Regional Engineers

Jack A. Elston

Special Provision for Mechanically Stabilized Earth Retaining Walls

April 21, 2023

This special provision was developed by the Central Bureau of Materials to clarify that lifting devices in mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) panels need to be galvanized. It also adds an Illinois Modified test procedure for fine and coarse aggregates used in MSE wall select fill to achieve the required friction angle in accordance with Article 522.09(b)(4).

This special provision should be inserted into contracts requiring permanent or temporary mechanically stabilized earth (MSE) retaining walls.

The districts should include the BDE Check Sheet marked with the applicable special provisions for the August 4, 2023 and subsequent lettings. The Project Coordination and Implementation Section will include a copy in the contract.

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# Mechanically Stabilized Earth Retaining Walls (bde)

Effective: August 1, 2023

Revise the second sentence of Articles 1003.07(d) and 1004.06(d) of the Standard Specifications to read:

“ The Illinois Modified AASHTO T 296 test with pore pressure measurement may be used in lieu of AASHTO T 236.”

Add the following to Article 522.02 of the Standard Specifications:

“ (s) Metal Hardware Cast into Concrete 1006.13”

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