

*This guide specification has been prepared by Propex Operating Company, LLC (Propex) to assist design professionals in the preparation of a specification section covering RECPs to protect newly constructed or excavated stable soil slopes intended to be seeded and vegetated. It may be used as the basis for developing either a project specification or an office master specification. Since it has been prepared according to the principles established in the Manual of Practice published by The Construction Specifications Institute (CSI) including the use of section numbers and titles from the 2004 Edition of MasterFormat, this guide specification may be used in conjunction with most commercially available master specifications sections with minor editing.*

*The following should be noted in using this guide specification:*

- *Optional text requiring a selection by the user is enclosed within brackets, e.g.: “Section [01 33 00] [\_\_\_\_].”*
- *Items requiring user input are enclosed within brackets, e.g.: “Section [\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_].”*
- *Optional paragraphs are separated by an “OR” statement, e.g.:*

*\*\*\*\* OR \*\*\*\**

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## **1 GENERAL**

### **1.1 SECTION INCLUDES**

- A. Erosion control material to protect newly constructed or excavated stable soil slopes to be seeded and vegetated.

### **1.2 RELATED SECTIONS**

*Edit the following paragraphs to coordinate with other sections of the Project Manual.*

- A. Section [31 20 00 – Earth Moving] [\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_].
- B. Section [32 90 00 - Planting] [\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_].

### **1.3 UNIT PRICES**

*Include the following article only for unit price contracts or lump sum contract with unit price adjustments. Delete for lump sum contracts.*

- A. Method of Measurement: By the square meter (or square yard - as specified in contract documents) including seams, overlaps, anchor trenches, and wastage.

- B. Basis of Payment: By the square meter (or square yard - as specified in contract documents) installed.

1.4 REFERENCES

*The following article assumes that the date of each reference standard will be the latest edition as of the date of the project specification. This provision must be defined in Division 1; coordinate with Division 1 statements.*

- A. American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM):
1. D 4354 – Standard Practice for Sampling of Geosynthetics and Rolled Erosion Control Products (RECPs) for Testing.
  2. D 4355 – Standard Test Method for Deterioration of Geotextiles by Exposure to Light, Moisture and Heat in a Xenon Arc Type Apparatus.
  3. D 4439 - Standard Terminology for Geosynthetics.
  4. D 4759 – Standard Practice for Determining the Specification Conformance of Geosynthetics.
  5. D 4873 – Standard Guide for Identification, Storage, and Handling of Geosynthetic Rolls and Samples.
  6. D 6524 – Standard Test Method for Measuring the Resiliency of Turf Reinforcement Mats (TRMs).
  7. D 6525 – Standard Test Method for Measuring Nominal Thickness of Rolled Erosion Control Products.
  8. D 6567 – Standard Test Method for Measuring the Light Penetration of a Rolled Erosion Control Product (RECP).
  9. D 6575 – Standard Test Method for Determining Stiffness of Geosynthetics Used as Turf Reinforcement Mats (TRMs).
  10. D 6818 – Standard Test Method for Ultimate Tensile Properties of Rolled Erosion Control Products.
- B. Geosynthetic Accreditation Institute (GAI) - Laboratory Accreditation Program (LAP).
- C. International Standards Organization (ISO) 9001:2008 - Quality System Certification.

1.5 DEFINITIONS

- A. *Certificate of Compliance (COC)*: An official document certified by an authorized representative within the manufacturer's company that the manufactured synthetic turf reinforcement mat product(s) meet designated property values as manufactured in a facility having achieved ISO 9001:2008 certification, and tested in accordance with GAI-LAP procedures.
- B. *Manufacturer*: Entity that produces synthetic turf reinforcement mats through a process directly utilizing obtained raw materials, in a facility owned and operated by said entity, using equipment and assemblies owned and operated by said entity, subject to a certified Manufacturing Quality Control (MQC) Program. Upon completion of production, the manufacturer may sell the turf reinforcement mat product(s) directly to the customer, or through a vendor entity.

