



ALABAMA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

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MATERIALS AND TESTS TECHNICAL ADVISORY 2-98

TO: All Division Materials Engineers

FROM: Larry Lockett *Larry Lockett*
Materials and Tests Engineer

RE: Geotextile Specification Changes

Sections 814 (Riprap Materials), 605 (Pavement Edge Drains), 608 (Separation Applications) and 610 (Riprap) of our specifications provide the requirements for geotextiles. The geotextiles used for these applications must meet the requirements of AASHTO M288. The newest publication of AASHTO Specifications (18th Edition) contains some changes to AASHTO M288.

In order to meet these new requirements, it is necessary for the Division Laboratory to determine the percentage of soil finer than the #200 sieve and the plasticity index for materials governed by 814, 605, and 610. The information garnered from these tests is used to determine the permittivity and apparent opening size requirements of the geotextile.

For Section 608 (Separation Applications), the Division Laboratory is still responsible for determining the percent passing the #200 sieve and providing the results to the Central Laboratory. For materials with less than 10% passing the #200, a large sample sack of material must accompany the geotextile when it is submitted to the Central Laboratory.

Geotextile testing requirements are summarized as follows:

SPECIFICATION	DIVISION TEST RESPONSIBILITIES	
Section 814	% Passing #200	Plasticity Index
Section 605	% Passing #200	Plasticity Index
Section 610	% Passing #200	Plasticity Index
Section 608	% Passing #200	

This information should be included on the sample card that is submitted to the Central Laboratory with the geotextile. This information is required to determine if the sample meets specifications, therefore, it is imperative that the Division Laboratory test results are determined before the geotextile is submitted to the Central Laboratory. The Central Laboratory cannot issue a test report until the Division Laboratory has submitted their test results.

Your cooperation in this matter is appreciated.

CB/cb

cc: Mr. William J. Hartzog
Mr. E. L. Strickland
FHWA (Attn: Mr. Joe Wilkerson)
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