

Colorado Procedure 25-21

Standard Practice for

Calculation of Percent Relative Compaction of Soils and Soil-Rock Mixtures

1. SCOPE

- 1.1 This procedure describes the method to use a one-point for calculating percent relative compaction of soils and soil-rock mixtures.

2. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

2.1 *AASHTO Procedures:*

- T 99 Moisture-Density Relations of Soils Using a 2.5-kg Rammer and a 305-mm Drop
T 180 Moisture-Density Relations of Soils Using a 4.54-kg Rammer and a 457-mm Drop
T 272 One-Point Method for Determining Maximum Dry Density and Optimum Moisture
T 265 Laboratory Determination of Moisture Content of Soils

2.2 *Colorado Procedures:*

- CP 23 Determining Maximum Dry Density and Optimum Moisture Content of Soil-Rock Mixtures
CP 80 In-Place Density and Moisture Content of Soil and Soil-Aggregate by the Nuclear Method

3. PROCEDURE

- 3.1 Determine the maximum dry density of the soil-rock mixture following the procedures of Subsection 3.2, 3.3, or 3.4.
- 3.2 Determine the valid project developed moisture / density curve for the soil-rock mixture.
- 3.2.1 Following the determination of the in-place density, obtain a minimum 9 lb sample of material from the density test as described in CP 80.
- 3.2.2 Determine the percent plus No. 4 in the material.
- If necessary, air dry the minus No. 4 portion of the material to a condition in which the material is within 80 to 100 percent of the optimum moisture content.
- 3.2.3 Use the minus No. 4 portion of the material to perform a one-point AASHTO T 99 or T 180, whichever is applicable.

- 3.2.4 Using the percent moisture from a representative moisture specimen taken from the material in the compaction cylinder and dried per AASHTO T 265, calculate the dry density of the material from the compaction cylinder using the formula:

$$D_D = \frac{\frac{W_w}{M_v}}{1 + \frac{M}{100}}$$

Where:

D_D = Dry Density of compacted soil, lbs/ft³;

W_w = Wet weight of compacted soil, lbs;

M_v = Mold Volume for 4" mold = 0.0333 ft³ and for a 6" mold = 0.0750 ft³;

M = percent moisture.

Note 1: Use the actual mold volume in this calculation if it has been determined.

- 3.2.5 Using the calculated dry density and the percent moisture of this material, plot the location of this data point on the appropriate moisture density relation curve.

- 3.2.6 A moisture density relation curve is valid and will be used when the plotted one-point data is within 2.0 lbs/ft³ at the specimen's moisture content and when the specimen's moisture content is within 80 to 100 percent of the optimum moisture content of the reference curve.

Note 2: This moisture density relation curve must be from a soil on the project with the same soil classification. If the soil being tested has not been classified previously, it must be classified.

- 3.2.7 If the one-point data determined does not plot within 2.0 lbs/ft³ at the specimen's moisture content, or if the moisture content of the one point is not within 80 to 100 percent of the optimum moisture content of the reference curve, check additional curves of the same soil classification that were generated on the project and meet the aforementioned criteria. If an applicable curve of the same soil classification is not found, refer to Subsection 3.3 of this procedure.

- 3.3 If a valid moisture density curve cannot be determined from the one-point test, use the material collected in Subsection 3.2.1 to determine the maximum dry density and optimum moisture content according to AASHTO T 99 or T 180, whichever is applicable, on the material passing the No. 4 sieve.

- 3.4 When the source of the soil-rock mixture is known and the maximum dry density, optimum moisture content, and soil classification has been previously determined:

- 3.4.1 The tester may use the moisture density relation curve after a one-point test has been performed. The result must meet the criteria of Subsection 3.2. and then use the moisture density relation curve that has been approved by the Engineer.

- 3.5 The maximum dry density and optimum moisture content of a soil-rock mixture must be validated a minimum of 1 per 5000 yds³ for each soil classification using Subsection 3.2.

Note 3: This is required to verify and document that there has not been subtle or unnoticed changes in soil characteristics.

- 3.6 For soil-rock mixtures containing 5% or more plus No. 4 material, the maximum dry density of the soil-rock and optimum moisture content shall be rock corrected according to CP 23.

- 3.7 Calculate percent relative compaction by dividing the dry density of the material from the test site by that material's moisture density relation curve's maximum dry density, and multiply by 100%.

Note 4: When AASHTO T99/T180 Method D is used by CP 23, the ¾ inch sieve shall be substituted for the No. 4 sieve. The material passing the ¾ inch sieve will be used for determining the un-corrected maximum dry density and optimum moisture content.

4. RECORD

- 4.1 CDOT Form 427, Nuclear Moisture/Density Soils Test.

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