## ENGINEERING FIELD MANUAL Supplement to Chapter 4

## FOUNDATION ANALYSIS FOR STRUCTURES USED IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS

## GENERAL

This supplement discusses the factors involved in determining soil bearing capacity and provides simplified methods for estimating soil bearing capacity.

The great increase in the installation of commercial structures for animal waste storage in recent years has increased our need to understand soil foundations and their capacity to support structures. This supplement provides an understanding of bearing capacity and the factors involved in its determination. Simplified computational methods for soil bearing capacity and settlement and an example of their use are included.

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Definitions

Parentheses ( ) will be used to group terms.

A dot "." will be used to indicate multiplication.

B Footing width. The maximum footing pressure that can Bearing capacity be permitted on a soil, giving consideration to all pertinent factors. C Total unit cohesion, psf. c,bar c Effective unit cohesion, psf (sometimes written c'). CC Compression index. Cr Recompression index. Consolidation Reduction in the volume of a soil due to increased loading. Void ratio, volume of voids divided by e the volume of solids. Footing shape factor for the shallow g bearing capacity equation. Gs Specific gravity of the soil grains. Y, gamma Unit weight of soil, pcf. k Footing shape factor for the shallow bearing capacity equation. N Blow count. The number of blows with a 140 lb hammer dropped 30 in required to drive a standard sampler 1 ft. NC, Ng, NY Bearing capacity factors from figure 4-35. po The before construction soil load at the center of a strata or increment. The increase in load on a soil at the **A**P center of a strata or increment.

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$\phi$ ,phi	Total angle of internal friction of a soil.
$\overline{\phi}, \texttt{bar phi}$	Effective angle of internal friction of soil (Sometimes written $\phi$ ').
đ	The overburden pressure at the base of a footing.
qa	Allowable bearing capacity, usually qult/3.
qult	Ultimate bearing capacity. (Computed bearing capacity with no factor of safety).
R/C	Reinforced concrete.
Settlement, S	Downward movement of a <u>structure</u> due to soil consolidation.
Settlement, allow	able- The maximum settlement or maximum differential settlement that will not cause structure malfunction.
Settlement, diffe	rential- The difference between the settle- ment at two points on a struc- ture.
Settlement, total	- The sum of the immediate and long term settlements at a given point on a structure foundation.
Settlement, unifo	rm- The same total settlement at all points on a structure foundation.
-	A footing whose depth below the ground surface is less than or equal to its width.
	Water table elevation correction factors for use in the shallow bearing capacity equation.

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Soil Bearing Capacity and Settlement

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When designing animal waste storage and other conservation structures, a foundation's bearing capacity must be determined. Standard structure drawings will often call for a minimum soil bearing capacity, such as, 2,000 pounds per square foot. However, referring to a soil bearing capacity is a gross oversimplification. Structures must be designed so the loadings will not cause the soil beneath the footing to fail by shear, and settlements will not distress the structure. Foundation design is more often controlled by settlement than by soil shear strength.

Bearing capacity is determined by three soil factors;

Shear strength Compressibility Water table elevation

And three structure characteristics;

Foundation size and shape

Foundation depth

The structures' ability to settle without distress

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#### Bearing Capacity Equation

Bearing capacity equations have been developed for both sand and clay soils based on theoretical analyses and model tests. The equation described below applies to shallow footings. Foundations for structures used in resource management systems will usually fit the definition for shallow footings. A shallow footing's depth below the ground surface is equal to or less than the footing's width. Footings that do not meet this criteria because their depth is greater than their width may still be conservatively designed by assuming the footing depth equal to the width.

For Class V or smaller structures the shallow bearing capacity equation is recommended when sizing footings for failure against shear. The equation is given below and in the appendix, Part A. Part A includes a sketch and definitions of the terms.

 $qult = (g \circ c \circ Nc) + (q \circ Nq) + (k \circ Y \circ B \circ NY)$ 

qult = Ultimate Bearing Capacity. (The maximum unit loading a soil can support without failing in shear.)

Nc, Nq, and NY are bearing capacity factors. They are given in Appendix A, Table 4-35. They depend on the  $\overline{\phi}$  or  $\phi$  soil strength parameter.

The first term in the equation is  $(g \cdot c \cdot Nc)$ . For continuous linear footings, such as for walls, g = 1.0 and for square and round footings, such as for columns, g = 1.3. the c is the cohesion ( $\overline{c}$  or c) soils strength parameter. This term accounts for the cohesive strength of the soil.

