

SECTION 025208
Soil - Cement Base (S-17)

1. DESCRIPTION

This specification shall govern all work required for Soil-Cement Base necessary to complete the project.

2. MATERIALS

- 2.1 **Soil.** Soil shall consist of approved material free from vegetation or other objectionable matter encountered in the existing roadbed and other acceptance material used in preparation of the roadbed in accordance with this specification.
- 2.2 **Portland Cement.** Cement shall be either Type I or II Portland cement. The Contractor, at his option, may use bulk cement, provided the apparatus for handling, weighing and spreading the cement is approved by the Engineer in writing. Cement weighing equipment shall be as specified below.
- 2.3 **Water.** Water shall be free from substances deleterious to the hardening of the cement treatment and shall be approved by the Engineer.

3. EQUIPMENT

Equipment necessary for the proper construction of the work shall be on the project, in first-class working condition, and be approved by the Engineer, both as to type and condition, prior to the start of construction operations. The Contractor shall at all times provide sufficient equipment to enable continuous execution of the work and its completion in the required number of working days.

Portland cement treatment for materials in place may be constructed with any machine or combination of machines and auxiliary equipment that will produce results as outlined in this specification.

Mixing may be accomplished by: (1) a multiple-pass traveling mixing plant or (2) a single-pass traveling mixing plant.

The equipment provided by the Contractor shall be operated by experienced and capable workmen and shall be that necessary to provide a cement treatment meeting the requirements herein specified.

4. CONSTRUCTION METHODS

- 4.1 **General.** It is the primary requirement of this specification to secure a completed course of treated material containing a uniform Portland cement mixture free from loose or segregated areas, of uniform density and moisture content, well bound for its full depth and with a smooth surface suitable for placing subsequent courses. It shall be the responsibility of the contractor to regulate the sequence of his work to process a sufficient quantity of material to provide full depth as shown on plans, to use the proper amount of Portland cement, maintain the work and rework the courses as necessary to meet the above requirements.

Cement treatment shall not be mixed or placed when the air temperature is below 40F and is falling, but may be mixed or placed when the air temperature is above 35F and is rising, the temperature being taken in

the shade and away from artificial heat and with the further provision that cement treatment shall be mixed or placed only when weather conditions, in the opinion of the Engineer, are suitable.

- 4.2 **Preparation of Roadbed.** Before other construction operations are begun, the roadbed shall be graded and shaped as required to construct the Portland cement treatment for material in place in conformance with the lines, grades, thickness and typical cross section shown on the plans. Unsuitable soil or material shall be removed and replaced with acceptable soil.

The sub grade shall be firm and able to support without displacing the construction equipment and the compaction hereinafter specified. Soft or yielding sub grade shall be corrected and made stable before construction proceeds.

- 4.3 **Pulverization.** The soil shall be so pulverized that, at the completion of moist-mixing, when all non-slaking aggregate retained on the No. 2 sieve are removed, the remaining material shall meet the following requirements when tested from the roadway in the roadway condition by Test Method Tex-101-E (Part III).

	Percent
Minimum passing 1-inch sieve	100
Minimum passing No. 4 sieve	80

Old bituminous wearing surface shall be pulverized so that 100 percent will pass the 2-inch sieve.

- 4.4 **Application of Cement (Road mix).** Portland cement shall be spread uniformly on the soil at the rate specified on the plans or approved by the Engineer. If a bulk cement spreader is used, it shall be positioned by string lines or other approved method during spreading to insure a uniform distribution of cement.

Cement shall be applied only to such an area that all the operations can be continuous and completed in daylight within 6 hours of such application.

The percentage of moisture in the soil, at the time of cement application, shall not exceed the quantity that will permit uniform and intimate mixture of soil and cement during dry mixing operations, and it shall not exceed the specified optimum moisture content for the soil cement mixture.

No equipment, except that used in spreading and mixing, will be allowed to pass over the freshly spread cement until it is mixed with the soil.

- 4.5 **Mixing and Processing.** Unless otherwise shown on the plans, either method (a) or (b) below may be used at the option of the Contractor.

(a) **Multiple-Pass Traveling Mixing Plant.** After the cement has been applied, it shall be dry-mixed with the soil. Mixing shall continue until the cement has been sufficiently blended with the soil to prevent the formation of cement balls when water is applied. Any mixture of soil and cement that has not been compacted and finished shall not remain undisturbed for more than 30 minutes.

Immediately after the dry mixing of soil and cement is complete, water as necessary shall be uniformly applied and incorporated into the mixture.

Pressurized equipment and water supply provided shall be adequate to insure continuous application of the required amount of water to sections being processed within 3 hours of application of the cement. Proper care shall be exercised to insure proper moisture distribution at all times. After the last increment of water has been added, mixing shall continue until a thorough and uniform mix has been obtained.

