

**Item No. 132S
Embankment**

132S.1 Description

This item shall govern the placement and compaction of suitable materials obtained from approved sources for utilization in the construction of street or channel embankments, berms, levees, dikes and structures. When not otherwise included in the Contract Documents or indicated on the Drawings, this item shall include the work described in Specification Item Nos. 101S, "Preparing Right of Way", 102S, "Clearing and Grubbing", 104S, "Removing Portland Cement Concrete", 201S, "Subgrade Preparation" and No. 236S, "Proof Rolling."

This specification is applicable for projects or work involving either inch-pound or SI units. Within the text inch-pound units are given preference followed by SI units shown within parentheses.

132S.2 Submittals

The submittal requirements of this specification item may include:

- A. A plan identifying source, material type, classification and characteristics (P.I., optimum moisture-density, etc.) of the proposed embankment material,
- B. Type and size of equipment proposed to produce the required compaction, and
- C. Compaction (Density-moisture, etc) test results for in-place embankment layers.

132S.3 Construction Methods

A. General

Prior to the placement of any embankment, all tree protection and tree wells and erosion control devices shall be in place and all operations involving Standard Specification Item No. 101S, "Preparing Right of Way" and/or Standard Specification Item No. 102S, "Clearing and Grubbing" shall have been completed for the areas over which the embankment is to be placed. Stump holes or other small excavations encountered within the limits of the embankments shall be backfilled with suitable material and thoroughly tamped by approved methods before commencement of the embankment construction.

The area of embankment placement shall be proof rolled (Specification Item No. 236S, "Proof Rolling") and any unstable or spongy areas shall be undercut and backfilled with suitable material or otherwise mechanically manipulated and compacted by approved methods. Where shown on the Drawings or required by the Engineer or designated representative, the ground surface thus prepared shall be compacted by sprinkling and rolling. The surface of the ground, including those plowed and loosened or roughened by small washes, shall be restored to approximately its original slope and the ground surface thus prepared shall be compacted by sprinkling and rolling.

Construction equipment shall not be operated within the drip line of trees, unless otherwise indicated. Construction materials shall not be stockpiled under the canopies of trees. Excavation or embankment materials shall not be placed within the drip line of trees until tree wells are constructed in accordance with Item No. 610S, "Preservation of Trees and Other Vegetation".

Unless otherwise indicated on the Drawings and with the exception of rock, the surface of the ground of all unpaved areas, which are to receive embankment, shall be loosened by scarifying or plowing to a depth of not less than 4 inches (100 mm). The loosened material shall be re-compacted with the new embankment as hereinafter specified.

The surface of hillsides, which are to receive embankment, shall be loosened, by scarifying or plowing, to a depth of not less than 4 inches (100 mm) and benches constructed before the embankment materials are placed. The embankment shall then be placed in layers, as hereinafter specified, beginning at the low side with partial width layers and increasing the widths of the layers as the embankment is raised. The material, which has been loosened during preparation of the original ground surface, shall be re-compacted simultaneously with the embankment material placed at the same elevation.

Where embankments are to be placed adjacent to or over existing roadbeds, the roadbed slopes shall be plowed or scarified to a depth of not less than 6 inches (150 mm) and the embankment along the roadbed slopes shall be built up in successive layers, as hereinafter specified, to the elevation of the old roadbed. Then, if specified, the top surface of the old roadbed shall be scarified to a minimum depth of 6 inches (150 mm) and re-compacted along with the next layer of the new embankment. The total depth of the scarified and added material shall not exceed the permissible layer depth, specified hereinafter.

Trees, stumps, roots, vegetation or other unsuitable materials shall not be placed in embankment.

All embankment shall be constructed in layers approximately parallel to the finished grade and unless otherwise indicated, each layer shall be so constructed as to provide a uniform slope of 1/4 inch per foot (20 mm per meter) from the centerline of the roadbed to the outside. In the case of superelevated curves, each layer shall be constructed to conform to the specified superelevation or cross slope.

