

524.07

the plan diameter of the shaft. If the plan diameter of the bedrock socket is same as the drilled shaft above the bedrock and a steel casing is used, provide a diameter of the bedrock socket as shown on the plans. Ensure that the diameter of the casing is large enough to allow the excavation of the bedrock socket.

Where drilled shafts are located in open water areas, extend the casing a minimum of 12 inches (300 mm) above the water to protect the shaft concrete from water action during placement and curing of the concrete. Cut off the casing at the plan top of drilled shaft elevation after the concrete has cured. If practical, install the casing in a manner that produces a positive seal at the bottom of the casing to prevent piping of water or entry of other material into the shaft excavation.

If it becomes necessary to remove a casing and substitute a longer or larger diameter casing through caving soils, stabilize the excavation with slurry or backfill before installing the new casing. The Contractor may use other methods accepted by the Engineer to control the stability of the excavation and to protect the integrity of the foundation soils.

524.07 Slurry. Slurry used in the drilling process shall be a mineral or polymer slurry. The mineral slurry shall have both a mineral grain size that remains in suspension and sufficient viscosity and gel characteristics to transport excavated material to a suitable screening system. Ensure that the percentage and specific gravity of the material used to make the suspension is sufficient to maintain the stability of the excavation and to allow proper concrete placement. Maintain the level of the slurry at a height sufficient to prevent caving of the hole.

Thoroughly premix the mineral slurry with clean fresh water and allow adequate time for hydration before introduction into the shaft excavation. Agitate, circulate, and adjust the properties of the slurry to prevent the slurry from “setting up” in the shaft excavation.

Perform control tests using suitable apparatus on the mineral slurry to determine density, viscosity, and pH. Conform to the acceptable range of values for these physical properties as shown in Table 524.07-1.

**TABLE 524.07-1 MINERAL SLURRY SPECIFICATIONS
RANGE OF VALUES AT 68 °F (20 °C)**

Property	Test Method	Time of Slurry Introduction	Time of Concreting in Hole
Density lb/ft ³ (kg/m ³)	Density Balance	64.3 to 69.1 (1030 to 1107)	64.3 to 75.0 (1030 to 1201)
Viscosity s/qt (s/L)	Marsh Cone	28 to 45 (30 to 48)	28 to 45 (30 to 48)
pH	pH Paper or meter	8 to 11	8 to 11

If de-sanding is required, do not allow the sand content to exceed 4 percent by volume at any point in the shaft excavation as determined by the American Petroleum Institute sand content test.

Determine density, viscosity, and pH values before and during the shaft excavation to establish a consistent working pattern.

Before placing shaft concrete, use an approved slurry-sampling tool to take slurry samples from the bottom and at mid-height of the shaft. Eliminate heavily contaminated slurry that has accumulated at the bottom of the shaft. Ensure that the mineral slurry conforms to the requirements specified immediately before shaft concrete placement.

Only use polymer slurry after demonstrating to the Engineer that the stability of the hole perimeter can be maintained while advancing the excavation to its final depth by excavating a trial hole of the same diameter and depth as that of the production shafts. Use the same polymer slurry in the trial hole as proposed for the production shafts. If using different sizes of the shafts at the project, use the same size trial hole as that of the largest diameter shaft, except the depth of the trial hole need not be more than 40 feet (12 meters). Only one trial hole per project is required. Do not use the trial hole excavation for a production shaft. After completing the trial hole excavation, fill the hole with sand. The acceptance of the polymer slurry does not relieve the Contractor of responsibility to maintain the stability of the excavation. Polymer slurry shall conform to the manufacturer's requirements.

524.08 Excavation Inspection. Provide equipment for checking the dimensions and alignment of each shaft excavation. Determine the dimensions and alignment. Measure the final shaft depth after final inspection.

Immediately before placing concrete, ensure that the bottom of the completed drilled shaft excavation is as clean as practical. Remove drilling spoils that adhere to the vertical sides of the bedrock socket.

524.09 Reinforcing Steel for Drilled Shafts. Place the reinforcing steel cage as a unit immediately after inspection of the excavation and before placing concrete. If not placing the concrete immediately after installing the cage, the Contractor may have to remove the cage before placing the concrete to verify the integrity of the excavated area and to ensure loose material is removed from the bottom of the hole.

Tie and support the reinforcing steel so it remains within the required tolerances. Securely tie spacers at quarter points around the cage perimeter and space at intervals not to exceed 5 feet (1.5 m) along the length of the cage. If the size of the longitudinal reinforcing steel equals or exceeds 1-inch (25 mm) in diameter, the Contractor may increase the minimum spacing of the spacing devices to 10 feet (3 m). Use spacers of adequate dimensions to ensure a minimum annular space between outside of cage and side of hole or casing of 3 inches (75 mm) for shaft diameters up to 4 feet (1.2 m) and 6 inches (150 mm) for shaft diameters larger than 4 feet (1.2 m). The Contractor may use round plastic spacers.

Maintain the top of the reinforcing steel cage no more than 6 inches (150 mm) above and no more than 3 inches (75 mm) below the required position. If the reinforcing steel cage is not maintained within tolerances, make acceptable