



Safety Bulletin EM 385-1-1

Mobile District Safety and Occupational Health Office
Soil Classification

Bulletin 48-09

The 15 September 2008 Safety Manual (yellow book) is now in effect for most new contracts and government operations. Please note the changes for soil classification as stated below.

<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Other Considerations</u>
Stable Rock	<u>Natural solid mineral that can be excavated with vertical sides and remain intact while exposed.</u>	
Type A	<u>Cohesive soil with an unconfined compressive strength of 1.5 tons per square foot (tsf) (144 kPa) or greater.</u>	<u>Can not be Type A if soil is: 1) fissured; 2) subject to vibration from heavy traffic, pile driving, etc.; 3) previously disturbed; 4) part of sloped, layered system where layers dip into excavation on a slope of 4H:1V or greater; or 5) subject to other factors requiring it to be classified as less stable material.</u>

<u>Soil Type</u>	<u>Criteria</u>	<u>Other Considerations</u>
Type B	<u>Cohesive soil with an unconfined compressive strength greater than 0.5 tsf (48 kPa) but less than 1.5 tsf (144 kPa).</u>	<u>Type B soil can also be: 1) granular cohesionless soils such as angular gravel, silt, silt loam, sandy loam, and in some cases, silty clay loam and sandy clay loam; 2) previously disturbed soils except those which would otherwise be classed as Type C soil; 3) soil that meets the requirements of Type A, but is fissured or subject to vibration; 4) dry rock that is not stable; or 5) part of sloped, layered system where layers dip into excavation on a slope of 4H:1V, but only if the soil would otherwise be classed as Type A.</u>
Type C	<u>Cohesive soil with an unconfined compressive strength of 0.5 tsf (48 kPa) or less.</u>	<u>Type C soil can also be: 1) granular soils including gravel, sand, and loamy sand; 2) submerged soil or soil from which water is freely seeping; 3) submerged rock that is not stable; or 4) part of sloped, layered system where layers dip into excavation on a slope of 4H:1V or steeper.</u>

* Soil classification must be determined by a Competent Person as defined in 25.A.02