The second term is (q . Nq). q is the load per unit area (lb per sq. ft) on a horizontal plane beside the footing at the footing bottom elevation. This term accounts for the effect of overburden confining the soil beneath the footing. In some cases this term accounts for a major portion of the computed ultimate bearing capacity. Even small, 1 to 2-foot, backfill depths can be significant with noncohesive soils. In the case of eccentric loadings caused by a backfilled wall with an empty tank or a loaded tank with little backfill, both empty tank and full tank conditions may need to be checked to find the most critical case.

The third term is  $(k \cdot \checkmark \cdot B \cdot N \checkmark)$ . k is dependent on the footing shape.  $\checkmark$  is the unit weight of soil <u>below</u> the footing. Use moist soil weights. B is the footing width. Notice the value of the third term is directly proportional to the footing width. This term represents the frictional shearing strength of the soil beneath the footing.

Footing size for the soil bearing equation is measured on each structurally independent unit. The "B" for precast retaining wall units used as structure walls with a poured concrete floor is the B of each unit. Units set in line to form a continuous wall should be treated as a continuous footing rather than separate rectangular footings. However,

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when estimating settlement, the total loaded area must be considered because part of the load from one unit is spread to the soil beneath adjacent units and contributes to their settlement.

If the water table is at a distance of more than "B" below the footing bottom, then it does not affect bearing capacity. If the water table is between the bottom and depth B below the footing, the  $(k \circ \checkmark \circ B \circ N \checkmark)$ factor must be modified by adding a water table correction factor W'. The third term is then  $(W' \circ k \circ \checkmark \circ B \circ N \checkmark)$ . If the water table is above the bottom of the footing, then the term  $(q \circ Nq)$  must also be corrected by adding W. The second term is then  $(W \circ q \circ Nq)$  W' and W can be read from figure 4-1S.



## WATER TABLE CORRECTION FACTORS

FIGURE 4-1S

Settlement

Two settlement conditions must be considered. They are uniform settlement and differential settlement.

Total settlement is the sum of immediate and long-term settlements at a given point on the structure foundation. If all points in the foundation have the same total settlement, the structure settles uniformly. Since settlement is uniform, uneven stresses are not created in the structure.

Most structures can withstand fairly large uniform settlement, especially if the potential settlement is anticipated and provisions are made for it in design. Uniform settlement can cause problems such as: shearing or malfunction of loading and unloading conduits and fixtures and disruption of surface and subsurface drainage.

Even very small differential settlements can cause structural damage such as cracking of concrete, opening of joints, and bending and dimpling of steel structures. Part B of the Appendix contains a chart of allowable settlements for various structure types.

Any loading of the soil causes settlement due to (a) relocation and consolidation of the soil particles, and (b) movement of water and/or air from the void spaces. Conversely, any excavation or structure removal unloads the underlying soil so that new loads will cause only small settlements until the reloading exceeds the previous load. Soils that have not been previously loaded greater than at present are called "normally consolidated." Soils previously subjected to greater loadings than present are called "overconsolidated" or "preconsolidated".

Loads on certain compressible soils can cause significant consolidation to a depth where the weight of the imposed load is 10% of the existing overburden pressure. This can be quite deep. Figure 4-2S page 4-46 gives an example of the computation of this depth. Settlements will be large in soft fine grained soils and in low density sands. Rock, dense tills, gravels, and highly overconsolidated fine grained soils will have few or no settlement problems.

Extensive geologic investigation, sampling, and testing are required to reliably estimate settlement. However, depending on the soil and the characteristics of the structure, settlement may be reasonably estimated using the methods and guidelines described in the Appendix. These methods should not be applied to high hazard structures or where soil characteristics outlined in the Appendix can not be reasonably estimated. Rationale for determining the significance of the settlement and estimated values should be documented in the design file.

Differential settlements occur when foundation soils are not uniform and/or when loadings are nonuniform and under large flexible foundations and floors on compressible foundations. Relatively small differential settlements (1 to 2 inches) will cause distress in many structures

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especially concrete structures. When total settlement is large, a high potential for large differential settlement usually exists. It is important to select uniform foundation soil conditions and to keep loading uniform. For example, it would be poor practice to place a structure partially on rock and partially on a compressible soil. Also, a foundation should not be constructed partially on a dense till and partially on a compressible alluvium. Where compressible soils occur in a foundation, an investigation must be adequate to assure the compressible material is of uniform depth. In some situations sampling and testing may be required. Examples of loadings and resultant settlements are given in the Appendix.

