

CHANGES TO F/7 SPECIFICATION FOR GEOTEXTILES

The major changes in the 2003 edition of the TNZ F/7 specification are:

- The opening sizes of the specification have changed as a result of changes to RTA 63, note that they are not same as RTA 63 as the RTA also allows use of a French specification for hydrodynamic sieving while F/7 only uses AS 3706.7 (dry sieving) to establish EOS. Hydrodynamic sieving results are slightly lower than dry sieving
- The strength requirements remain the same however the ability to reduce the strength required by specific design has been removed, as this is largely an empirical process. It was felt that allowing specific design of strength parameters would only create problems with suppliers pushing the boundaries of the design systems (the main complaint that lead to the development of F/7) and increase Transit's risk of something going wrong.
- A registered Engineer or an experienced geotechnical engineer must now undertake site specific design.
- There has been a major change to reorder the notes so the specification is more user friendly and a number of wording changes to make the specification more readable. There have also been a number of additional minor changes to update references to testing specifications and allow warehouse testing.
- Additional requirements have been added for Rock Armour placement to note that it must be placed in such a manner so as not to damage, puncture or tear the geotextile or compromise the jointing.
- Additional guidance is given on relaxing testing requirements on smaller projects "On projects requiring less than 2500 sq metres of Geotextile the testing requirements may be relaxed. The Engineer may accept test certificates, demonstrating compliance with TNZ F/7, carried out for other projects. The contractors and suppliers quality system must ensure the specified minimum frequency of testing is maintained and ensures traceability of material to the same batch. In making this decision the Engineer will give due consideration to the risks of non compliance, the level of supporting data provided by the manufacturer and the condition of the geotextile delivered to site."
- A sentence has been added to clause 9.2 clarifying that additional tests and/or an increased testing frequency may be called up where site specific design has been undertaken by the consultant.
- Additional definitions have been added.