

**SECTION 301**

**SUBGRADE PREPARATION**

**301.1 DESCRIPTION:**

This section shall govern the preparation of natural, or excavated areas prior to the placement of sub-base material, pavement, curbs and gutters, driveways, sidewalks or other structures. It shall include stripping and disposal of all unsuitable material including existing pavement and obstructions such as stumps, roots, rocks, etc., from the area to be paved.

**301.2 PREPARATION OF SUBGRADE:**

With the exception of areas where compacted fills have been constructed as specified in Section 211, in the areas where new construction is required, the moisture content shall be brought to that required for compaction by the addition of water, by the addition and blending of dry, suitable material or by the drying of existing material. The material shall then be compacted to the specified relative density. If pumping subgrade should become evident at any time prior to paving, the Engineer may require proof rolling with a pneumatic-tire roller or other approved equipment in order to identify the limits of the unacceptable area. The proof rolling will be performed at no additional cost to the Contracting Agency.

Subgrade preparation shall also include preparing the subgrade to the required line and grade for paved or unpaved shoulders, tapers, turnouts, and driveways, and at all other project locations where aggregate base and/or select material courses are used in accordance with the Project Plans.

**301.2.1** The Contractor may use removed existing asphalt concrete and other existing bituminous roadway surfacing materials originating on the project site, as embankment fill. All materials used shall be thoroughly crushed to sizes not exceeding four inches, or as approved by the Engineer. These asphalt/bituminous materials shall be placed not less than two feet below finished subgrade elevation.

Project earthwork quantities when included as separate contract pay items will include removed asphalt/bituminous material volumes, unless otherwise specified in the Special Provisions.

All unsuitable material and all excess material shall be disposed of in accordance with the requirements of Sections 205.2 and 205.6, respectively. When additional material is required for fill, it shall conform to Section 210.

**301.3 RELATIVE COMPACTION:**

The subgrade shall be scarified and loosened to a depth of 6 inches. Rock 6-inches or greater in size that becomes exposed due to scarification shall be removed from the scarified subgrade. When fill material is required, a layer of approximately 3 inches may be spread and compacted with the subgrade material to provide a better bond. The subgrade cut and fill areas shall be constructed to achieve a uniform soil structure having the following minimum compaction, measured as a percentage of maximum dry density when tested in accordance with AASHTO T-99, Method A, and T-191 or ASTM D-2922 and D-3017 with the percent of density adjusted in accordance with the rock correction procedures for maximum density determination, Standard Detail 190, to compensate for the rock content larger than that which will pass a No. 4 sieve. Unless otherwise noted in the project plans or project specifications, compaction shall be performed within 2 percentage points of the optimum moisture content.

- |   |            |
|---|------------|
| (A) Below pavement, curb & gutter, attached sidewalk, roadway shoulders, and other areas within right-of-way subject to vehicular traffic | 95 percent |
| (B) Below detached sidewalk not subject to vehicular traffic  | 85 percent |

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**301.4 SUBGRADE TOLERANCES:**

Subgrade upon which pavement, sidewalk, curb and gutter, driveways, or other structures are to be directly placed shall not vary more than 1/4 inch from the specified grade and cross-section. Subgrade upon which sub-base or base material is to be placed shall not vary more than 3/4 inch from the specified grade and cross-section. Variations within the above specified tolerances shall be compensating so that the average grade and cross-section specified are met.

**301.5 GRADING OF AREAS NOT TO BE PAVED:**

Areas where grade only is called for on the plan shall be graded to meet the tolerances for the subgrade where subbase or base material is to be placed. The surface shall be constructed to a straight grade from the finished pavement elevations shown on the plans to the elevation of the existing ground at the extremities of the area to be graded.

## SECTION 601

**601.2.3 Trench Grade:** Alignment and elevation stakes shall be furnished the Contractor at set intervals and agreed upon offsets. On water main projects, elevation stakes will be furnished only when deemed necessary by the Engineer. In all cases where elevation stakes are furnished, the Engineer will also furnish the Contractor with cut sheets.

For all pipe 12 inches or greater in diameter, the Contractor shall excavate for and provide an initial granular bedding at least 4 inches thick or 1/12 the O.D. of the pipe whichever is greater. This bedding material shall be placed at a uniform density with minimum compaction and fine graded as specified below.

Bell or coupling holes shall be dug after the trench bottom has been graded. Such holes shall be of sufficient width to provide ample room for caulking, banding, or bolting. Holes shall be excavated only as necessary to permit accurate work in the making of the joints and to insure that the pipe will rest upon the prepared bottom of the trench, and not be supported by any portion of the joint.

Depressions for joints, other than bell-and-spigot, shall be made in accordance with the recommendations of the joint manufacturer for the particular joint used.

**601.2.4 Fine Grading:** Unless otherwise specified in the plans and/or special provisions, the bottom of the trench shall be accurately graded to provide uniform bearing and support for each section of the pipe at every point along its entire length, except for portions of the pipe where it is necessary to excavate for bells and for proper sealing of the pipe joints.

**601.2.5 Overexcavation:** Except at locations where excavation of rock from the bottom of the trench is required, care shall be taken not to excavate below the depth indicated.