The embankment shall be continuously maintained at its finished section and grade until that portion of the work is accepted. After completion of the embankment to the finished section and grade, the Contractor shall proof roll the subgrade or finished grade in accordance with Specification Item No. 236S, "Proof Rolling". Any unstable or spongy areas shall be undercut and backfilled with suitable material or otherwise mechanically manipulated and compacted by approved methods. After acceptance of the embankment, re-vegetation activities shall commence immediately to minimize the soil loss and air pollution.

B. Earth Embankments

Earth embankments shall be defined as embankments composed of soil material other than rock and shall be constructed of acceptable material from approved sources.

Unless directed otherwise, earth embankments shall be constructed in successive layers, with a thickness of 8 inches (200 mm) or less in loose measure, for the full width of the individual cross section and in a length that is best suited to the sprinkling and compaction methods utilized.

Minor quantities of rocks with a maximum dimension of 4 inches (100 mm) may be incorporated in the earth embankment layers, provided that the rock is not placed immediately adjacent to structures.

Each layer of embankment shall be uniform as to material type and classification, density and moisture content before beginning compaction. Where layers of unlike materials abut each other, each layer shall be feathered on a slope of 1:20 or the materials shall be so mixed as to prevent abrupt changes in the soil. Any material placed in the embankment by dumping in a pile or windrows shall not be incorporated in a layer in that position. All such piles or windrows shall be incorporated in an embankment layer by blading and mixing or by similar methods. Clods or lumps of material shall be broken down into smaller sizes and the embankment material in a layer shall be mixed by blading, harrowing, discing or similar methods to insure that a uniform material of uniform density is secured in each layer.

The water required in sprinkling the layers, to obtain the moisture content necessary for optimum compaction, shall be evenly applied. It shall be the responsibility of the Contractor to secure uniform moisture content throughout the layer by such methods as may be necessary.

All earth cuts, whether full width or partial width side hill cuts and which are not required to be excavated below the subgrade elevation, shall be scarified to a uniform depth of at least 6 inches (150 mm) below grade. The material shall be mixed and reshaped by blading, sprinkled and rolled in accordance with the requirements outlined above for earth embankments to the same density required for the adjacent embankment.

Compaction of embankments shall conform to Item No. 201S, "Subgrade Preparation". Each layer shall be compacted to the required density by any method, and/or type and size of equipment, which will produce the required compaction. Prior to and in conjunction with the rolling operation, each layer shall be brought to the moisture content necessary to obtain the required density and shall be kept leveled with suitable equipment to insure uniform compaction over the entire layer.

It is the intent of this specification to provide the required density and moisture control for each layer of earth embankment and select material based on the plasticity characteristics of the embankment soil. Each layer shall be sprinkled as required and compacted to the extent necessary to provide the density specified below, unless otherwise indicated.

Description	Density, Percent	Moisture
Non-swelling Soils (PI less than 20)	Not less than 95	
Swelling Soils (PI between 20 and 35)	Not less than 95 nor more than 102	Not less than optimum
Swelling Soils (P.I. greater than 35)	Not less than 95 nor more than 100	Not less than optimum

The Plasticity Index (PI) will be established in accordance with TxDOT Test Methods Tex-104-E, Tex-105-E and Tex-106-E and the density determination will be made in accordance with TxDOT Test Method Tex-114-E, "Laboratory Compaction Characteristics and Moisture-Density Relationship of Subgrade and Embankment Soil". Field density measurements will be made in accordance with TxDOT Test Method Tex-115-E, "Field Method for Determination of In-Place Density of Soils and Base Materials".

After each layer of earth embankment or select material is complete, tests, as necessary, will be conducted as directed by the Engineer or designated representative. If the material fails to meet the density specified, the course shall be reworked as necessary to obtain the specified compaction.

