AS 1289.5.8.1	Refer Clause B.3 in Appendix B	–	5 test locations per Lot 1 test for each different material at each test location	–	–	–
2.14	Backfill materials (including bedding) (Clause 19)	Testing after completion of compaction onsite							
		Compaction	AS 1289.5.4.1, AS 1289.5.7.1 or AS 1289.5.6.1	each culvert or structure	1 test per 100 m <sup>3</sup> with 1 test in each Bedding/Haunch	2 per Lot	each culvert or structure	1 test per 200 m <sup>3</sup> with 1 test in each Bedding/Haunch	2 per Lot



No.	Activity	Verification requirements		Normal testing level			Reduced testing level <sup>1</sup>		
		Description	Test required	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests	Maximum Lot size <sup>2</sup>	Minimum testing frequency <sup>2</sup>	Minimum no. of tests
		Moisture ratio or HILF moisture variation	AS 1289.5.4.1 or AS 1289.5.7.1		Zone, Side Zone and Overlay Zone			Zone, Side Zone and Overlay Zone	
2.15	Cut Surfaces (Clause 8.4.5.1)	Slaking and dispersion	Q168	each cut batter	1 test per 100m <sup>2</sup>	2 tests per Lot	–	–	–
2.16	Ameliorant Spreading (Clause 10.2.5)	Spread rate	Q719	One day's production	1 test during the first spreader run of the day	1 test/day. spreader	One day's production	1 test during the first spreader run of the day	1 test/day. spreader
2.17	Finishing batters (Clause 16.1)	Depth of ripping, cultivation and roughening	Depth of preparation treatment	each cut batter	1 test per 100m <sup>2</sup>	2 tests per Lot	each cut batter	1 test per 100m <sup>2</sup>	1 test per Lot

## Notes:

1. The term layer used throughout this table refers to a compacted layer.
2. For Maximum Lot Sizes and Minimum Testing Frequencies expressed in units of m<sup>2</sup>, this shall be taken as the requirement for a single constructed layer.
3. A Proof Roll test in accordance with Q723 shall include multiple passes of the test vehicle, such that the total area of the Lot has been assessed for compliance to the satisfaction of the Administrator.
4. Material testing frequencies assume that the materials are homogeneous. For any change in materials, further testing is required.

Test method references not previously cited in this Technical Specification:

- Q168 *Emerson class of a soil (modified)*, and
- Q719 *Field spread rate of solid stabilising agents*.

## Appendix B – Existing Subgrade testing and design verification

### B.1 Introduction

This Appendix sets out the minimum requirements to verify that Subgrade materials are of equal or better quality than that adopted in the pavement design. These requirements apply to existing insitu Subgrade materials only. These requirements do not apply to material that the Contractor imports or is won from other areas of the Site and used to construct Subgrade – these materials are considered as Subgrade fill.

The properties of Subgrade Fill Material are controlled through the requirements of Clause 18 of this Technical Specification.

The intent of this Appendix is to provide a means by which the Contractor can demonstrate, and the Administrator can verify, that materials that support the pavement are of equal or better quality than adopted in the pavement design. It is particularly relevant when limited Subgrade investigation and testing has been undertaken during the design stages of the project.

Due to the wide range of possible scenarios in relation to prior assessments of the relevant materials (such as local experience, source testing, geological data, previous project data, and test results from earlier project stages), which must be considered in conjunction with project alignment and project risk, it is not possible to provide standard requirements that will fit every project; therefore, it may be necessary for the Administrator to vary the requirements to suit the specific project.

The Administrator may consider a reduction, or removal of some, or all, of the requirements of this Appendix where the Administrator deems the requirements unnecessary to meet the intent detailed above; for example, it might be possible to reduce the testing requirements when a detailed Subgrade assessment was undertaken during the design stages of the project.

Generally, the pavement design engineer for the project should detail additional and/or alternative testing requirements for consideration by the Administrator.