Unauthorized excavation below the specified grade line shall be refilled at the Contractor's expense with ABC material compacted to a uniform density of not less than 95 percent of the maximum density as determined by AASHTO T-99 and T-191 or ASTM D-2922 and D-3017. When AASHTO T-99, method A or B, and T-191 are used for density determination, ~~MAG Detail 199~~ will be used for rock correction.

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Whenever rock is encountered in the trench bottom, it shall be overexcavated to a minimum depth of six inches below the O.D. of the pipe. This overexcavation shall be filled with granular material placed with the minimum possible compaction.

Whenever unsuitable soil incapable of supporting the pipe is encountered, the Contractor will notify the Engineer and a field determination will be made as to the depth of overexcavation and the granular fill required.

**601.2.6 Excavation for Manholes, Valves, Inlets, Catch Basins and Other Accessories:** The Contractor may excavate to place the concrete structure directly against the excavated surface, provided that the faces of the excavation are firm and unyielding and are at all points outside the structure lines shown on the plans. If the native material is such that it will not stand without sloughing or if precast structures are used, the Contractor shall overexcavate to place the structure and this overexcavation shall be backfilled with the same material required for the adjoining pipe line trench and compacted per Table 601-2.

Any unnecessary excavation below the elevation indicated for the foundation of any structure shall be replaced with the same class of concrete specified for the structure or with 1 ½ sack controlled low strength material as specified in Section 728. When the replacement material is structural concrete, the material shall be placed at the same time as the structure. However, when using 1 ½ sack controlled low strength material, placement of the material shall be per Section 604 which will require a time lag between the material and the structural concrete. The placement of the additional material shall be at no cost to the Agency.

**601.2.7 Pavement and Concrete Cutting and Removal:** Where trenches lie within the portland cement concrete section of streets, alleys, driveways, or sidewalks, etc., such concrete shall be sawcut to neat, vertical, true lines in such a manner that the adjoining surface will not be damaged. The minimum depth of cut shall be 1 ½ inches or 1/4 of the thickness, whichever is greater.

Asphalt pavement shall be clean-cut, with approved equipment and by approved methods in accordance with the requirements of Section 336.

No ripping or rooting will be permitted outside limits of cuts. Surfacing materials removed shall be hauled from the job site immediately, and will not be permitted in the backfill.

**SECTION 601**

**Trench Width**

18" to 24"  
25" to 36"  
Over 36"

**Backfill Lifts**

Not to exceed 4'  
Not to exceed 6'  
Not to exceed 8'

The above backfill lift limitations are not applicable when water saturation is done by the jetting method.

Where mechanical compaction is used, backfill shall be placed in lifts the height of which shall not exceed that which can be effectively compacted depending on the type of material, type of equipment and methods used, and under no circumstances shall exceed 4 feet.

Backfill, around utilities that are exposed during trench excavation, shall be placed in accordance with the bedding methods.

**601.4.4 Compaction Densities:** Unless otherwise provided in the plans and/or special provisions, the trench backfill shall be thoroughly compacted to not less than the densities in Table 601-2 when tested and determined by AASHTO T-99 and T-191 or ASTM D-2922 and D-3017. When AASHTO T-99, method A or B, and T-191 are used for density determination, MAG-Detail 499 will be used for rock correction. All compaction discussed within this section shall be performed within 2 percentage points of optimum moisture content unless otherwise noted in the project plans or project specifications.

The density required will depend on the Type shown on the plans and/or called for in the special provisions. Density required for each type shall comply to Table 601-2.

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| <b>TABLE 601-2</b>                         |  |   |  |  |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| <b>MINIMUM TRENCH COMPACTION DENSITIES</b> |  |   |  |  |
| <b>Backfill Type</b>                       | <b>Location</b>  | <b>From Surface To 2 feet Below Surface</b> | <b>From 2 feet Below Surface To 1 foot Above Top of Pipe</b> | <b>From 1 foot Above Top of Pipe to Bottom of Trench</b> |
| <b>I</b>                                   | Under any existing or proposed pavement, curb, gutter, sidewalk, or such construction included in the contract, or when any part of the trench excavation is within 2-feet of the above. | 100% for granular<br>95% for non-granular   | 90%  | 90%  |
| <b>II</b>                                  | On any utility easement street, road or alley right-of-way outside limits of (I).  | 85%   | 85%  | 90%  |
| <b>III</b>                                 | Around any structures or exposed utilities.  | 95%<br>in all cases                         |  |  |

Note: The type required will generally be shown on the plans and the plans will govern. Where no type is shown on the plans, the type shall comply with Table 601-2.

A consideration in determining the backfill Types as shown on the plans, is based on the trench widths as shown in the Contract Documents. If these trench widths increase beyond those widths referred to above and fall within the 2-foot limit of paved surfaces and other improvements due to construction exigencies, the backfill designation for that portion within the 2-foot limit of such improvements shall be Type I even though Type II backfill is shown on the plans.

**601.4.5 Compaction Methods:** Water consolidation by jetting shall be accomplished with a 1 ½ inches pipe of sufficient length to reach the bottom of the lift being settled with adequate hose attached and a water pressure of not less than 30 psi. All jetting shall be accomplished transversely across the trench at intervals of not more than 6 feet with the jetting locations on one side of the trench offset to the jetting locations on the other side of the trench. The entire lift shall be leveled and completely saturated working from the top to the bottom.