#### Depth of Significant Consolidation

A 60 ft by 96 ft rectangular animal waste storage tank sets on the ground surface. When loaded, it exerts 1400 pounds per square foot (psf) on the foundation soil. The foundation soil weighs 125 pcf. It is deep to the water table. Assume the load spreads at a slope of 1/2:1. At what depth is the load imposed by the loaded tank less than 10% of the existing overburden pressure?



Figure 4-2S

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# APPENDIX

D	A	D	m	
5	n	л	1	

# SUBJECT

A	The Shallow Bearing Capacity Equation4-48
в	Maximum Allowable Settlement for Structures Used in Resource Management systems
с	Guide for Estimating Soil Strengths4-51
D	Settlement on Sand4-52
E	Settlement on Clay
F	Example

## THE SHALLOW BEARING CAPACITY EQUATION

Df<B

qult = (g • c • N<sub>c</sub>) + (W • q • Nq) + (W • k • Y • B • N<sub>y</sub>) qult = Ultimate Soil Bearing Capacity qa = qult/3 = Allowable Bearing Capacity c̄ or c = Soil Cohesion Parameter φ̄ or φ = Soil Friction Parameter g & k Footing Shape Factors Continous Footing g = 1.0, k = 0.5 Square Footing g = 1.3, k = 0.4 Round Footing g = 1.3, k = 0.3 Df= Depth of Footing Y = Soil Unit Weight q = Df • Y, Effective Vertical Soil Pressure

B = Footing Width

Nc, Nq, Ny = Bearing Capicity Factors

W, W' = Watertable Correction Factors

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## BEARING CAPACITY FACTORS

1.4			
Φ	Nc	Ną	Nø
0	5.7	1.0	0.0
5	6.7	1.4	0.2
10	8.0	1.9	0.5
15	9.7	2.7	0.9
20	11.8	3.9	1.7
25	14.8	5.6	3.2
30	22.6	11.1	8.5
35	48.0	32.8	35.2
40	95.7	81.3	100.4

# Figure 4-3S

This chart lists local shear factors for  $\phi < 28^{\circ}$ , general shear factors for  $\phi > 38^{\circ}$ , and interpolates between local and general factors between  $\phi = 28^{\circ} \& \phi = 38^{\circ}$ .

## PART B

## MAXIMUM ALLOWABLE SETTLEMENT for STRUCTURES USED IN RESOURCE MANAGEMENT SYSTEMS ( Maximum Settlement In Inches ) 1/

STRUCTURE TYPE	20	WIDTH 40	OR DIAMET	ER FEET 80	100
1	0.5	1.0	1.5	2.0	2.5
2	0.7	1.5	2.0	3.0	3.5
3	1.2	2.5	3.5	5.0	6.0
4	2.5	5.0	7.0	10.0	12.0

(a) Masonry walls.
 (b) R/C walls, no cracking permitted.

2 (a) R/C walls, minor cracking may occur.

(b) Precast R/C units that must remain watertight.(c) Steel tanks.

- 3 (a) Simple wood or steel framed structure.
   (b) Precast R/C units, leakage permitted.
- 4 Impervious earth lined structures.
- 1/

If the foundation soils are shown to be uniform through the depth of significant settlement the allowable settlements from the chart may be doubled. \*

Estimated allowable settlements are taken from observations and studies on buildings and structures. The maximum allowable settlements in the table are based on the assumption differential settlements may equal total settlement and occur at opposite sides of the structure. This assumption may not be conservative in that maximum and minimum settlement may be at intermediate points. If the foundation is uniform then differential settlements will be less than total settlement and the allowable settlement may be increased.

\* Appurtenances ( pipes, ramps, etc ) must be articulated at their contact with the structure to allow settlement without damage.

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# RT C

#### ESTIMAT HEAR STRENGTHS

The following guide may used to estimate shear strength when test data are not a lable.

Strength of Sands and Sands with Gravel Based on Estimated Density

c = 0

Soil Density	N Blows/ft	ф Deg
Very Loose	2	27
Loose	7	30
Medium	20	35
Dense	40	37
Very Dense	>50	40

Strength of Silts and Sandy Silts with Little or No Plasticity

Soil Density	c = 0	Deg
Loose		27
Dense		30

Strength of	Clays and phi =		ys Based On Consistency
Soil consistency	Cohesion	Blowcour N	nt
Very soft	*	<2	Thumb will penetrate >1"
Soft	250	2-4	Thumb will penetrate about 1"
Firm	500	4-15	Thumb will penetrate about 1/4 "
Hard	2000	15-30	Readly indented with thumbnail
Very hard	4000	>30	Thumbnail will not indent

\* Requires special evaluation of shear strength

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#### PART D

#### SETTLEMENT ON SAND

Settlement of structures on sand may be estimated from the results of standard penetration tests with the equation

qa= 720 • (N-3) • ((B+1)/2B)<sup>2</sup> • W' • Kd

qa= Net increase in soil pressure in psf producing 1 inch of settlement.

