GEOLABS, INC.

Geotechnical Engineering

Soil Classification Log Key

(with deviations from ASTM D2488)

GEOLABS, INC. CLASSIFICATION*

GRANULAR SOIL (- #200 <50%)

- **PRIMARY** constituents are composed of the largest percent of the soil mass. Primary constituents are capitalized and bold (i.e., **GRAVEL, SAND**)
- **SECONDARY** constituents are composed of a percentage less than the primary constituent. If the soil mass consists of 12 percent or more fines content, a cohesive constituent is used (**SILTY** or **CLAYEY**); otherwise, a granular constituent is used (**GRAVELLY** or **SANDY**) provided that the secondary constituent consists of 20 percent or more of the soil mass. Secondary constituents are capitalized and bold (i.e., **SANDY** GRAVEL, **CLAYEY** SAND) and precede the primary constituent.
- **accessory descriptions** compose of the following:
  with some: >12%
  with a little: 5 - 12%
  with traces of: <5%
  accessory descriptions are lower cased and follow the Primary and Secondary Constituents
  (i.e., SILTY GRAVEL **with a little sand**)

COHESIVE SOIL (- #200 ≥ 50%)

- **PRIMARY** constituents are based on plasticity. Primary constituents are capitalized and bold (i.e., **CLAY, SILT**)
- **SECONDARY** constituents are composed of a percentage less than the primary constituent, but more than 20 percent of the soil mass. Secondary constituents are capitalized and bold (i.e., **SANDY** CLAY, **SILTY** CLAY, **CLAYEY** SILT) and precede the primary constituent.
- **accessory descriptions** compose of the following:
  with some: >12%
  with a little: 5 - 12%
  with traces of: <5%
  accessory descriptions are lower cased and follow the Primary and Secondary Constituents
  (i.e., SILTY CLAY **with some sand**)

EXAMPLE: Soil Containing 60% Gravel, 25% Sand, 15% Fines. Described as: **SILTY GRAVEL** with some sand

RELATIVE DENSITY / CONSISTENCY

Granular Soils			Cohesive Soils			
N-Value (Blows/Foot)		Relative Density	N-Value (Blows/Foot)		PP Readings (tsf)	Consistency
SPT	MCS		SPT	MCS		
0 - 4	0 - 7	Very Loose	0 - 2	0 - 4		Very Soft
4 - 10	7 - 18	Loose	2 - 4	4 - 7	< 0.5	Soft
10 - 30	18 - 55	Medium Dense	4 - 8	7 - 15	0.5 - 1.0	Medium Stiff
30 - 50	55 - 91	Dense	8 - 15	15 - 27	1.0 - 2.0	Stiff
> 50	> 91	Very Dense	15 - 30	27 - 55	2.0 - 4.0	Very Stiff
			> 30	> 55	> 4.0	Hard

MOISTURE CONTENT DEFINITIONS

Dry: Absence of moisture, dry to the touch

Moist: Damp but no visible water

Wet: Visible free water

ABBREVIATIONS

WOH: Weight of Hammer

WOR: Weight of Drill Rods

SPT: Standard Penetration Test Split-Spoon Sampler

MCS: Modified California Sampler

PP: Pocket Penetrometer

GRAIN SIZE DEFINITION

Description	Sieve Number and / or Size
Boulders	> 12 inches (305-mm)
Cobbles	3 to 12 inches (75-mm to 305-mm)
Gravel	3-inch to #4 (75-mm to 4.75-mm)
Coarse Gravel	3-inch to 3/4-inch (75-mm to 19-mm)
Fine Gravel	3/4-inch to #4 (19-mm to 4.75-mm)
Sand	#4 to #200 (4.75-mm to 0.075-mm)
Coarse Sand	#4 to #10 (4.75-mm to 2-mm)
Medium Sand	#10 to #40 (2-mm to 0.425-mm)
Fine Sand	#40 to #200 (0.425-mm to 0.075-mm)

Soil descriptions are based on ASTM D2488-09a, Visual-Manual Procedure, with the above modifications by Geolabs, Inc. to the Unified Soil Classification System (USCS).

Plate

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