(b) Single-Pass Traveling Mixing Plant. After the cement has been applied it shall be sufficiently dry-mixed with the soil to prevent the formation of cement balls when water is applied. Un-pulverized soil lumps in the soil cement mixture immediately behind the mixer will not be allowed. Should this condition prevail, the Contractor shall "pre-wet" the raw soil as necessary to correct this condition.

The water shall be provided with means for visibly and accurately gauging the water application. The water shall be applied uniformly through a pressure spray bar.

After cement is spread, mixing operations shall proceed as follows:

The mixer shall in one continuous operation mix the air-dry soil and cement full depth, and the required moisture uniformly, thoroughly moist-mix the soil, cement and water, spread the completed soil cement mixture evenly over the machine processed width of the sub grade and leave it in a loose condition ready for immediate compaction. The soil and cement mixture shall not remain undisturbed, after mixing and before compacting, for more than 30 minutes.

- 4.6 **Compaction and Finishing.** The material shall be compacted to not less than 98% standard proctor unless otherwise shown on the plans. At the start of compaction, the percentage of moisture in the mixture and in un-pulverized soil lumps, based on over-dry weights, shall not be below or more than two percentage points above the specified optimum moisture content and shall be less than that quantity which will cause the soil cement mixture to become unstable during compaction and finishing. When the un-compacted soil cement mixture is wetted by rain so that the average moisture content exceeds the tolerance given at the time of final compaction, the entire section shall be reconstructed in accordance with this specification at the sole expense of the Contractor.

Prior to the beginning of compaction, the mixture shall be in a loose condition for its full depth. The loose mixture then shall be uniformly compacted to the specified density within 2 hours.

After the soil and cement mixture, excepting the top mulch, is compacted, water shall be uniformly applied as needed and thoroughly mixed in with a spike tooth harrow or equal. The surface shall then be reshaped to its required lines, grades and cross section and then lightly scarified to loosen any imprint left by the compacting or shaping equipment.

The resulting surface shall be thoroughly rolled with a pneumatic tire roller and "clipped", "skinned" or "tight bladed" by a power grader to a depth necessary to remove all loosened soil and cement from the section. The surface shall then be thoroughly compacted with the pneumatic roller, adding small increments of moisture as needed during rolling. If plus No. 4 aggregate is present in the mixture; one complete coverage of the section with the flat wheel roller shall be made immediately after the "clipping" operation. When directed by the Engineer, surface finishing methods may be varied from this procedure provided a dense, uniform surface, free of surface compaction planes, is produced. The moisture

content of the surface material must be maintained at its specified optimum during all finishing operations. Surface compaction, rolling, blading and finishing shall proceed in such a manner as to produce a smooth, closely knit surface, free of cracks, ridges or loose material conforming to the crown, grade and line shown on the plans, within 3 hours of initial mixing.

5. CURING

5.1 Protection and Cover. After the cement treated course has been finished as specified herein, the surface shall be protected against rapid drying by either of the following curing methods for a period shown on plans but in no case less than 3 days or until the surface or subsequent courses are placed:

- (a) Maintain in a thorough and continuously moist condition by sprinkling.
- (b) Apply a 2-inch layer of earth on the completed course and maintain in a moist condition.
- (c) Apply a single course surface treatment. Unless shown otherwise on the plans, the asphalt shall be HFRS-2, in accordance with "Asphalts, Oils and Emulsions" in the Texas Department of Highways and Public Transportation Standard Specifications. The single course surface treatment shall be placed in accordance with Section 025418 "Surface Treatment, except HFRS-2 asphalt shall be used in lieu of AC-5 and the asphalt shall be applied at .5 gallons per square yard.

5.2 Surface. The surface or other base courses may be applied on the finished base as soon after completion as operations will permit.

6. CONSTRUCTION JOINTS

At the end of each day's construction, a straight transverse construction joint shall be formed by cutting back into the total width of completed work to form a true vertical face free of loose and shattered material.

Cement treatment for large, wide areas shall be built in a series of parallel lanes of convenient length and width meeting and approval of the Engineer.

7. TRAFFIC

Completed sections of cement treated material in place may be opened immediately to local traffic and to construction equipment after application of the single course surface treatment and to all traffic after the final surface course, provided the cement treated course has hardened sufficiently to prevent marring or distorting the surface by equipment or traffic.

8. MAINTENANCE

The Contractor shall be required, within the limits of his contract, to maintain the cement treated course in good condition until all work has been completed and accepted. Maintenance shall include immediate repairs of any defects that may occur. This work shall be done by the Contractor at his own expense and repeated as often as may be necessary to keep the area continuously intact. Faulty work shall be replaced for the full depth of treatment. It is the intent of this specification that the Contractor constructs the plan depth of cement treatment in one homogeneous mass.

9. MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

Unless indicated otherwise in the Proposal, Soil-Cement Base shall be measured by the square yard at each application rate specified. Measurement shall include, but not be limited to, furnishing, storing and applying cement; preparation of roadbed, application of cement, mixing, watering, compacting, finishing, curing and maintenance; and all other work as specified.