N= Blow count from the standard penetration test.

B= Width of footing.

W'= Water reduction factor as defined in Part A.

Kd= 1+Df/B But no greater than 2.

Df= Footing depth below ground surface.

When B becomes very large then  $((B+1)/2B)^2$  approaches 0.25

When the footing depth (D) is very shallow in relation to the footing width, then Kd approaches 1.

When d/B > 1, W' = 1

Assuming a load on the foundation soil that is wide and at a shallow depth such as a manure tank set at the soil surface and a deep water table we can compute soil loadings that will produce 1 inch of settlement.

N Blows/ft	Load
2	1/
7	700
20	3000
40	6000
50	8000
	Blows/ft 2 7 20 40

1/ Even very light loads will produce settlements in excess of 1 inch.

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Total settlement for any foundation load can be estimated by relating it to the load producing 1 inch of settlement. For example, on a sand of medium density, a 2000 lb load will produce 2/3 the settlement of a 3000 lb load or 2/3 of an inch. If the footing is large and flexible, the loading of the soil under the edge will be about 1/2 the loading under the center and settlements will be about 1/2 as much. On a large structure, a 5 inch thick reinforced concrete floor will act like a flexible floor.

To compute settlement for any load;

## PART E

## SETTLEMENT ON CLAY

The settlement of a structure on a clay soil foundation is estimated using consolidation theory. The void ratio and compression index (Cc) for the soil is needed in order to make the settlement computations.

If the soil has been loaded in the past with a greater load than it now has, it is said to be preconsolidated, overconsolidated or preloaded. Compacted fill has been preloaded by the compaction equipment. In the case of preconsolidated soil the, recompression index (Cr) is used in place of Cc in the computations. Cc and Cr are determined by consolidation testing of undisturbed samples from the foundation. Cc can be estimated from the liquid limit with the formula;

$$CC = 0.009 \cdot (LL - 10)$$

Or from the liquid limit and the void ratio with the formula

Cc= (0.0035 • LL • (eo-0.4)) 1/2

Cr is usually 15 to 25% Of Cc.

Void ratio can be computed from the dry density and specific gravity of the soil with the formula;

e= (Gs• /w//d)-1

e= void ratio

Yd= dry density of the soil in pcf

Gs= the specific gravity of the soil grains Usually between 2.65 and 2.75

W= 62.4 pcf

The formula for settlement is;

 $S = ((Cc \cdot H)/(1+eo)) \cdot log10 ((po+Ap)/po)$ 

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S= total settlement

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Cc= compression index

- H= depth of compressible strata. Thick strata should be divided into 4 to 10 foot thick increments.
- po= The existing vertical soil pressure
   at the center of the stratd or incre ment.
- eo= The void ratio of the compressable strata before loading.
- △p= The added load at the center of the strata or increment.
- log10= The logarithm of this number to the base 10.

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## PART F

#### EXAMPLE

An animal waste storage structure with inside dimensions of 68 ft by 104 ft by 12 ft is to be constructed of precast R/C units. The units are 7 ft wide, 12 ft long and produce a 12 ft high wall. They weigh 2800 lb per ft of length. A 5 in thick R/C floor will be cast and all the joints will be sealed to produce a water tight structure. The units will be placed on a smoothed ground surface and backfilled on the outside to a depth of 2 ft. The foundation consists of 40 ft of firm silty clay with a liquid limit of 40. The dry unit weight is 90 pcf and the wet unit weight is 118 pcf. The unit weight of the animal waste is 65 pcf. The water table is 10 ft below the ground surface.

Assess the adequacy of the foundation soil to support this structure when it is full.





