

## SECTION 01 45 29

## TESTING LABORATORY SERVICES

## PART 1 - GENERAL

## 1.1 DESCRIPTION:

- A. This section specifies materials testing activities and inspection services required during project construction to be provided by a Testing Laboratory retained and paid for by Contractor.

## 1.2 APPLICABLE PUBLICATIONS:

- A. The publications listed below form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. The publications are referred to in the text by the basic designation only.
- B. American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO):
  - 1. T27-06 Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates
  - 2. T96-02 (R2006) Resistance to Degradation of Small-Size Coarse Aggregate by Abrasion and Impact in the Los Angeles Machine
  - 3. T99-01 (R2004) The Moisture-Density Relations of Soils Using a 2.5 Kg (5.5 lb.) Rammer and a 305 mm (12 in.) Drop
  - 4. T104-99 (R2003) Soundness of Aggregate by Use of Sodium Sulfate or Magnesium Sulfate
  - 5. T180-01 (R2004) Moisture-Density Relations of Soils using a 4.54 kg (10 lb.) Rammer and a 457 mm (18 in.) Drop
  - 6. T191-02(R2006) Density of Soil In-Place by the Sand-Cone Method
- C. American Concrete Institute (ACI):
  - 1. 506.4R-94 (R2004) Guide for the Evaluation of Shotcrete
- D. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM):
  - 1. A370-07 Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products
  - 2. C31/C31M-06 Making and Curing Concrete Test Specimens in the Field
  - 3. C138-07 Unit Weight, Yield, and Air Content (Gravimetric) of Concrete
  - 4. C172-07 Sampling Freshly Mixed Concrete
  - 5. C173-07 Air Content of freshly Mixed Concrete by the Volumetric Method
  - 6. C780-07 Pre-construction and Construction Evaluation of Mortars for Plain and Reinforced Unit Masonry
  - 7. C1019-08 Sampling and Testing Grout

8. C1064/C1064M-05 Freshly Mixed Portland Cement Concrete
9. C1077-06 Laboratories Testing Concrete and Concrete Aggregates for Use in Construction and Criteria for Laboratory Evaluation
10. C1314-07 Compressive Strength of Masonry Prisms
11. D698-07 Laboratory Compaction Characteristics of Soil Using Standard Effort
12. D1188-07 Bulk Specific Gravity and Density of Compacted Bituminous Mixtures Using Paraffin-Coated Specimens
13. D1556-07 Density and Unit Weight of Soil in Place by the Sand-Cone Method
14. D1557-07 Laboratory Compaction Characteristics of Soil Using Modified Effort
15. D2166-06 Unconfined Compressive Strength of Cohesive Soil
16. D2167-94(R2001) Density and Unit Weight of Soil in Place by the Rubber Balloon Method
17. D2216-05 Laboratory Determination of Water (Moisture) Content of Soil and Rock by Mass
18. D2922-05 Density of soil and Soil-Aggregate in Place by Nuclear Methods (Shallow Depth)
19. D2974-07 Moisture, Ash, and Organic Matter of Peat and Other Organic Soils
20. D3666-(2002) Minimum Requirements for Agencies Testing and Inspection Bituminous Paving Materials
21. D3740-07 Minimum Requirements for Agencies Engaged in the Testing and Inspecting Road and Paving Material
22. E329-07 Agencies Engaged in Construction Inspection and/or Testing
23. E543-06 Agencies Performing Non-Destructive Testing

### 1.3 REQUIREMENTS:

#### A. Accreditation Requirements:

1. Construction materials testing laboratories must be accredited by a laboratory accreditation authority and will be required to submit a copy of the Certificate of Accreditation and Scope of Accreditation. The laboratory's scope of accreditation must include the appropriate ASTM Standards (i.e. E 329, C 1077, D 3666, D 3740, A 880, E 543,) listed in the technical sections of the specifications.
2. Laboratories engaged in testing of concrete and concrete aggregates shall meet the requirements of ASTM C1077.
3. Laboratories engaged in testing of bituminous paving materials shall meet the requirements of ASTM D3666.
4. Laboratories engaged in testing of soil and rock, as used in engineering design and construction, shall meet the requirements of

ASTM D3740.

