



CONSTRUCTION SPECIFICATION AR-23C – EARTHFILL CLASS C

1. Scope

The work shall consist of the construction of compacted earth fills where the amount of compaction is to be controlled by specifying a construction method.

2. Materials

All fill materials shall be obtained from required excavations and designated borrow areas. Selection, blending, placement, and compaction of fill will be subject to approval of the inspector.

Fill materials shall contain no frozen material, sod, roots or other perishable material, or rocks larger than six inches in diameter. Fill shall not be placed on a frozen surface.

3. Foundation Preparation

All foundation (including abutment) surfaces shall be shaped one horizontal to one vertical or flatter except as otherwise specified.

After stripping (see stripping specification), the foundation shall be loosened thoroughly by scarifying or plowing to a minimum depth of four inches. The foundation shall then be compacted by the process specified for the fill.

4. Placement

All foundation excavation and preparation shall be completed before placing fill. Except as required by the drawings, fill material shall be mixed and uniformly placed throughout the entire fill without lenses, streaks, pockets, or layers of material that differ significantly from surrounding material.

Placement and compaction methods must prevent damage to structures and allow the structure to assume backfill loads gradually and uniformly. Within 2 feet of any structure, fill layer thickness must not exceed 4 inches and equipment loads must not exceed 400 pounds.

Fill shall be placed in approximately horizontal layers. Except as described above, fill layer thickness shall not exceed nine inches for compaction by large machines or four inches for small hand directed power tampers.

If the surface of any layer becomes too hard and smooth for proper bond with the succeeding layer, it shall be scarified parallel to the axis of the fill, to a depth of not less than two inches, before the next layer is placed.

Except as otherwise specified, openings temporarily left in dam fills (for pipe installation, stream flow, etc.,) shall have side slopes three horizontal to one vertical or flatter. When filling the opening, the bonding surface of the fill in place shall be stripped of all material not meeting the requirements of this specification and shall be scarified, moistened, and recompacted as new earthfill is placed.

5. Control of Moisture Content



At the time of compaction, earth fill shall have a moisture content that when kneaded in the hand will form a ball that does not easily crumble when pressed between the hands. If the soil is too wet, it will yield free water when kneaded in the hand.

Fill materials must be wetted or dried as needed to achieve proper moisture prior to compaction.

6. Compaction (Class C)

Fill layers shall be compacted by one of the following methods.

1. ____ By routing the hauling and spreading equipment such that all points of the fill are traversed by at least one tread track of the loaded equipment traveling parallel to the centerline of the fill.
2. ____ By at least 2 passes of a tamping (sheeps foot) roller weighing at least 100 pounds per square inch of bearing area.

Fill adjacent to structures shall be compacted to a density equivalent to that of the surrounding fill by means of hand tamping or manually directed power tampers or plate vibrators. Within 2 feet of any structure, equipment loads must not exceed 400 pounds.

Compaction of fill adjacent to concrete structures shall not be started for at least the following number of days after placement of the concrete.

Concrete Structure	Days After Concrete Placement
Vertical or near-vertical walls with earth load on one side only	14
Walls backfilled on both sides simultaneously	7
Conduits and spillway risers, cast-in-place (with inside forms in place)	7
Conduits and spillway risers, cast-in-place (forms removed)	14
Conduits, pre-cast, cradled	2
Conduits, pre-cast, bedded	1
Anti-seep collars and cantilever pipe supports (backfill both sides simultaneously)	3