NENTC HWHall 7-87 CHECKED BY Foundation Analysis PROJECT Example JOB NO. SHEET OF Compute the Actual on the Load Son Under the Precast Units 12 ++ in the touk Waste H. animal waste wt Concrete wt. Conchete it wt on mal wastet Sail wt Area 2800 #650 S Ft 3120+236 2800+ - 6156 BOPS July 1987 4-57

NENTC Example  
H w H 7-87  
Foundation Analysis ref 2/8  
Compute Allowable Bearing Capacity  
From part A  
Quit = 
$$(q \cdot c \cdot Nc)t$$
 (W!  $g \cdot Ng$ )  $t$  (W!  $g \cdot$ 

NENTC 7-87 PROJECT Example CHECKED BY JOBNO HWH OF 3/8 Foundation Analysis SHEET Estimate Actual Settlement Compute total with on foundation = 2800/4+ • 2 (69+105 wt. walls 974, 400 1 Wt. Floor = 150 pef. 5/2 · (60.96 360,000 = 65Acf - 68 104 - 12 5,516,160 wt. waste wt. Soil = 118 pcf . 1.2 (2(72+108)) = 84,960 6935,520 165 Total Compute the increased looding (Ap) from the loaded Tark at the surface and at 5, 15, 25 and 35 foot depths. Assume the load Spreads at a 12:1 Slope. Total Load Loading, AD = Arca 6935,520 Surface 852 PSF = 5 depth 763 Psf = 15' dept.h 623 Psf = = 25' dept h 5191PSF 3 35' depth 439 PSf =

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NENTC Example JOE NO. HWH 7-87 Foundation Analysis Compute the existing Vertical soil pressures (po) at 5, 15, 25 and 35 foot depth, p (5ft) = (5') (118 pef) = 590 ps po (15ft) = (10) (118 pcf) + (5) (56 pcf) = 1460 psf  $p_{o}(25^{f+}) = (10')(118 pcf) + (15')(56 pcf)$ = 2020psf po (35ft) = (10)(118 pcf) + (25')(56 pcf) = 2580 psf Estimate the void ratio e = Gs Jw \_-1 8d = 90 pcf. Gs (estimated) = 2.63 e= 2.65 . 62.4 e= 0.84 Estimate the compression From part E Cc = [0.0035 · 11 · 100 - 0 Cc = [0.0035.40 . (0.84 -0  $C_{c} = 0.25$ Bouyant below the water table weight . /18 PCF

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4-60

NENTC HWH 7-87 CHECKED RY Example JOE NO 5/8 Foundation Analysis OF Compute Settlement Ofoot thic foundation strata From part E S= Cc + log 10 Pot AP 0.25-10 Jog 10 PotAP 1+0.84 Po = 1.36 log 10 Po+AP strata to (ft) AP Repies entative Popsf From (4+) 590 0.49 0 10 1460 623 0.21 10 20 20 30 2020 519 0.14 30 40 2580 439 0.09 Total Estimated Actual Settlement 0.93 ft = 11:1 Inches 0,93 + 12 4 or allowable settlement Determine and estimated settle ment 41+6 om pare From part В re type 2, wedth 74, USE 80 Settle ment = 3,0 1 Maximum Allowable 11.1 Inches is much greater then 3.0 inches Foundation is not adequate 4-61 July 1987

NENTC IWH CHECKED BY DITE ING NO - 618 Foundation Analysis SHEET Assume clay 15 over consolia Ity. dry density with of 10.5 settlemen Estimate the From part The recomplession index, 15 to 25% of ac, use 20% From page 4-60, Cc = 0.25  $C_{\mu} = 0.2 \cdot 0.25$ = 0.05 - Gs Yw 2.65 -62.4 105 = 0,57 0.050-10 aal +0.57 32 109 Do Rei Strata PSE from (ft) tolft) feet 763 625 10 20 1570 30 22 20 51 9 0,03 2860 30 40 139 10.21 2. nches or • 4-62

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NENTC DATE -87 CHECKED BY Example JOB NO. WH Foundation\_ Analysis Assume the structure is to be on a loose sand foundation with m= 125/4 Compute allowable bearing capacity From part C Loose sand, N=7, 0=30, C=0 From part A, table 1 NC=22.6, Ng=11.1, NZ=8.5 94+= (g·C·Nc)+ (W·g·Ng)+ (W·K·8-B·Nz) quit= (1.0.0.22.6)+(1.250.11.1)+(1.5.125.7.85) = 0+2780+37201 9ult = 6500ga = guit/3 = 2170 psf (allowable bearing 2170 psf > 880psf Bearing Capacity 1.5 Adequate Notice\_ that 43% of the computed bearing capacity comes from the second term in the equation and dependent on the two feet of backfil