### B.2 Existing Subgrade design verification construction procedure

For Contracts where the Contractor is responsible for completing the pavement design (such as Design and Construct, Alliance and other similar Contracts), the Contractor shall submit an existing Subgrade design verification construction procedure to the Administrator at least 7 days prior to commencing the existing Subgrade investigations and material sampling. **Hold Point 15**

The Subgrade design verification construction procedure shall detail:

- a) proposed existing Subgrade Lot locations and extents, in accordance with Clause B.3 of this Technical Specification.
- b) the methodology proposed to excavate test pits in accordance with Clause B.4.1 of this Technical Specification, and
- c) any proposal by the Contractor to depart from the requirements of this Technical Specification.

The Administrator shall release the **Hold Point** if the Administrator deems that the Subgrade design verification construction procedure meets the intent of this Technical Specification.

In assessing an alternative proposal, the Administrator should consider prior assessments of the relevant materials (such as local experience, source testing, geological data, previous project data, and test results from earlier project stages), in conjunction with project alignment and project risk. In this case, this Appendix should be used as a framework for guidance.

### **B.3 Existing Subgrade Lots**

The existing Subgrade Lot sizes shall be determined based on uniform sections including:

- a) topographical features including hills, valleys and the like
- b) pavement location, both horizontally and vertically (cut, side cut, fill)
- c) geological profile
- d) influence and/or presence of water
- e) material properties such as particle size distribution, plastic limit, liquid limit, insitu moisture content, PI and WPI, and
- f) consistency of soil type.
- g) In addition to the above, the maximum Lot size for testing of material shall be:
  - i. for normal carriageway, no longer than 1000 m in carriageway length
  - ii. each roundabout, and
  - iii. each intersection.

### **B.4 Existing Subgrade Sampling requirements**

#### **B.4.1 General**

All sampling of existing Subgrade shall be undertaken by the Contractor, in the presence of the Administrator, unless directed otherwise by the Administrator. **Witness Point 10**

Sampling locations within a Lot shall be determined in accordance with Test Method AS 1289.1.4.2.

Existing Subgrade Material shall be sampled from its natural insitu location in accordance with AS 1289.1.2.1.

Unless otherwise directed by the Administrator, this Clause applies to all Existing Subgrade Material to the minimum depth below Subgrade Level as defined in Clause 9.1 of Annexure MRTS04.1 to this Technical Specification (or Clause 18.4 where no value is otherwise nominated).

Each different material encountered within the Subgrade shall be sampled and tested in accordance with this Technical Specification.

The Contractor shall obtain sufficient samples of all required materials to satisfy the testing and assessment requirements of this Technical Specification.

Existing Subgrade Material that breaks down under environmental and service conditions due to weathering (such as shales, claystones, siltstones and other soft laminated or jointed rocks), shall be pre-conditioned by artificial weathering in accordance with Test Method Q101E where required as per Clause 5.4.2.2.

Sampling of rock in cuttings is not required where the following conditions are satisfied:

1. the material is defined as 'non-rippable' in accordance with Clause 3.3.2 of Specification (Measurement) MRS04 *General Earthworks*
2. the rock will not break down, degrade or fracture during construction, and
3. the Contractor has requested an exemption from testing, providing all relevant supporting information to the Administrator, and the exemption has been granted by the Administrator.

#### **B.4.2 Sampling process**

Existing Subgrade Material shall be sampled from open test pits which are of an adequate size to allow sufficient material to be collected from each layer without mixing or contamination and allow any variation in material within the Subgrade to be logged accurately.

Logging of the test pit shall record:

- details of the pit location including surveyed coordinates, chainage, offset and so on
- the depth of the top and bottom of each layer, measured below Subgrade Level
- photographs of the excavated face
- an accurate description / classification of the material encountered in each layer
- information to identify the samples taken from each layer, and
- any other relevant comments.

Augering shall not be used to sample Existing Subgrade Material unless agreed by the Administrator.

Where the existing Subgrade includes pavement materials constructed as part of previous Works, or the Contractor must excavate through existing pavement to reach Subgrade material, the Contractors methodology must allow for breaking through any strong layers and sampling the underlying material to the full depth of Subgrade, unless otherwise agreed by the Administrator.

#### **B.5 Existing Subgrade testing requirements**

All testing shall be undertaken by the Contractor, in the presence of the Administrator, unless directed otherwise by the Administrator. **Witness Point 11**

The minimum testing requirements for each Lot are defined in Appendix A of this Technical Specification.