- C. *Manufacturing Quality Control (MQC) Program*: A certified and documented program initiated and operated by the manufacturer that outlines the operational techniques and activities which sustain a quality of the synthetic turf reinforcement mat product(s) that will satisfy given needs.
- D. *Minimum Average Roll Value (MARV)*: Property value calculated as typical minus two standard deviations. Statistically, it yields a 97.7 percent degree of confidence that any sample taken during quality assurance testing will exceed value reported.
- E. *Rolled Erosion Control Product (RECP)*: A temporary degradable or long-term non-degradable material manufactured or fabricated into rolls designed to reduce soil erosion and assist in the growth, establishment and protection of vegetation.
- F. *Securing Pin*: A device designed to temporarily hold the HPTRM in place while either vegetation establishes, or the installation of the HPTRM occurs. The securing pin offers no long term value to permanent tie-down of the HPTRM in an ARVS.
- G. *Trilobal Monofilament Yarn*: A multi-dimensional polymer fiber consisting of a minimum of three points, providing increased surface area and grooves/channels along the fiber to capture additional moisture and sediment to enhance vegetative growth.
- H. *Turf Reinforcement Mat (TRM)*: A long-term, non-degradable RECP composed of UV-stabilized, non-degradable, synthetic fibers, nettings and/or filaments processed into three-dimensional reinforcement matrices designed for permanent and critical hydraulic applications where design discharges exert velocities and shear stresses that exceed the limits of mature natural vegetation. TRMs provide sufficient thickness, strength and void space to permit soil filling and/or retention and the development of vegetation within the matrix.
- I. *Typical Roll Value*: Property value calculated from average or mean obtained from test data.
- J. *Vendor*: An entity that provides synthetic turf reinforcement mat product(s) to a customer, on behalf of an independent manufacturer. A vendor does not manufacture the actual synthetic turf reinforcement mat product(s), and therefore is not subject to provisions of a certified MQC Program.

#### 1.6 SUBMITTALS

*Edit the following to coordinate with Division 1.*

- A. Submit under provisions of Section [01 33 00] [\_\_\_\_]:
  - 1. Certification:
    - a) The Contractor shall provide the Engineer a Certificate of Compliance (COC) stating the name of the TRM manufacturer, product name, style, chemical compositions of filaments or yarns and other pertinent information to fully describe the TRM.
    - b) The Manufacturer is responsible for establishing and maintaining a Quality Control Program to assure compliance with the requirements of the specification. Documentation describing the quality control program shall be made available prior to the approval of the TRM for use on the project.
    - c) The manufacturer's Certificate of Compliance (COC) shall state that the furnished TRM meets MARV requirements of the specification as evaluated under the manufacturer's quality control program. The certificate shall be attested to by a person having legal authority to bind the Manufacturer.
    - d) The Contractor shall establish and maintain a quality control procedure to assure compliance of the TRM with the requirements of the specification. Documentation describing the quality control procedure shall be provided to the Engineer.
  - 2. Manufacturing Quality Control (MQC) test results shall be provided by the manufacturer for the TRM prior to installation during the duration of the project as material is delivered to the jobsite.
  - 3. Independent Performance Test Results shall be provided upon request.

1.7 DELIVERY, STORAGE, AND HANDLING

- A. TRM labeling, shipment and storage shall follow ASTM D 4873.
- B. Product labels shall clearly show the manufacturer or supplier name, style name, and roll number.
- C. Each shipping document shall include a notation certifying that the material is in accordance with the manufacturer's certificate.
- D. Each TRM roll shall be wrapped with a material that will protect the TRM from damage due to shipment, water, sunlight, and contaminants.
- E. The protective wrapping shall be maintained during periods of shipment and storage.
- F. During storage, TRM rolls shall be elevated off the ground and adequately covered to protect them from the following: Site construction damage, extended exposure to ultraviolet (UV) radiation, precipitation, chemicals that are strong acids or strong bases, flames, sparks, temperatures in excess of 71 deg C (160 deg F) and any other environmental condition that might damage the TRM.

