

DATE: July 13, 2011

TO: MAG Specification and Details Committee Members

FROM: Brian Gallimore, Materials Working Group/AGC

RE: Section 311 - Soil Cement Base Course

PURPOSE: Clarify and update the construction methods of cement treated subgrade

REVISIONS: a) Clarify title description of cement treated base course to subgrade  
b) Spreading of cement  
c) Update testing criteria for moisture and density  
d) Add thickness deficiency procedure  
e) Remove bituminous curing seal for environmental reasons

## SECTION 311

### PLACEMENT AND CONSTRUCTION OF CEMENT TREATED SUBGRADE SOIL CEMENT BASE COURSE

#### 311.1 DESCRIPTION:

This item shall consist of a cement treated subgrade sub grade base course composed of a mixture of local soil, portland cement, and water compacted at optimum moisture content.

#### 311.2 MATERIALS:

Portland cement and water shall comply with Sections 725 and 225. The soil for the mixture shall consist of the material in the area to be paved. The material shall not contain more than 5 percent gravel or stone retained on a 3 inches sieve. It shall be demonstrated by laboratory tests that the plasticity and strength hardening characteristics as defined in Section 311.4.5 of the soil will be adequately modified by the specified cement content.

#### 311.3 EQUIPMENT:

An ample number of machines, combination of machines and equipment shall be provided and used to produce the complete soil cement treated layer base course meeting the requirements for soil pulverization, cement distribution, water application, incorporation of materials, compaction, finishing, and for application of the curing material as provided in these specifications.

Mixing shall be accomplished by means of multiple-pass soil-cement mixer, single-pass soil-cement mixer or central plant mixer.

Water may be applied through the mixer or with the water trucks equipped with pressure sprays. Water trucks providing fine fog-type sprays shall be furnished for finishing and curing. Properly adjusted garden type nozzles on a pressure bar may be used to produce fog spray if approved by the Engineer.

Cement spreader shall be a specially constructed device to distribute bulk cement at the specified rate. The spreader shall have the ability to maintain a consistent spread rate over variable travel speeds. uniformly at rate specified either in windrows or on the flat as determined by method of mixing.

#### 311.4 CONSTRUCTION METHODS:

Prior to ~~Before undertaking~~ construction, the contractor shall remove all deleterious material, organic material, and particles retained on the 3 inch sieve from the area to be treated. of the soil. The soil of the cement base course, the area to be paved shall be brought to a compacted condition, true to line and grade as directed by the Engineer or as shown on the plans. During this process any unsuitable soil or material, including excess material retained on a 3 inches sieve, shall be removed and replaced with acceptable material. The compacted surface shall be at the proper elevation as specified, shown on the plans, or as directed by the Engineer, for the top of the soil cement base. At completion of this phase, the material and surface shall be approved by the Engineer before proceeding with the next step. The compacted soil and surface shall be approved by the Engineer prior to proceeding with mixing.

The material shall be scarified, pulverized, mixed with water and cement, compacted, ~~and~~ finished and cured in lengths permitting the full roadway width to be complete in not more than 4 hours from the time that cement is exposed to water. Such lengths will generally be not less than 600 feet or the length of one City block and preferably more. Where a gutter section exists the material shall be pulled back from the gutter face for the full depth of the course before processing.

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**311.4.1 Pulverizing:** ~~Before~~ Prior to application of cement, soil to be processed shall be scarified to depth of base. The material ~~should~~ shall be damp at time of scarifying to reduce the dust ~~generation to a minimum~~ and to aid in pulverization. ~~If the soil contains clods, it~~ Soil shall be pulverized until not less than 80 percent, exclusive of gravel or stone, will pass a No. 4 sieve.

**311.4.2 Application of Cement:** The quantity of cement shall be by weight as a percentage of the dry weight of the soil as determined by the laboratory and/or as directed by the Engineer and shall be applied uniformly on the soil in a manner satisfactory to the Engineer. The allowable deviation in uniformity shall not exceed 10 percent. The entire operation of spreading and mixing shall be conducted in such a manner as will result in a uniform soil cement and water mixture for the full design width and depth.

The percentage of moisture in the soil, at the time of cement application, shall not exceed the quantity that will permit a uniform and intimate mixture of the soil and cement during mixing operations, and it shall not exceed the specified optimum moisture content for the soil cement mixture.

**311.4.3 Mixing:** Mixing with addition of water as required shall be continued until the product is uniform in color and at optimum moisture content to +4% of optimum moisture content as determined in accordance with ASTM D-558. Any mixture of soil and cement which has not been compacted and finished shall not remain undisturbed for more than 30 minutes but shall be agitated by remixing.

**311.4.4 Optimum Moisture:** Optimum moisture requirements and field tests of moisture density shall be determined in accordance with ~~AASHTO T 134, T 191, T 217, or~~ ASTM D-558, ~~D 2922, D 3017 and D6938~~, on representative samples of soil cement mixture obtained from the area being processed. At ~~the~~ time of ~~compaction~~ laydown, the moisture content shall not be below optimum moisture, and shall be less than that quantity which will cause the base course to become unstable during the compaction and finishing process. Any area which becomes so unstable shall be removed and replaced with new cement stabilized material.