##### **B5.1 General**

Each Existing Subgrade Material sample shall be tested for:

- a) laboratory CBR
- b) swell
- c) particle size distribution
- d) maximum aggregate size of Fill Material
- e) liquid limit
- f) plastic limit
- g) PI

- h) WPI, which is the PI multiplied by the percent passing the 0.425 mm test sieve
- i) Emerson Class Number, and
- j) insitu moisture content.

Existing Subgrade Material shall also be tested for insitu CBR, determined using the DCP.

Where laboratory pre-conditioning is undertaken, the plastic limit, liquid limit, PI, WPI, CBR and swell shall be determined on the samples after pre-conditioning, and the particle size distribution shall be determined both before and after pre-conditioning.

Where stabilisation of the Subgrade is proposed, refer to Clause 18.2.5 for testing necessary to undertake the mix design.

## **B5.2 CBR test conditions**

The laboratory CBR and swell test conditions used for testing Existing Subgrade Material shall be as specified in Clause 4.2.

## **B.6 Reporting and pavement design requirements**

### **B.6.1 General**

The Contractor shall provide all the information to the Administrator as detailed in Clause B.6.2 or B.6.3 as relevant. **Hold Point 16**

### **B.6.2 Construct Only Contracts**

For Contracts where the Principal has supplied the pavement design (that is, Construct Only or similar Contracts), the Contractor shall submit the following information to the Administrator for each existing Subgrade Lot:

- a) test pit logs
- b) all test results for each layer encountered within the test pit, including certified test certificates, and
- c) marked-up drawings accurately showing all test locations within the Lot.

The Contractor shall allow a minimum period of 14 days for the Administrator to review the information prior to any Subgrade treatment and the placement of any overlying materials.

### **B.6.3 Contracts which include pavement design**

For Contracts where the Contractor is responsible for completing the pavement design (such as Design and Construct, Alliance and other similar Contracts), the Contractor shall submit the following information to the Administrator for each existing Subgrade Lot:

- a) test pit logs
- b) all test results for each layer encountered within the test pit, including certified test certificates
- c) marked-up drawings accurately showing all test locations within the Lot
- d) a written engineering report detailing the Contractor's interpretation of the test results for each Lot, including the determination of a Lot CBR and Lot expansive nature classification – the report shall fully detail all assumptions and calculations

- e) a table which compares the test results with the design values, and which highlights any situations where the quality of the existing Subgrade is less than adopted in the pavement design (such as if the Lot CBR is less than the design CBR, or the Lot expansive nature classification is greater than that adopted in the design)
- f) a proposal to revise the pavement design where the quality of the existing Subgrade is less than that adopted in the pavement design, and
- g) revised design documentation (where relevant).

The Contractor shall allow a minimum period of 7 days for the Administrator to review the information prior to any Subgrade treatment and the placement of any overlying materials.

The Contractor's interpretation of test results shall be in accordance with Clause B.7 of this Technical Specification, unless otherwise approved by the Administrator.

Where the redesigned pavement and Subgrade treatments require a significant change in the Subgrade Level, in relation to the testing already completed, additional Sampling and testing shall be carried out to assess the full depth of the Subgrade.

#### **B.7 Determination of Lot CBR, swell and expansive nature classification**

For each existing Subgrade Lot, the Lot CBR, Lot swell and Lot expansive nature classification shall be determined in accordance with this Clause.

The percentile value for a set of test results shall be determined by plotting the cumulative frequency distribution and interpolating from the curve the relevant percentile value.

In accordance with the commentary in Clause B.1, the Contractor may propose to vary the requirements for determining the CBR, swell and expansive nature classification in arid climates in low-risk applications

For each existing Subgrade Lot, the lower 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of the laboratory CBR test results and, where relevant, the lower 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of the DCP test results shall be determined. The Lot CBR is the minimum of these two values.

For each Lot, the Lot swell is the upper 10<sup>th</sup> percentile of the swell test results.

The Lot swell and other material test results shall be used to determine the Lot expansive nature classification in accordance with this Technical Specification and the *Pavement Design Supplement*.