1.8 QUALITY ASSURANCE SAMPLING, TESTING, AND ACCEPTANCE

- A. TRM shall be subject to sampling and testing to verify conformance with this specification. Sampling for testing shall be in accordance with ASTM D 4354.
- B. Acceptance shall be in accordance with ASTM D 4759 based on testing of either conformance samples obtained using Procedure A of ASTM D 4354, or based on manufacturer's certifications and testing of quality control samples obtained using Procedure B of ASTM D 4354.
- C. Quality Assurance Sampling and Testing will be waived for ISO 9001:2008 Certified Manufacturing Facilities. Documentation of ISO 9001:2008 Certification shall be provided upon request.

**2 PRODUCTS**

2.1 MANUFACTURERS

- A. Approved Manufacturers:
  - 1. Propex Operating Company, LLC  
4019 Industry Drive  
Chattanooga, TN 37416  
(800) 621-1273

2.2 MATERIALS

- A. PYRAMAT® 25:
  - 1. Three-dimensional, lofty woven polypropylene RECP specially designed for erosion control applications on steep slopes and vegetated waterways.
  - 2. Matrix composed of Trilobal monofilament yarns woven into uniform configuration of resilient pyramid-like projections that minimize watering requirements while enhancing vegetation establishment.
  - 3. Must be a homogeneous matrix, and not comprised of layers, composites, or discontinuous materials, or otherwise loosely held together by stitched or glued netting.
  - 4. Matrix stabilized against ultraviolet degradation and inert to chemicals normally encountered in natural soil environment.
  - 5. The TRM should meet the following values:

Property	Test Method	Test Parameter	Units	Property Requirement
Mass Per Unit Area <sup>1</sup>	ASTM D-6566	Minimum	g/m <sup>2</sup> (oz/yd <sup>2</sup> )	250 (7.5)
Thickness <sup>1</sup>	ASTM D-6525	Minimum	mm (in)	6 (0.25)
Light Penetration <sup>1</sup> (% Passing)	ASTM D-6567	Maximum	percent	35
Tensile Strength <sup>1</sup>	ASTM D-6818	Minimum	kN/m (lb/ft)	29 x 26 (2000 x 1800)
Tensile Elongation <sup>1</sup>	ASTM D-6818	Maximum	percent	50
Resiliency <sup>1</sup>	ASTM D-6524	Minimum	percent	70
Flexibility <sup>2,3</sup>	ASTM D-6575	Maximum	mg-cm (in-lb)	225,00 (0.195)
UV Resistance <sup>2</sup>	ASTM D-4355	Minimum	percent	90 at 1,000 hrs 90 at 3,000 hrs

Note:

1. Minimum Average Roll Value (MARV).
2. Typical Value.
3. A smaller value for flexibility denotes a more flexible material.
6. Manufacturing Quality Control: Testing shall be performed at a laboratory accredited by GAI-LAP for tests required for the geosynthetic, at frequency exceeding ASTM D 4354, with following minimum acceptable testing frequency:

Property	Test Frequency m <sup>2</sup> (yd <sup>2</sup> )
Mass Per Unit Area	1/12,291 (1/14,700)
Thickness	1/12,291 (1/14,700)
Light Penetration (% Passing)	1/12,291 (1/14,700)
Tensile Strength	1/12,291 (1/14,700)
Tensile Elongation	1/12,291 (1/14,700)
Resiliency	1/12,291 (1/14,700)
Flexibility	1/12,291 (1/14,700)
UV Resistance	Annually

## 2.3 ACCESSORIES

### A. Securing Pins:

1. Securing pins should be at least 5 mm (0.2 in.) diameter steel with a 38 mm (1.5 in.) steel washer at the head of the pin. Securing pins should be driven flush to the soil surface.