5. Laboratories engaged in inspection and testing of steel, stainless steel, and related alloys will be evaluated according to ASTM A880.
  6. Laboratories engaged in non-destructive testing (NDT) shall meet the requirements of ASTM E543.
  7. Laboratories engaged in Hazardous Materials Testing shall meet the requirements of OSHA and EPA.
- B. Inspection and Testing: Testing laboratory shall inspect materials and workmanship and perform tests described herein and additional tests requested by VA. When it appears materials furnished, or work performed by Contractor fails to meet construction contract requirements, Testing Laboratory shall direct attention of VA to such failure.
- C. Written Reports: Testing laboratory shall submit test reports to VA, Contractor, and Local Building Authority within 24 hours after each test is completed unless other arrangements are agreed to in writing by the VA. Submit reports of tests that fail to meet construction contract requirements on colored paper.
- D. Verbal Reports: Give verbal notification to VA immediately of any irregularity.

#### PART 2 - PRODUCTS (Not Used)

#### PART 3 - EXECUTION

##### 3.1 EARTHWORK:

- A. General: The Testing Laboratory shall provide qualified personnel, materials, equipment, and transportation as required to perform the services identified/required herein, within the agreed to schedule and/or time frame. The work to be performed shall be as identified herein and shall include but not be limited to the following:
1. Observe fill and subgrades during proof-rolling to evaluate suitability of surface material to receive fill or base course. Provide recommendations to the VA regarding suitability or unsuitability of areas where proof-rolling was observed. Where unsuitable results are observed, witness excavation of unsuitable material and recommend to VA extent of removal and replacement of unsuitable materials and observe proof-rolling of replaced areas until satisfactory results are obtained.
  2. Provide full time observation of fill placement and compaction and field density testing in building areas and provide part time observation of fill placement and compaction and field density testing in pavement areas to verify that earthwork compaction obtained is in accordance with contract documents.
  3. Provide supervised geotechnical technician to inspect excavation, subsurface preparation, and backfill for structural fill.

B. Testing Compaction:

1. Determine maximum density and optimum moisture content for each type of fill, backfill and subgrade material used, in compliance with ASTM D1557.
  2. Make field density tests in accordance with the primary testing method following ASTM D2922 wherever possible. Field density tests utilizing ASTM D1556 or ASTM D2167 shall be utilized on a case by case basis only if there are problems with the validity of the results from the primary method due to specific site field conditions. Should the testing laboratory propose these alternative methods, they should provide satisfactory explanation to the VA before the tests are conducted.
    - a. Building Slab Subgrade: At least one test of subgrade for every 185m<sup>2</sup> (2000 square feet) of building slab, but in no case fewer than three tests. In each compacted fill layer, perform one test for every 185 m<sup>2</sup> (2000 square feet) of overlaying building slab, but in no case fewer than three tests.
    - b. Foundation Wall Backfill: One test per 30 m (100 feet) of each layer of compacted fill but in no case fewer than two tests.
    - c. Pavement Subgrade: One test for each 335 m<sup>2</sup> (400 square yards), but in no case fewer than two tests.
    - d. Curb, Gutter, and Sidewalk: One test for each 90 m (300 feet), but in no case fewer than two tests.
    - e. Footing Subgrade: At least one test for each layer of soil on which footings will be placed. Subsequent verification and approval of each footing subgrade may be based on a visual comparison of each subgrade with related tested subgrade when acceptable to VA. In each compacted fill layer below wall footings, perform one field density test for every 30 m (100 feet) of wall. Verify subgrade is level, all loose or disturbed soils have been removed, and correlate actual soil conditions observed with those indicated by test borings.
  - C. Testing for Footing Bearing Capacity: Evaluate if suitable bearing capacity material is encountered in footing subgrade.
  - D. Testing Materials: Test suitability of on-site and off-site borrow as directed by VA.
- 3.2 LANDSCAPING:
- A. Test topsoil for organic materials, pH, phosphate, potash content, and gradation of particles.
    1. Test for organic material by using ASTM D2974.
    2. Determine percent of silt, sand, clay, and foreign materials such as rock, roots, and vegetation.
  - B. Submit laboratory test report of topsoil to VA.
- 3.3 SITE WORK CONCRETE:

- A. Test site work concrete including materials for concrete as required in Article CONCRETE of this section.

