


TO: SUPERSEDED BY EI 92-002 EFFECTIVE 5/7/92	ENGINEERING INSTRUCTION NEW YORK STATE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Distribution: 30 Main Office 32 Regions 34 Special	SUBJECT: STOCKPILED TOPSOIL SAMPLING Subject Code: 7.27-1-713
APPROVED:  DAVID H. FASSER, DIRECTOR, LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE BUREAU	Code: <u>EI 86-38</u> Date: <u>10/24/88</u> Supersedes:

This Engineering Instruction transmits the Department's "Sampling Procedure for Stockpiled Topsoil" and makes minor revisions to Section 713-01 Topsoil, of the Department's Standard Specifications.

The "Sampling Procedure for Stockpiled Topsoil" has been developed to assure a uniform sampling procedure throughout the Department that is in conformance with similar procedures for other granular materials. This sampling procedure should be made available to all persons involved with the sampling of stockpiled topsoil (including contractors).

The following addition is to be made to Section 713-01 Topsoil of the NYSDOT Standard Specifications:

Under STOCKPILING AND SAMPLING, add the following sentences to the third paragraph:

"The stockpile sampling procedure shall be as required in the Department's "Sampling Procedure for Stockpiled Topsoil". Contractors may obtain copies of the procedure from the Engineer in Charge. Contractors who feel that an error was made in sampling the stockpile shall, within one work day, indicate the alleged error in writing to the EIC."

This Engineering Instruction will be effective with the letting of February 23, 1989.

SAMPLING PROCEDURE FOR STOCKPILED TOPSOIL

This is the procedure to be used to sample stockpiled topsoil for all Department projects. Topsoil sampling is done under the general direction of the Regional Landscape Architect.

Samples will be collected by a Department representative (the sampler) designated by the Regional Landscape Architect or the Engineer-in-Charge (EIC). The sampler will collect topsoil samples in the presence of the EIC and the Contractor or their representatives.

Sampling from stockpiles involves the consideration of how much topsoil each sample represents. In the case of small stockpiles, each stockpile should be sampled. In the case of large stockpiles, involving thousands of cubic yards, at least one sample should be taken for each 1000 cubic yards. The total samples from a stockpile should fully represent all the materials of that stockpile.

Once the number of samples to be taken is determined, the following procedure is to be used for each sample. This procedure applies for each stockpile up to 1000 c.y., or for each 1000 c.y. in larger stockpiles. Section 106-02 SAMPLES, TESTS AND CITED SPECIFICATIONS, of the Standard Specifications permits the EIC to require the Contractor to furnish suitable excavation equipment, such as front-end loaders, etc., necessary to properly sample a stockpile.

1. The Contractor shall form a face for the full height of the stockpile at four locations to be specified by the Department's sampler. A front end loader shall then be filled by channelling the full height of the face, from the bottom to the top, in one operation and the bucket shall then be lowered and emptied by rotation to form a small pile at each location.
2. The sampler shall place a shovel full of soil from each of the four small piles into a large container.
3. Thoroughly mix the contents of the container.
4. Either by splitting or quartering, obtain enough material to fill the provided polyethylene bag/container with the soil from Step 3.
5. Send the sample with the SM449-5 form to the Soil Mechanics Bureau.

All samples shall be assigned a sample number and shipped for testing as soon as possible. The polyethylene bag shall be inserted inside the quart size cylindrical container. The samples shall then be placed into the bag to a point where the bag can be tied and the top be placed and sealed on the container for shipment. Plastic bags and containers will be furnished by the Regional

Soils Engineer or the Soil Mechanics Bureau. A copy of Form SM449-5 for each sample should be inserted in the container, but **NOT** in the plastic bag. The remaining copies and the container should be sent to the Soil Mechanics Bureau. Form SM449-1 should be completely filled out so that the laboratory will have complete information. Copies of the test results will be submitted by the Soil Mechanics Bureau to the Regional Landscape Architect.

Material shall not be added to the stockpile after sampling. If material is added after the stockpile has been sampled, or the stockpile is otherwise tampered with, the Department's representative will declare the stockpile unacceptable.

Contractors who feel that an error was made in sampling the stockpile shall, within one work day, indicate the alleged error in writing to the EIC, who will refer the letter to the Regional Landscape Architect. A copy of the letter will be sent to the Director of the Landscape Architecture Bureau for resolution.

Contact the Regional Landscape Architect for further guidance regarding topsoil sampling and this procedure.