QUICK FACTS: SB 101 DRAFT

TEX-101-E, PART II

Preparing Samples for Compaction and Triaxial Tests

Why

Properly prepare material for moisture and strength testing.

When

Materials in roadway or stockpile condition are tested for compaction and triaxial testing.

How

- Select a 200 lb. representative sample according to Tex-100-E or Tex-400-A, check specification for maximum aggregate size.
- Spread sample on clean floor to air dry or use oven at 140F for soils and 230F for flexible base.
- Moist clay and soils that form hard lumps process to pass through a ¼ in. wire mesh.
- Dry soils to slightly below the estimated optimum moisture content, and flexible base to constant mass.
- Dry sieve flexible base material over the following sieves:
  - 1 3/4 in. (44.5 mm)
  - 1 1/4 in. (31.7 mm)
  - 7/8 in. (22.2 mm)
  - 5/8 in. (16 mm)
  - 3/8 in. (9.5 mm)
  - No. 4 (4.75 mm)
  - No. 40 (0.425 mm)
- Do not use particles larger than 1-3/4 in. (44.5 mm) in compacted specimens.
- Weigh each size of material to the nearest 0.1 lb. (5 g).

Action

Calculate the cumulative percentages retained on each sieve size. These values are to be used in recombining the sample for compaction specimens.