## 3.4 CONCRETE:

## A. Batch Plant Inspection and Materials Testing:

1. Perform continuous batch plant inspection until concrete quality is established to satisfaction of VA with concurrence of Contracting Officer and perform periodic inspections thereafter as determined by VA.
2. Periodically inspect and test batch proportioning equipment for accuracy and report deficiencies to VA.
3. Sample and test mix ingredients as necessary to insure compliance with specifications.
4. Sample and test aggregates daily and as necessary for moisture content. Test the dry rodded weight of the coarse aggregate whenever a sieve analysis is made, and when it appears there has been a change in the aggregate.
5. Certify, in duplicate, ingredients and proportions and amounts of ingredients in concrete conform to approved trial mixes. When concrete is batched or mixed off immediate building site, certify (by signing, initialing or stamping thereon) on delivery slips (duplicate) that ingredients in truck-load mixes conform to proportions of aggregate weight, cement factor, and water-cement ratio of approved trial mixes.

## B. Field Inspection and Materials Testing:

1. Provide a technician at site of placement at all times to perform concrete sampling and testing.
2. Review the delivery tickets of the ready-mix concrete trucks arriving on-site. Notify the Contractor if the concrete cannot be placed within the specified time limits or if the type of concrete delivered is incorrect. Reject any loads that do not comply with the Specification requirements. Rejected loads are to be removed from the site at the Contractor's expense. Any rejected concrete that is placed will be subject to removal.
3. Take concrete samples at point of placement in accordance with ASTM C172. Mold and cure compression test cylinders in accordance with ASTM C31. Make at least three cylinders for each 40 m<sup>3</sup> (50 cubic yards) or less of each concrete type, and at least three cylinders for any one day's pour for each concrete type. Label each cylinder with an identification number. VA may require additional cylinders to be molded and cured under job conditions.
4. Perform slump tests in accordance with ASTM C143. Test the first truck each day, and every time test cylinders are made. Test pumped concrete at the hopper and at the discharge end of the hose at the beginning of each day's pumping operations to determine change in slump.
5. Determine the air content of concrete per ASTM C173. For concrete required to be air-entrained, test the first truck and every 20 m<sup>3</sup> (25 cubic yards) thereafter each for concrete not required to be air-entrained, test every 80 m<sup>3</sup> (10<sup>0</sup> cubic yards) at random. For pumped concrete, initially test concrete at both the hopper and the discharge end of the hose to determine change in air content.

6. If slump or air content fall outside specified limits, make another test immediately from another portion of same batch.
7. Perform unit weight tests in compliance with ASTM C138 for normal weight concrete and ASTM C567 for lightweight concrete. Test the first truck and each time cylinders are made.
8. Notify laboratory technician at batch plant of mix irregularities and request materials and proportioning check.
9. Verify that specified mixing has been accomplished.
10. Environmental Conditions: Determine the temperature per ASTM C1064 for each truckload of concrete during hot weather and cold weather concreting operations:
  - a. When ambient air temperature falls below 4.4 degrees C (40 degrees F), record maximum and minimum air temperatures in each 24 hour period; record air temperature inside protective enclosure; record minimum temperature of surface of hardened concrete.
  - b. When ambient air temperature rises above 29.4 degrees C (85 degrees F), record maximum and minimum air temperature in each 24 hour period; record minimum relative humidity; record maximum wind velocity; record maximum temperature of surface of hardened concrete.
11. Inspect the reinforcing steel placement, including bar size, bar spacing, top and bottom concrete cover, proper tie into the chairs, and grade of steel prior to concrete placement. Submit detailed report of observations.
12. Observe conveying, placement, and consolidation of concrete for conformance to specifications.
13. Observe condition of formed surfaces upon removal of formwork prior to repair of surface defects and observe repair of surface defects.
14. Observe curing procedures for conformance with specifications, record dates of concrete placement, start of preliminary curing, start of final curing, end of curing period.
15. Observe preparations for placement of concrete:
  - a. Inspect handling, conveying, and placing equipment, inspect vibrating and compaction equipment.
  - b. Inspect preparation of construction, expansion, and isolation joints.
16. Observe preparations for protection from hot weather, cold weather, sun, and rain, and preparations for curing.
17. Observe concrete mixing:
  - a. Monitor and record amount of water added at project site.
  - b. Observe minimum and maximum mixing times.

