



**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**State Aid Division**  
**Technical Memorandum No. 10-SA-03**  
December 21, 2010

**To:** County Engineers (Distribution 618)  
City Engineers (Distribution 650)  
MnDOT District State Aid Engineers  
MnDOT District Materials Engineers  
SALT Consultant list

**From:** Julie Skallman, P.E. *for Richard B. Jones*  
State Aid Engineer

**Subject:** **Geogrids (multiaxial) on CSAH and MSAS routes - General Specification, Granular Equivalent (G.E.) and Design Guidelines**

#### **Expiration**

This Technical Memorandum supersedes Technical Memorandum No. 09-SA-01 and will expire on December 20, 2015 unless superseded prior to this date.

#### **Implementation**

The guidelines contained in this Technical Memorandum are effective immediately for all Federal Aid and State Aid projects specifying multiaxial geogrid. This Technical Memorandum **does not** apply to uniaxial geogrids.

#### **Introduction**

Plans and proposals should not reference a brand named product. A general specification for multiaxial geogrid will provide designers a framework from which to specify the geogrid engineering properties required for a project.

With limited aggregate sources on some projects, there is an economic need to assign a granular equivalent (G.E.) to a geogrid.

This Technical Memorandum will provide roadway designers with both general information and contact persons regarding the application of geogrids in roadway aggregate base course construction.

#### **Purpose**

There are three main purposes of this Technical Memorandum. First, is to provide a general specification for the uses of geogrids. Second, is to provide a granular equivalent (G.E.) for geogrid. Third, is to provide design guidelines for the application of geogrids in the aggregate base course in both MSAS and CSAH routes.

## **Guidelines**

### **SPECIFICATION**

In the plans and proposals, geogrid should be referenced under specification number 2105. A copy of the most recent (11/23/10) general specification is attached. Numeric strength values will differ depending on the application and strength of geogrid required.

### **GRANULAR EQUIVALENT**

For aggregate base course design purposes, multiaxial geogrid shall have a granular equivalent (G.E.) value of **2 inches**. Multiple layers of multiaxial geogrid within a pavement design shall not be additive. Maximum G.E. from geogrid = 2 inches

### **DESIGN GUIDELINES**

Geogrids are a regular network of tensile elements with apertures of sufficient size to interlock with surrounding fill material.

Multiaxial geogrids are typically used in aggregate base courses and have strength in two or more directions. Particles in the aggregate base course may move due to traffic loading causing surface rutting. Multiaxial geogrids are beneficial to use where traffic stresses exceed the aggregate base course lateral restraint capacity causing rutting and alligator cracking.

The geogrid shall not have any distortions or waves in the lay down. For maximum benefit, the geogrid should be installed a minimum of 6 inches and not more than 12 inches beneath the top of the aggregate base. Geogrid should be installed in the aggregate base and not in the granular borrow. The aggregate base material gradation is extremely important because the aggregate particles need to interlock in the aperture openings of the specified multiaxial geogrid. An aperture dimension range from 0.5 to 1.5 times the largest sieve requirement tends to interlock well with the Mn/DOT Specification 3138, Class 5 material.

Construction experience has shown that placing 4-8 inches of aggregate base on the geogrid should allow for an adequate construction platform, however, each design should be checked to ensure a stable platform for construction equipment. Aggregate material should initially be placed in the center of the geogrid and then spread outward radially in a uniform depth to the geogrid edges. Tracked construction equipment should not be allowed to drive on the geogrid itself.

Consult the District Materials Engineer, District State Aid Engineer and manufacturer's recommendations for further guidance.

### **Questions**

For information on the technical contents of this memorandum, please contact either Blake Nelson, Geotechnologies Engineer at (651)366-5599, Tim Andersen, Pavement Design Engineer at (651)366-5455 or Joe Thomas, State Aid Project Engineer at (651)366-3831.

A link to all active and historical State Aid for Local Transportation Technical Memoranda can be found at: [http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa\\_tech\\_memos.html](http://www.dot.state.mn.us/stateaid/sa_tech_memos.html)

**Attachment:** 1 page - General specification (2105) GEOGRID for multiaxial applications only. For uniaxial applications the designer must write a project specific specification.

**2105  
GEOGRID**

**2105.1 Description**

This work consists of placing multiaxial geogrid(s) for construction in accordance with the details shown in the plan, the applicable Mn/DOT Standard Specifications, and the following:

**2105.2 Materials**

The multiaxial geogrid must meet the following strength values in accordance with ASTM D 6637.

Geogrid Type		Type A	Type B
Minimum Tensile strength @ 2% strain	Longitudinal*	See note 1 below	410 lb/ft (6.0 kN/m) minimum
	Transverse**	See note 1 below	615 lb/ft (9.0 kN/m) minimum
Minimum Ultimate Tensile Strength	Longitudinal*	See note 1 below	1310 lb/ft (19.2 kN/m) minimum
	Transverse**	See note 1 below	1970 lb/ft (28.8 kN/m) minimum

Type A – Note 1: values as agreed upon by Mn/DOT Geotechnologies Engineer

Type B – Use only for aggregate base reinforcement

Junction Strength – 25 lb. (111 N) maximum

Minimum Aperture Dimensions: 0.5 x largest sieve requirement

Maximum Aperture Dimensions: 1.5 x largest sieve requirement

\* machine direction    \*\* cross machine direction or specified direction

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**2105.3 Construction Requirements**

1. The installation operation must not cause damage, distortion to, or compromise the performance of the geogrid in any manner.
2. Geogrid, Type B, will be placed parallel to the centerline of the roadway.
3. The minimum overlap of geogrid is 1.0 ft. (0.3m) and must be tied with mechanical connectors, spaced at a maximum interval of 4 ft. (1.3m). Use mechanical connectors as approved by the manufacturer.

**2105.4 Method of Measurement**

Measurement will be made by the area of geogrid placed (no compensation for overlaps) as specified.

**2105.5 Basis of Payment**

The contract bid price per square yard (square meter) is full compensation for the cost of furnishing and installing the required materials, including mechanical connectors.

Payment will be made under:

<b>Item No.</b>	<b>Item</b>	<b>Unit</b>
2105.604	Geogrid .....	square yard (square meter)

Revised: 12/21/10