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NENTC PROJECT Example JCL ML Foundation Analysis OF 8 SHELT Estimate Actual Settle ment parti From  $q_{\alpha} = 720 \cdot (N-3) \cdot ((B+1)/2)$ N = 7, B = 74,Kd = 1+D/B = 1+2/74 .0 W ifrom page 4-42 0/B W'= 0.57  $9a = 720 \cdot (7 - 3) \cdot ((74 + 1)/2 \cdot 74) \cdot 0.57 \cdot 1.0$ = 420 psf: produces / mch of Settleme s = Actual ground pressure 1/20 5 = 860 = 2.0 Inches 2.0 inches (3.0 inches allowable Foundation soi 15 adequate 4-64 July 1987

LOG SHEET

Project						Lo	cation:									D	ate:	
Investi	gator:				Title;							Equipment:						
Interval (feet)		+ iles	<bv th="" w<=""><th>STRIBUTI</th><th><bv th="" vo<=""><th>alume&gt;</th><th>resteries</th><th>caller week</th><th>wishing the series</th><th>consistent consistent</th><th>of the</th><th>Superverse</th><th>alesticity</th><th>aliesed</th><th></th><th>5000</th><th>St. Stephen</th><th>Sed Same</th></bv></th></bv>	STRIBUTI	<bv th="" vo<=""><th>alume&gt;</th><th>resteries</th><th>caller week</th><th>wishing the series</th><th>consistent consistent</th><th>of the</th><th>Superverse</th><th>alesticity</th><th>aliesed</th><th></th><th>5000</th><th>St. Stephen</th><th>Sed Same</th></bv>	alume>	resteries	caller week	wishing the series	consistent consistent	of the	Superverse	alesticity	aliesed		5000	St. Stephen	Sed Same
0 -																		
Notes:																		
Test Hol	Test Hole No.: Station: Elevation: Water Table Elevation:after hours. Sheetof																	

#### TABLE 1 Criteria for Describing Angularity of Coarse-Grained Particles

Description	Cntena					
Angular	Particles have sharp edges and relatively plane sides with unpolished surfaces					
Subangular	Particles are similar to angular description but have rounded "dges					
Subrounded	Particles have nearly plane sides but have well-rounded corners and edges					
Rounded	Particles have smoothly curved sides and no edges					

#### TABLE 2 Criteria for Describing Particle Shape

The particle shape shall be described as follows where length, width, and thickness refer to the greatest, intermediate, and least dimensions of a particle, respectively.

Flat and elon- gated	Particles meet criteria for both flat and elongated
Elongated	Particles with length/width $> 3$
Flat	Particles with width/thickness > 3

#### TABLE 3 Criteria for Describing Moisture Condition

Description	Critena					
Dry	Absence of moisture, dusty, dry to the touch					
Moist Damp but no visible water						
Wet	Visible free water, usually soil is below water table					

# TABLE 4 Criteria for Describing the Reaction With HCl

Description	Criteria
None	No visible reaction
Weak	Some reaction, with bubbles forming slowly
Strong	Violent reaction, with bubbles forming imme- diately

# TABLE 5 Criteria for Describing Consistency

Description	Criteria for Fine-grained Saturated Soila	Penetro tons/fr	Penetration (ASTN D-1586) blows/ft			
Very Soft	Thumb will panetrate soil sore than 1 inch	۲	0.10		4	2
Soft	Thumb will penetrate soil about 1 inch	0.10 -	0.25	2	•	4
Firm	Thumb will indent soil about % inch	0.25 -	1.00	4	•	15
Hard	Thumb will not indent soil but readily indented with thumbneil	1.00 -	2.00	15	•	30
Very Hard	Thumbneil will not indent sell	>	2.00		>	30

#### TABLE 6 Criteria for Describing Cementation

Description	Criteria					
Weak Moderate	Crumbles or breaks with handling or little fin- ger pressure					
	Crumbles or breaks with considerable finger pressure					
Strong	Will not crumble or break with finger pressure					



#### TABLE 7 Criteria for Describing Structure

Description	Cntena					
Stratified	Alternating layers of varying material or color with layers at least 6 mm thick: note thickness					
Laminated	Alternating layers of varying material or color with the layers less than 6 mm thick, note thickness					
Fissured	Breaks along definite planes of fracture with little resistance to fracturing					
Slickensided	Fracture planes appear polished or glossy, sometimes striated					
Blocky	Cohesive soil that can be broken down into small angular lumps which resist further breakdown					
Lensed	Inclusion of small pockets of different soils such as small lenses of sand scattered through a mass of clay; note thickness					
Homogeneous	Same color and appearance throughout					

