

PLACEMENT OF CONTROLLED LOW STRENGTH MATERIAL

604.1 DESCRIPTION:

The work covered by this specification consists of furnishing all materials, labor and equipment for the placement of controlled low strength material (CLSM).

The type of backfill to be used shall be as specified in the special provisions, plans or by the Engineer.

The following is a brief description of the types of CLSM and their intended uses:

1/2 SACK: General trench backfill in areas where future excavation into the backfill with conventional hand tools is anticipated or in areas of low loading such as streets, parking areas, behind retaining walls, etc.

1 SACK: General trench backfill and backfill behind retaining walls where additional strength is required above that of 1/2 sack CLSM.

1-1/2 SACK: Structural backfill under foundations and as thermal fill and/or mechanical protection of duct banks and conduits.

604.2 MATERIALS:

CLSM shall conform to the requirements of Section 728. Ready-mixed concrete shall not be used in lieu of CLSM without prior approval from the Engineer and shall be subject to rejection.

604.3 PLACEMENT:

The controlled low strength material shall be placed directly into the excavation. The CLSM shall be placed in a uniform manner that will prevent voids in or segregation of the material. Foreign material which falls into the trench prior to and during placing of the CLSM shall be immediately removed. The CLSM shall have consistency, workability, plasticity, flow characteristics and pumpability (when required) such that the material when placed is self-compacting. Mechanical compaction or vibration may be used to consolidate around structures, pipes, multiple conduits, etc., otherwise no mechanical compaction or vibration shall be required. The total elapsed time between the initial addition of water to the CLSM and the completed placement shall not exceed 90 minutes.

When CLSM is used for backfill around pipes or conduits, the CLSM shall be placed equally on both sides of pipe or conduit to prevent lateral displacement. Also, the CLSM shall be placed in lifts. The height of each lift shall not exceed the depth that will cause floating of the pipe or conduit. When placing the CLSM in greater lift depths, sufficient anchorage shall be provided so the pipe or conduit will not float.

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Where CLSM is used for backfill around pipes or conduits with a depth less than 20 feet, the width of the excavation shown on the plans or in Section 601 may be reduced so that the minimum clear distance between the outside of the pipe or conduit and the side of the excavation (each side) shall be 12 inches for pipes or conduits 42 inches and larger, 6 inches for pipes or conduits between 4 inches and 42 inches and 3 inches for pipes or conduits 4 inches and smaller.

When CLSM is used behind retaining walls, the depth of each lift shall be limited so it will not induce hydraulic loads greater than the design loads.

For long trenches or installations which require a large amount of CLSM, bulkheads of wood, dirt, sand bags, etc. can be used to control the material's flowability. The bulkhead shall be removed prior to the continuation of the backfilling.

CLSM shall NOT be permitted to come in contact with any aluminum, copper or brass materials, e.g., aluminum pipes or culverts, copper water pipe, saddles, fittings, etc. Protection shall be any combination of the following: place a layer of noncorrosive material around the pipe e.g., native material, import material, etc. or provide a protective covering or wrapping such as polyethylene wrap per Section 610.5. Pipes smaller than 4 inches can be completely wrapped with tape as per Section 610.5 or approved equal.

Generally, CLSM does not resist freezing and thawing and in some cases may propagate the condition. CLSM mixes must be modified where long term freeze-thaw durability is indicated as a concern. The mix design shall have an air content of no less than six percent by volume, when tested in accordance with ASTM C-6023.

604.4 PERFORMANCE TESTING:

CLSM placed within the traveled way or otherwise to be covered by paving or embankment materials, shall not be covered until one of the following performance criteria have been met:

- A) When a person of average weight and shoe size can walk on the surface of the CLSM without creating greater than 1/8-inch indents in the material, or
- B) When the in-place CLSM has reached a strength of 30 psi, when tested in accordance with ASTM D-4832, or
- C) When a ball drop indentation of 3-inches or less is obtained, when tested in accordance with ASTM D-6024, or
- D) When a penetration resistance reading of 650 is achieved, when tested in accordance with ASTM C-403.

Additionally, CLSM shall not be covered if proof rolling by pneumatic-tired or steel wheel vibratory roller results in the bringing of free water to the surface or results in surface undulation (pumping).

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When CLSM is placed in foundation excavations, the material shall be protected from foundation loading and placement of foundation concrete prior to having reached initial set per ASTM C-403, or allowed to set in place for 24 hours, whichever occurs first.

604.5 ACCEPTANCE:

CLSM shall be considered deficient and may be rejected at the discretion of the Engineer if:

- A) The CLSM is outside of the limits specified in Table 728-1 and/or
- B) The aggregate gradation is outside the limits specified in Section 701.3.5.

Rejected material not placed shall be immediately removed from the job site. Rejected material placed shall be removed and replaced with acceptable material. Removing and disposing of the rejected material shall be at no additional cost to the Contracting Agency.

604.6 PAYMENT:

No pay item will be included in the proposal nor direct payment made for CLSM unless specifically included in the Project Specifications and Fee Proposal. The cost for placing the material shall be included in the unit price for the specific work function (laying pipe, placing structure foundation, construction retaining wall, etc.).

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CONTROLLED LOW STRENGTH MATERIAL

728.1 GENERAL:

Controlled Low Strength Material (CLSM) is a mixture of cementitious materials, aggregates, admixtures\additives, and water that, as the cementitious materials hydrate, forms a soil replacement. CLSM is a self-compacting, flowable, cementitious material primarily used as a backfill, structural fill, or a replacement for compacted fill or unsuitable native material. Placement and usage of each type of CLSM is described in Section 604,

728.2 MATERIALS:

Cementitious materials shall conform to Section 725.2.
Coarse and fine aggregates shall conform to Section 701.3.5
Water shall conform to Section 725.4.

728.3 PROPORTIONING OF MIXTURES AND PRODUCTION TOLERANCES:

Proportioning of the mixture shall comply with Section 725.6 and Table 728-1. The CLSM shall have consistency, workability, plasticity, and flow characteristics such that the material when placed is self-compacting. A minimum of 40% coarse aggregate shall be used. A mix design shall be submitted for the Engineer's approval prior to the excavation for which the material is intended for use. Sampling shall be in accordance with ASTM D-5971. The flow consistency shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D-6103. Unit weight (when applicable) shall be obtained by ASTM D-6023. Compressive strength shall be tested in accordance with ASTM D-4832.

TABLE 728-1	
CONTROLLED LOW STRENGTH MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS	
Portland Cement Content, Sack/cu yd	Flow, inches
1/2 Sack	9±2
1 Sack	9±2
1 1/2 Sack	9±2

Note for Table 728-1:

- 1) CLSM mixes meeting the table requirements will not generally be placeable by means of a concrete pump or may not provide the needed workability for certain conditions. When pumpable mixes or increased workability are required, the addition of fly ash or a natural pozzolan in excess of the required Portland Cement Content may be used.

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2) Ready-mixed concrete shall not be used in lieu of CLSM without prior approval from the Engineer and shall be subject to rejection.

728.4 MIXING:

CLSM mixing shall comply with Section 725.7. Mixing shall continue until the cementitious material and water are thoroughly dispersed throughout the material. Mixes shall be homogenous, readily placeable and uniformly workable.

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