C. Rock Embankments

Rock embankments shall be defined as those composed principally of rock and shall be constructed of accepted material from approved sources. Rock embankments shall not be placed immediately adjacent to structures.

Except as otherwise indicated on the Drawings, rock embankments shall be constructed in successive layers of 18 inches (450 mm) or less in thickness for the full width of the cross section. When, in the opinion of the Engineer or designated representative, the rock sizes necessitate a greater thickness of layer than specified, the layer thickness may be increased as necessary, but in no case shall the thickness of layer exceed 2 1/2 feet (750 mm). Each layer shall be constructed by starting at one end and dumping the rock on top of the layer being constructed then pushing the material ahead with a bulldozer in such a manner that the larger rock will be placed on either the ground or the preceding embankment layer. Each layer shall be constructed in such a manner that the interstices between the larger stones are filled with small stones and spalls which have been created by this operation and from the placement of succeeding layers of material.

The maximum dimension of any rock used in embankment shall be less than the thickness of the embankment layer and in no case shall any rock over 2 feet (600 mm) in its greatest dimension be placed in the embankment, unless otherwise approved by the Engineer or designated representative. All oversized rocks, which are otherwise suitable for construction, shall be broken to the required dimension and utilized in embankment construction where indicated. When preferred by the Contractor and acceptable to the Engineer or designated representative, oversized rocks may be placed at other locations where the embankment layer is of greater depth, thus requiring less breakage.

Each layer shall be compacted to the required density as outlined for "Earth Embankments", above, except in those layers where rock will make density testing difficult, the Engineer or designated representative may accept the layer by visual inspection or proof rolling conforming to Specification Item No. 236S, "Proof Rolling)".

Unless otherwise indicated, the upper 3 feet (1 meter) of the embankment shall not contain stones larger than 4 inches (100 mm) in their greatest dimension and shall be composed of material so graded that the density and uniformity of the surface layer may be secured in accordance with TxDOT Test Method Tex-114-E.

Exposed oversize material shall be broken up or removed.

D. At Culverts and Bridges

Embankment materials, which are to be placed adjacent to culverts and bridges and cannot be compacted by the blading and rolling equipment that was used in compacting the adjoining sections of embankment, shall be compacted in the manner prescribed under Item No. 401, "Structural Excavation and Backfill".

Embankment constructed around 'spill through' type abutments shall be constructed in 6 inch (150 mm) loose layers of a uniform suitable material and shall be placed so as to maintain approximately the same elevation on each side of the abutment. All materials shall be mixed, wetted and compacted as specified above. Embankment material placed adjacent to any portion of a structure or above the top of any culvert or similar structure shall be free of any appreciable amount of gravel or stone particles and shall be thoroughly compacted by mechanical compaction equipment.

132S.4 Measurement

All accepted embankment, when included in the contract as a separate pay item, will be measured in place and the volume computed in cubic yards (cubic meters: 1 cubic meter is equal to 1.196 cubic yards) by the method of average end areas. No allowance shall be made for shrinkage.

132S.5 Payment

The work and materials presented herein will generally not be paid for directly, but shall be included in the unit price bid for the item of construction in which this item is used.

However, when specified in the contract bid form as a separate pay item, it shall be paid for at the contract unit bid price for "Embankment". The bid price shall include full compensation for all work herein specified, including the furnishing of all materials, (except "Borrow" when paid as a separate bid item) compaction, equipment, tools, labor, water for sprinkling, proof rolling and incidentals necessary to complete the work.

Payment, when included in the contract as a separate pay item, will be made under:

Pay Item No. 132S-A: Embankment Per Cubic Yard.