#### TABLE 8 Criteria for Describing Dry Strength

	Description	Criteria
	None	The dry specimen crumbles into powder with mere pressure of handling
	Low	The dry specimen crumbles into powder with some finger pressure
	Medium	The dry specimen breaks into pieces or crum- bles with considerable finger pressure
1	High	The dry specimen cannot be broken with finger pressure. Specimen will break into pieces between thumb and a hard surface
	Very high	The dry specimen cannot be broken between the thumb and a hard surface

#### TABLE 9 Criteria for Describing Dilatancy

Description	Cntena				
None	No visible change in the specimen				
Slow	Water appears slowly on the surface of the specimen during shaking and does not dis- appear or disappears slowly upon squeezing				
Rapid	Water appears quickly on the surface of the specimen during shaking and disappears quickly upon squeezing				

#### **TABLE 10** Criteria for Describing Toughness

Description	Criteria					
Low	Only slight pressure is required to roll the thread near the plastic limit. The thread and the lump are weak and soft					
Medium	Medium pressure is required to roll the thread to near the plastic limit. The thread and the lump have medium stiffness					
High	Considerable pressure is required to roll the thread to near the plastic limit. The thread and the lump have very high stiffness					

# TABLE 11 Criteria for Describing Plasticity Description Criteria

Nonplastic	A 4-in. (3-mm) thread cannot be rolled at any water content
Low	The thread can barely be rolled and the lump cannot be formed when drier than the plastic limit
Medium	The thread is easy to roll and not much time is required to reach the plastic limit. The thread cannot be rerolled after reaching the plastic limit. The lump crumbles when direr than the plastic limit
High	It takes considerable time rolling and kneading to reach the plastic limit. The thread can be rerolled several times after reaching the plas- tic limit. The lump can be formed without crumbling when drier than the plastic limit

#### CHECKLIST - DESCRIPTION OF COARSE-GRAINED SOILS - ASTH D-2488

- 1. <u>Typical Name</u>: Boulders Cobbles Gravel Sand Add descriptive adjectives for minor constituents.

- <u>Gradation</u>: Well-graded Poorly-graded (Uniformity graded or gap-graded)
   <u>Size Distribution</u>: Percent gravel, send, and fines in fraction finer than

   3-inch (76 mm), to memory 5 percent. If desired, the percentages may be stated in terms indicating a range of values, as follows:

Trace:			5%			 ,	
Few:	5	-	10 %				
Little:	15	-	25 %	>	Or, e	 with s	revel
Some:	30		45 X	>	Or, 'e	 gravel	ly
Magalius	50		100 9				

- Some: 30 93 x ---> OF, e.g., gravelly Nostly: 50 100 % 4. <u>Percent Cobles and Boulders</u>: By volume. 5. <u>Particle Size Range</u>: Gravel -- fine, coarse Sand -- fine, medium, coarse 6. <u>Angularity of Coarse Material</u>: Angular Subnounded Rounded 7. <u>Particle Shape (if appropriate)</u>: Flat Elongated Flat and Elongated 8. <u>Plasticity of Fines</u>: Nonplastic Low Medium High 9. <u>Mineralogy</u>: Rock type for gravel, predominant minerals in sand. Note presence of mics flakes, shaley particles, and organic materials. 10. <u>Color</u>: Use common terms or Munsell notation. Based on moist or wet condition. 11. <u>Odor (for dark-colored or unusual soils only</u>): None Earthy Organic 12. <u>Moisture Content</u>: Dry Moist Wet

  - -- For intact samples--

- --For intact samples- 13. <u>Natural Density</u>: Loose Dense
   <u>Structure</u>: Stratified Lensed Nonstratified
   <u>Structure</u>: Stratified Lensed Strong (or pH)
   <u>Geologic Origin</u>: Examples Alluvium, Residuum, Colluvium, Glacial till, Outwash, Dune sand, Alluvial fan, Talus, etc.
   <u>Unified Soil Classification Symbol</u>: Estimate. (See Field Identification of Coerse-grained Soils below.)

Note: Refer to Tables 1-11 for criteria for describing many of the above factors.