2. Length: 300 to 600 mm (12 to 24 inches); sufficient ground penetration to resist pullout.
3. Placement: The pins provide for temporary tie-down of the HPTRM to the slope to aid with vegetation establishment. Locations of the pins along trenches are indicated in the drawings at the center of the 0.3 m x 0.3 m (1 ft x 1ft) trench spaced 0.3 m (1 ft) apart. Locations of the pins along the vertical overlaps are spaced 0.3 m (1 ft) apart. TRM rolls wider than 3.2 m (10.5 ft) must not have a pin spacing greater than 0.45 m (1.5 ft) in any direction to minimize wrinkling of the material common to wide roll widths and the loss of intimate contact beneath the TRM.
4. Heavier metal stakes may be required in rocky soils
5. Depending on soil pH and design life of the pin, galvanized or stainless steel pins may be required.

### 3 EXECUTION

#### 3.1 PREPARATION

- A. Grade and compact areas to be treated with TRM (compacted as indicated or as directed by Engineer). Subgrade shall be uniform and smooth.
- B. Remove large rocks, soil clods, vegetation, and other sharp objects so that the installed mat will have direct contact with the soil surface.
- C. Prepare seedbed by loosening 50 to 75 mm (2 to 3 in) of soil above final grade. This may be accomplished with a rotary tiller on slopes 3H:1V or flatter.
- D. Select and apply soil amendments, fertilizer, and seed (if applicable), (in an amount equivalent to 50% of the total mixture required to be installed on the soil surface) in accordance with Section [32 92 19 SEEDING AND SODDING] [\_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_], to scarified surface prior to installation of TRM. Do not mulch areas where TRM is to be placed.
- E. Keep areas moist as necessary to establish vegetation. When watering seeded areas, use fine spray to prevent erosion of seeds or soil. If as a result of rain, prepared seedbed becomes crusted or eroded, or if eroded places, ruts, or depressions exist for any reason, rework soil until smooth and reseed such areas.
- F. Excavate a Crest of Slope (COS) trench 300 mm (12 in.) wide by 300 mm (12 in.) deep, a minimum of 900 mm (3 ft.) over the crest of the slope. Excavate a Toe of Slope (TOS) trench 300 mm (12 in.) wide by 300 mm (12 in.) deep, a minimum of 900 mm (3 ft.) past the toe of the slope.

#### 3.2 INSTALLATION

- A. Install TRM at elevation and alignment indicated.
- B. Beginning at downstream end of the slope, place initial end of first roll of TRM into the TOS trench and secure with securing pins at 300 mm (12 in) intervals.
- C. Unroll the TRM down the slope and secure the TRM end in the TOS trench with securing pins at 300 mm (12 in) intervals.
- D. Position adjacent upstream rolls in same manner, overlapping preceding roll minimum 75 mm (3 in) until the armoring limits are completed.
- E. Backfill and compact the trenches with specified soil or as directed by Engineer.
- F. Secure TRM to the slope with securing pins at a frequency of 2.5 pins per square meter (2 pins per square yard). Increased anchoring frequency may be required if site conditions are such that the Engineer determines it necessary.
- G. Alternate installation methods must be approved by Engineer prior to execution.
- H. Soil fill and seed or sod the TRM:
  1. Installed TRM shall be seeded (or re-seeded) and soil filled, OR sodded as required by the project documents.

2. Do not place excessive soil above material.
  3. Broadcast additional seed or mulch (if applicable) above soil-filled mat and irrigate as necessary to establish/maintain vegetation.
- I. Rubber-tired vehicles must be used, and sharp turns avoided. No heavy and/or tracked equipment or sharp turns are permitted on the installed TRM. Avoid ANY traffic over the TRM if loose or wet soil conditions exist.

**END OF SECTION**