End

<i>SPECIFIC</i> CROSS REFERENCE MATERIALS
Specification 132S, "EMBANKMENT"

City of Austin Standard Specifications

Designation	Description
Item No. 101S	Preparing Right of Way
Item No. 102S	Clearing and Grubbing
Item No. 104S	Removing Portland Cement Concrete
Item No. 110S	Street Excavation
Item No. 111S	Excavation
Item No. 130S	Borrow
Item No. 201S	Subgrade Preparation
Item No. 236S	Proof Rolling
Item No. 401	Structural Excavation and Backfill
Item No. 610S	Preservation of Trees and Other Vegetation

Texas Department of Transportation: Manual of Testing Procedures

Designation	Description
Tex-103-E	Determination of Moisture Content of Soil Materials
Tex-104-E	Determination of Liquid Limit of Soils
Tex-105-E	Determination of Plastic Limit of Soils
Tex-106-E	Method of Calculating the Plasticity Index of Soils
Tex-107-E	Determination of Bar Linear Shrinkage of Soils

Tex-114-E Laboratory Compaction Characteristics and Moisture-

Density Relationship of Subgrade & Embankment Soil

Tex-115-E

Field Method for Determination of In-Place Density of Soils and Base

Materials

RELATED CROSS REFERENCE MATERIALS - ContinuedCity of Austin Standard Contract Documents

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
00700	General Conditions

City of Austin Standard Specifications

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Item No. 230S	Rolling (Flat Wheel)
Item No. 232S	Rolling (Pneumatic Tire)
Item No. 234S	Rolling (Tamping)
Item No. 602S	Sodding for Erosion Control
Item No. 604S	Seeding for Erosion Control
Item No. 622S	Diversion Dike
Item No. 628S	Sediment Containment Dikes
Item No. 642S	Silt Fence

City of Austin Standard Details

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
No. 610S-1	Tree Protection Fence Locations
No. 610S-2	Tree Protection Fence, Type B Chainlink
No. 610S-3	Tree Protection Fence, Type B Wood
No. 610S-4	Tree Protection Fence, Modified Type A
No. 610S-5	Tree Protection Fence, Modified Type B
No. 621S-1	Diversion
No. 622S-1	Diversion Dike
No. 624S-1	Earth Outlet Sediment Trap
No. 625S-1	Grade Stabilization Structure
No. 627S-1	Grass Lined Swale
No. 627S-2	Grass Lined Swale With Stone Center
No. 628S	Triangular Sediment Filter Dike
No. 628S-1	Hay Bale Dike
No. 629S-1	Brush Berm
No. 630S-1	Interceptor Dike
No. 631S-1	Interceptor Swale
No. 632S-1	Storm Inlet Sediment Trap
No. 633S-1	Landgrading
No. 634S-1	Level Spreader
No. 635S-1	Perimeter Dike
No. 636S-1	Perimeter Swale
No. 637S-1	Pipe Slope Drain (Flexible)
No. 637S-2	Pipe Slope Drain (Flexible)
No. 638S-1	Pipe Outlet Sediment Trap
No. 639S-1	Rock Berm
No. 641S-1	Stabilized Construction Entrance
No. 642S-1	Silt Fence
No. 643S-1	Stone Outlet Structure

No. 644S-1 Stone Outlet Sediment Trap

Texas Department of Transportation: Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Highways, Streets, and Bridges

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Item No. 100	Preparing Right of Way
Item No. 110	Excavation
Item No. 132	Embankment
Item No. 158	Specialized Excavation Work

<u>RELATED</u> CROSS REFERENCE MATERIALS - Continued
Specification 132S, "EMBANKMENT"

Texas Department of Transportation: Standard Specifications for Construction and Maintenance of Highways, Streets, and Bridges

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Item No. 160	Furnishing and Placing Topsoil
Item No. 164	Seeding for Erosion Control
Item No. 204	Sprinkling
Item No. 210	Rolling (Flat Wheel)
Item No. 211	Rolling (Tamping)
Item No. 213	Rolling (Pneumatic Tire)

Texas Department of Transportation: Manual of Testing Procedures

<u>Designation</u>	<u>Description</u>
Tex-103-E	Determination of Moisture Content of Soil Materials
Tex-107-E	Determination of Bar Linear Shrinkage of Soils