#### FIELD IDENTIFICATION - COARSE-GRAINED SOILS

Grade I Boulders Large Col Small Col Coarse Gi Fine Gran Coarse Si Medium Si Fine Sam	bbles bbles (Exclude f ravel vel and and	Grac 12" 6" 3" rection 3/4" 1/4" 2.0 0.42	+ - 12" - 6" Larger than 3" for - 3" - 3/4" - 4.76 mm 10 - 2.0 mm 40	DE SIZES eve No. Comparative Size - Basketball or larger - Cantaloupe to Basketball - Orange to Cantaloupe - Unified Classification) - Cherry to Orange - 3/4" Pes to Cherry - 4 Wheat Grain to Pes - 10 Suger to Wheat Grain - 40 Flour to Suger
COARSE- GRAINED SOILS <sup>1</sup>	Nore than half of coarse fraction (by weight) is larger than %-inch.	rse fraction than K-inch.	CLEAN GRAVELS Will not leave a dirt stain on a wat palm.	Wide range in grain sizes and substantial amounts of all GM intermediate sizes. Nostly one size or a range of sizes with some intermediate GP sizes missing.
		DIRTY GRAVELS Will leave a dirt stain on a wet palm.	Low to nonplastic fines (for identification of fines see GN Field Identification of Fine- grained Soils for ML soils).	
			Plastic fines (for identifica- tion of fines see Field Iden- GC tification of Fine-grained Soils for CL soils).	
		half of coarse fraction () is smaller than N-inch.	CLEAN SANDS Will not leave a dirt stain on a wet palm.	Wide range in grain sizes and substantial amounts of all SM intermediate particle sizes.
	SAND			Nostly one size or a range of sizes with some intermediate SP sizes missing.
	SANDY SOILS2		DIRTY SANDS	Low to nonplastic fines (for identification of fines see SN Field Identification of Fine- grained Soils for NL soils).
	Nore than half (by weight) is	Will leave a dirt stain on a wet palm.	Plastic fines (for identifi- cation of fines see Field Iden- tification of Fine-grained SC Soils for CL soils).	
cons	ist of indi	corse-gr	rains visible to t	helf of the material (by weight) must the naked eye. Individual grains finer he naked eye nor felt by the fingers.

2/ For visual classification, 1-inch size may be used as equivalent to no. 4 sieve.

# GROUP SYMBOL

# GROUP NAME



NOTE-Percentages are based on estimating amounts of fines, sand, and gravel to the nearest 5%.

1 .

FIG. 2 Flow Chart for Identifying Coarse-Grained Soils (less than 50 % fines)

#### CHECKLIST - DESCRIPTION OF FINE-GRAINED SOILS - ASTM D-2488

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1	Typical Name: Silt Elastic Silt Lean Clay Fat Clay
	Silty Clay Organic Silt or Clay Peat
2	Sitty Clay Organic Sitt of Clay Feat
٢.	Dry Strength: None Low Medium High Very High
5.	Size Distribution: Percent gravel, sand, and fines in fraction finer than
	3 inches (76 mm), to nearest 5 percent. If desired, the percentages
	may be stated in terms indicating a range of values, as follows:
	Trace: < 5 %
	Few: 5 - 10 %
	Little: 15 - 25 %> Or, e.g., with sand
	Some: 30 - 45 %> Or, e.g., sandy
	Mostly: 50 - 100 %
4.	Percent Cobbles and Boulders: By volume.
5.	Dilatancy: None Slow Rapid
6.	Toughness of Plastic Thread: Low Medium High
7.	Plasticity of Fines: Nonplastic Low Medium High
8.	Color: Use common terms or Munsell notation. (In moist or wet condition)
9.	
10.	
	For intact samples
11.	Consistency: Very Soft Soft Firm Hard Very Hard
	Structure: Stratified Laminated (varved) Fissured Slickensided
	Blocky Lensed Homogeneous
13	Cementation: Weak Moderate Strong
14.	
	<u>Geologic Origin</u> : Examples - Alluvium, Residuum, Colluvium, Loess, Glacial
	Till, Lacustrine, etc.
16	
10.	Unified Soil Classification Symbol: Estimate. (See Field Identification of
	Consistency of Fine-grained Soils below, and Table 12: Identification

of Inorganic Fine-grained Soils from Manual Tests.)

Note: Refer to Tables 1-11 for criteria for describing many of the above factors.

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# FIELD IDENTIFICATION - FINE-GRAINED SOILS

Dry Strength	Dilatancy	Toughness	Plasticity	Symbo
None to Low	Slow to Rapid	Low or No Thread	Nonplastic to Low	ML
Medium to High	Slow	Medium	Low to Medium	CL
Low to Medium	None to Slow	Low (Spongy)	None to Low	OL
Medium	None to Slow	Low to Medium	Low to Medium	МН
Very High	None	High	Medium to High	СН
Medium to High	None	Low to Med. (Spongy)	Medium to High	OH
HIGHLY ORGANIC S		erily organic metter, el, organic odor, and		•

1/ To classify as Fine-grained, more than half of the material (by weight) must consist of fines (material finer than the no. 200 sieve).

