
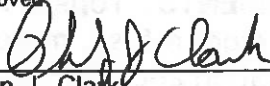


To: <p style="text-align: center;">SUPERSEDED</p> <p style="text-align: center;">BY EB 97-002 EFFECTIVE 1/3/97</p>		ENGINEERING INSTRUCTION <i>New York State Department of Transportation</i>	95-020 <hr/>
Title: REVISION TO SECTION 713-01 OF THE STANDARD SPECIFICATIONS (TOPSOIL)			
Distribution: xMain Office(30) xLocal Gov.(31) xRegions(32) xContractors/AGC(39) xConsultants(34) <input type="checkbox"/> _____ ()	Approved: <div style="text-align: center;">  <hr/> Philip J. Clark Director, Design Division </div> <div style="float: right; text-align: right;"> 5/5/95 <hr/> Date </div>		

This Engineering Instruction amends Section 713-01 Topsoil of the Standard Specifications. It will be effective for project lettings on or after July 27, 1995.

The purpose of this amendment is to specifically state that the use of manufactured topsoil on Department projects is allowed. The amendment does not propose to change what constitutes an acceptable topsoil and the current specification does not prohibit the use of manufactured topsoil. However, the current specification is not specific on this point. By making it clear that the use of manufactured topsoil is permitted we can better take advantage of the wide variety of recyclable organic materials that are becoming increasingly available.

There will be no additional costs associated with the implementation of this EI.

The contact person for this EI is Bob Speece in the Landscape Architecture Bureau at (518) 457-4460.

713-01 TOPSOIL

SCOPE. This specification covers the material requirements for topsoil for use in turf and wildflower establishment, sodding or planting.

MATERIAL REQUIREMENTS. Topsoil may be naturally occurring or may be manufactured. Topsoil shall be free from refuse, material toxic or otherwise deleterious to plant growth, subsoil woody vegetation and stumps, roots, brush, stones, clay lumps or similar objects. Manufactured topsoil shall consist of a mineral component and amendments to meet the specified organic content and other requirements. Sod and herbaceous growth such as grass and weeds need not be removed but shall be thoroughly broken up and mixed with the soil during handling or manufacturing operations.

Topsoil shall meet the following requirements unless otherwise specifically stated in the contract documents:

1. The pH of the material shall be between 5.5 and 7.6.
2. The organic content shall be not less than 2% or more than 20%.
3. Gradation:

Sieve Size	Percent Passing by Weight
50.0 mm	100
25.0 mm	85 to 100
6.3 mm	65 to 100
0.075 mm	20 to 80

The maximum size of objects other than stones shall be 50.0 mm.

4. The contractor may amend topsoil with approved materials and by approved methods to meet the above specifications. Materials used to amend the organic content of topsoil may be, or may include, approved recycled or composted materials that are either commercially or municipally produced. Amendments shall not contain any material that is deleterious to soil structure, plant growth or seed germination. If composted sewage sludge is used to amend topsoil, it must meet all applicable New York State Department of Environmental Conservation (DEC) requirements.

STOCKPILING. Topsoil may be acquired from sites that are designated in the contract documents or approved by the engineer. If no topsoil sites are designated in the contract documents, the material proposed for use as either naturally occurring topsoil or manufactured topsoil must be stockpiled, sampled and tested prior to its use. Topsoil

deficient in organic content may be used prior to amending and retesting only when used for turf and wildflower establishment or sodding.

Stockpiles shall contain not less than 150 cubic meters, or the minimum required for the contract, shall have a height of at least 1.2 meters, and shall be trimmed to uniform surfaces and slopes.

SAMPLING. Samples of naturally occurring topsoil, manufactured topsoil or amended soil mixture will be taken by a representative of the Department. Samples taken from topsoil that has been amended or manufactured with approved composted sewer sludge shall be identified as such. Topsoil containing foreign material may be rejected on the basis of a visual examination prior to testing. The topsoil sampling procedure shall be as required in the Department's "Sampling Procedures for Topsoil". Contractors who feel that an error was made in sampling the topsoil shall, within one work day, indicate the alleged error in writing to the Engineer in Charge.

TESTING. All material tests required by this section, except for the testing of composted sewer sludge, will be done by the Department in conformance with the procedures contained in the appropriate Departmental publications or test methods current on the date of advertisement for bids.

Composted sewer sludge used to amend or manufacture topsoil shall require a certificate, from a laboratory approved by the DEC, verifying compliance with all applicable law, rules and regulations. The certification shall be supplied by the contractor, at the Contractor's sole expense, and prior to the delivery of any composted sewer sludge, soil containing composted sewer sludge or other such regulated material to the contract site. The material shall be approved before it is used. A copy of the specifications shall be furnished to the laboratory by the Contractor.

The Contractor shall notify the Engineer of the intended source of the material at least three weeks in advance of the scheduled use of the material to allow time for sampling, shipping of the sample and testing.

BASIS OF ACCEPTANCE. Acceptance of topsoil will be based upon the test results unless otherwise specified. Tested topsoil must be approved in writing by the Engineer before any material is used, except that topsoil used for establishing turf and wildflowers or sodding may be placed at the Contractor's option, prior to amending it to correct deficiencies in its organic content. Acceptance of topsoil prior to correcting organic content deficiencies will be based on retest results of samples taken after the placed topsoil has been amended.