



Illinois Department of Transportation

Memorandum

To: Regional Engineers
From: Jack A. Elston 
Subject: Special Provision for Geotechnical Fabric for Pipe Underdrains and French Drains
Date: July 26, 2019

This special provision was developed by the Central Bureau of Materials to update the physical properties of geotechnical fabric for pipe underdrains and french drains in accordance with AASHTO specifications.

This special provision should be inserted into contracts requiring pipe underdrains, backslope drains, or french drains.

The districts should include the BDE Check Sheet marked with the applicable special provisions for the November 8, 2019 and subsequent lettings. The Project Coordination and Implementation Section will include a copy in the contract.

This special provision will be available on the transfer directory July 26, 2019.

80417m

GEOTECHNICAL FABRIC FOR PIPE UNDERDRAINS AND FRENCH DRAINS (BDE)

Effective: November 1, 2019

Revise Article 1080.01(a) of the Standard Specifications to read:

“(a) Fabric Materials. Fabric materials shall be as follows.

- (1) Knitted Fabric. Knitted fabric envelope shall be Type A according to ASTM D 6707 and be a continuous one piece knitted polymeric material that fits over the pipe underdrain like a sleeve. It shall be free from any chemical treatment or coating that might significantly reduce porosity and permittivity.
- (2) Woven or Nonwoven Fabric. The fabric shall be Class 3 according to AASHTO M 288 and consist of woven yarns or nonwoven filaments of polyolefins or polyesters. Woven slit film geotextiles (i.e. geotextiles made from yarns of a flat, tape like character) shall not be permitted. The yarns or filaments shall be dimensionally stable (i.e. maintain their relative position with respect to each other) and resistant to delamination. The yarns or filaments shall be free from any chemical treatment or coating that might significantly reduce porosity and permittivity.
- (3) Physical Properties. The physical properties for knitted, woven, and nonwoven fabrics shall be according to the following.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES			
	Knitted ^{1/}	Woven ^{2/}	Nonwoven ^{2/}
Grab Strength, lb (N) ASTM D 4632 ^{3/}	--	180 (800) min.	112 (500) min.
Elongation/Grab Strain, % ASTM D 4632 ^{3/}	--	49 max.	50 min.
Trapezoidal Tear Strength, lb (N) ASTM D 4533 ^{3/}	--	67 (300) min.	40 (180) min.
Puncture Strength, lb (N) ASTM D 6241 ^{3/}	180 (800) min.	370 (1650) min.	222 (990) min.
Apparent Opening Size, Sieve No. (mm) ASTM D 4751 ^{4/}	30 (0.60) max.	40 (0.425) max.	40 (0.425) max.
Permittivity, sec ⁻¹ ASTM D 4491	1.0 min.		
Ultraviolet Stability, % retained strength after 500 hours of exposure ASTM D 4355	--	50 min.	50 min.

1/ Manufacturer's certification to meet test requirements.

2/ NTPEP results or manufacturer's certification to meet test requirements.

3/ Values represent the minimum average roll value (MARV) in the weaker principle direction [machine direction (MD) or cross-machine direction (XD)].

4/ Values represent the maximum average roll value.”

Revise Article 1080.05 of the Standard Specifications to read:

“1080.05 Geotechnical Fabric for French Drains and Pipe Underdrains, Type 2. Geotechnical fabric for french drains and pipe underdrains, Type 2 shall be Class 3 according to AASHTO M 288 and consist of woven yarns or nonwoven filaments of polyolefins or polyesters. Woven slit film geotextiles (i.e. geotextiles made from yarns of a flat, tape-like character) shall not be permitted. The yarns or filaments shall be dimensionally stable (i.e. maintain their relative position with respect to each other) and resistant to delamination. The yarns or filaments shall be free from any chemical treatment or coating that might significantly reduce porosity and permittivity.

The fabric shall be according to the following.

PHYSICAL PROPERTIES ^{1/}		
	Woven	Nonwoven
Grab Strength, lb (N) ASTM D 4632 ^{2/}	180 (800) min.	112 (500) min.
Elongation/Grab Strain, % ASTM D 4632 ^{2/}	49 max.	50 min.
Trapezoidal Tear Strength, lb (N) ASTM D 4533 ^{2/}	67 (300) min.	40 (180) min.
Puncture Strength, lb (N) ASTM D 6241 ^{2/}	370 (1650) min.	222 (990) min.
Apparent Opening Size, Sieve No. (mm) ASTM D 4751 ^{3/}	60 (0.25) max.	
Permittivity, sec ⁻¹ ASTM D 4491	0.2 min.	
Ultraviolet Stability % retained strength after 500 hours of exposure - ASTM D 4355	50 min.	

1/ NTPEP results to meet test requirements. Manufacturer shall have public release status and current reports on laboratory results in Test Data of NTPEP’s DataMine.

2/ Values represent the minimum average roll value (MARV) in the weaker principle direction [machine direction (MD) or cross-machine direction (XD)].

3/ Values represent the maximum average roll value.”