**311.4.5 Compressive Strength:** Laboratory compressive strength testing of the cemented treated subgrade is required to evaluate the proposed amount of cement and/or verify the compressive strength achieved during construction. Laboratory compressive strength testing shall be done in accordance with ARIZ 241a.

**311.4.65 Compaction:** After mixing is complete, the mixture shall be carefully placed in a uniform loose depth which will provide a surface true to grade and section when compacted. Unless otherwise directed by the Engineer, initial compaction shall be by means of a tamping, grid, or pneumatic roller. After the tamping roller has partially walked out, pneumatic rollers shall be used. Density of final product shall be not less than 95 percent as determined by ~~AASHTO or~~ ASTM standards as specified above.

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**311.4.76 Finishing:** As compaction nears completion, the surface of the base course shall be shaped to required lines, grades and cross-section. When required, the surface shall be lightly scarified with spike tooth harrows or other approved equipment to remove imprints left by equipment or to prevent slippage planes. During the finishing process the surface shall be kept moist by means of fog-type sprays. Surface finish and final compaction shall be completed in not more than 2 hours from ~~the time the cement is exposed to water~~time of laydown. The completed base course shall be true to line, grade, cross-section and shall not vary more than ½ inch in thickness and not more than 1 inch in surface tolerance when tested with a 10 foot straight edge. It shall be free of surface cleavage planes, cracks, or loose material. As a final operation, the surface shall be very lightly scalped with a motor grader, wet with a fog spray and rolled with a pneumatic roller as directed by the Engineer.

**311.4.87 Thickness Deficiency:** ~~When in the opinion of the Engineer there is reason to believe that a deficiency in thickness exists, cores will be taken in the same pattern as that defined in Section 321. If the base has been covered or it is otherwise impractical to correct the deficiency, the corrective measures, listed in Table 310-1 for Type I or II deficiencies, shall be taken by the Contractor at no additional cost to the Contracting Agency. The Engineer may choose to have cores obtained to evaluate the thickness of the treated cement stabilized subgrade layer. Should the thickness of the treated layer not meet the project specifications, the Engineer may require the contractor to submit an Engineering Analysis (EA) to address the pavement section. The EA will provide an opinion as to the anticipated performance of the pavement section as a result of the reduced cement treated layer thickness.~~

**311.4.98 Curing:** ~~After completion of the final finishing process, the soil cement shall be cured with a bituminous curing seal applied at the end of each construction day. This seal may be either an emulsion or cut back asphalt applied at a minimum rate of 0.20 gal./sq. yd. The finished soil cement shall be kept continuously moist until the bituminous cure seal is applied, using fog or gravity bar spray. The spray equipment shall be approved by the Engineer before construction is begun. The final~~Each layer of cement treated subgrade shall be maintained in a moist condition until the next layer of pavement structure is placed. If required, a fog seal for curing, in compliance with MAG Section 333, shall be furnished and applied to the surface of the final layer of the cement stabilized material as soon as possible after completion of final rolling and before the ambient temperature falls below 40° F. Curing seal shall be applied at a rate between 0.10 and 0.20 gallons per square yard of surface. The exact rate shall be determined by the Engineer.

~~After curing begins, all traffic, except necessary construction equipment shall be kept off the cement stabilized subgrade for a minimum of 7 days or until the final pavement structure layer(s) are placed. As an alternative, the contractor may place a loose lift of aggregate base course over the curing subgrade. The aggregate base course shall be kept moist during the curing process.~~

**311.4.109 Construction Joints:** At the end of each day's work, a construction joint shall be made transverse to the centerline of the road by cutting back into the work to provide a full depth vertical joint. Except where specifically authorized by the Engineer, no other construction joints will be permitted. Where authorized, such joints shall be full depth vertical joints.

**311.4.110 Maintenance:** The Contractor shall maintain the surface until it has been covered with the designated bituminous wearing course. In case it is necessary to replace any soil cement, it shall be for the full depth. No skin patches or soil cement will be permitted. Minor surface pits may be filled with compacted bituminous surfacing, if authorized by the Engineer. Immediately prior to the placing of the bituminous wearing course, the surface shall be broomed to removed all loosened material from the surface.

### 311.5 MEASUREMENT:

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Measurement of soil cement will be the number of square yards constructed to the required depth, completed and accepted.

Measurement of portland cement will be the number of tons of cement mixed with local soil.

### **311.6 PAYMENT:**

Payment will be made for the applicable items at the contract unit prices bid in the proposal, and shall constitute full payment for furnishing all material, equipment, tools, labor and incidentals necessary to complete the work and for carrying out the maintenance provisions.

No measurement or payment will be made for any imported earth materials.

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End of Section

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