C. Laboratory Tests of Field Samples:

1. Test compression test cylinders for strength in accordance with ASTM C39. For each test series, test one cylinder at 7 days and one cylinder at 28 days. Use remaining cylinder as a spare tested as directed by VA. Compile laboratory test reports as follows:  
Compressive strength test shall be result of one cylinder, except

when one cylinder shows evidence of improper sampling, molding or testing, in which case it shall be discarded and strength of spare cylinder shall be used.

2. Make weight tests of hardened lightweight structural concrete in accordance with ASTM C567.
3. Furnish certified compression test reports (duplicate) to VA. In test report, indicate the following information:
  - a. Cylinder identification number and date cast.
  - b. Specific location at which test samples were taken.
  - c. Type of concrete, slump, and percent air.
  - d. Compressive strength of concrete in MPa (psi).
  - e. Weight of lightweight structural concrete in kg/m<sup>3</sup> (Pounds per cubic feet).
  - f. Weather conditions during placing.
  - g. Temperature of concrete in each test cylinder when test cylinder was molded.
  - h. Maximum and minimum ambient temperature during placing.
  - i. Ambient temperature when concrete sample in test cylinder was taken.
  - j. Date delivered to laboratory and date tested.

### 3.5 REINFORCEMENT:

- A. Review mill test reports furnished by Contractor.
- B. Make one tensile and one bend test in accordance with ASTM A370 from each pair of samples obtained.
- C. Written report shall include, in addition to test results, heat number, manufacturer, type and grade of steel, and bar size.
- D. Perform tension tests of mechanical and welded splices in accordance with ASTM A370.

### 3.6 MASONRY:

#### A. Mortar Tests:

1. Laboratory compressive strength test:
  - a. Comply with ASTM C780.
  - b. Obtain samples during or immediately after discharge from batch mixer.
  - c. Furnish molds with 50 mm (2 inch), 3 compartment gang cube.
  - d. Test one sample at 7 days and 2 samples at 28 days.
2. Two tests during first week of operation; one test per week after initial test until masonry completion.

#### B. Masonry Unit Tests:

1. Laboratory Compressive Strength Test:

- a. Comply with ASTM C140.
- b. Test 3 samples for each 460 m<sup>2</sup> (5000 square feet) of wall area.
- C. Prism Tests: For each type of wall construction indicated, test masonry prisms per ASTM C1314 for each 460 m<sup>2</sup> (5000 square feet) of wall area. Prepare one set of prisms for testing at 7 days and one set for testing at 28 days.

## 3.7 TYPE OF TEST:

Approximate Number  
of Tests Required

## A. Earthwork:

## Laboratory Compaction:

AASHTO T99, ASTM Test, Soils D1557, ASTM D698	
Field Density, Soils, AASHTO T191, T205, or T238	4
Penetration Test, Soils	2

## B. Aggregate Base:

Laboratory Compaction, ASTM D1557	4
Field Density, ASTM D1556	4
Aggregate, Base Course	
Gradation (AASHTO T27)	1

## C. Concrete:

Making and Curing Concrete Test Cylinders (ASTM C31)	4
Compressive Strength, Test Cylinders (ASTM C39)	4
Concrete Slump Test (ASTM C143)	4
Concrete Air Content Test (ASTM C173)	4
Aggregate, Normal Weight:	
Gradation (ASTM C33)	3
Deleterious Substances (ASTM C33)	4
Soundness (ASTM C33)	4
Abrasion (ASTM C33)	4
Unit Weight (ASTM C330)	4
Flatness and Levelness Readings (ASTM E1155) (number of days)	4

## D. Reinforcing Steel:

Tensile Test (ASTM A370)	3
Bend Test (ASTM A370)	3

## E. Masonry:

Making and Curing Test Cubes (ASTM C109)	20
Compressive Strength, Test Cubes (ASTM C109)	20
Sampling and Testing Mortar, Comp. Strength (ASTM C780)	20
Sampling and Testing Grout, Comp. Strength (ASTM C1019)	20
Masonry Unit, Compressive Strength (ASTM C140)	20
Prism Tests (ASTM C1314)	20



F. Inspection:

Technical Personnel (Man Days)	10
--------------------------------	----

G. Technical Personnel: (Minimum 12 months)

1. Technicians to perform tests and inspection listed above. Laboratory will be equipped with concrete cylinder storage facilities, compression machine, cube molds, proctor molds, balances, scales, moisture ovens, slump cones, air meter, and all necessary equipment for compaction control.

- - - E N D - - -