
USACE / NAVFAC / AFCEA / NASA UFGS-31 36 00 (July 2007)

Preparing Activity: USACE (CW) Superseding
UFGS-31 36 00 (April 2006)

UNIFIED FACILITIES GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS

References are in agreement with UMRL dated July 2007

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07/07

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SECTION 31 36 00

WIRE MESH GABIONS[AND MATTRESSES] 07/07

NOTE: This guide specification covers the requirements for the procurement and installation of steel wire mesh gabion and mattress units used as a measure of protection against erosion forces of stream flow in water courses and slope instability.

Edit this guide specification for project specific requirements by adding, deleting, or revising text. For bracketed items, choose applicable items(s) or insert appropriate information.

Remove information and requirements not required in respective project, whether or not brackets are present.

Comments and suggestions on this guide specification are welcome and should be directed to the technical proponent of the specification. A listing of technical proponents, including their organization designation and telephone number, is on the Internet.

Recommended changes to a UFGS should be submitted as a Criteria Change Request (CCR).

PART 1 GENERAL

1.1 REFERENCES

NOTE: This paragraph is used to list the publications cited in the text of the guide specification. The publications are referred to in the text by basic designation only and listed in this paragraph by organization, designation, date, and title.

Use the Reference Wizard's Check Reference feature

when you add a RID outside of the Section's Reference Article to automatically place the reference in the Reference Article. Also use the Reference Wizard's Check Reference feature to update the issue dates.

References not used in the text will automatically be deleted from this section of the project specification when you choose to reconcile references in the publish print process.

The publications listed below form a part of this specification to the extent referenced. The publications are referred to within the text by the basic designation only.

ASTM INTERNATIONAL (ASTM)

ASTM A 313/A 313M	(2003) Standard Specification for Stainless Steel Spring Wire
ASTM A 370	(2006) Standard Test Methods and Definitions for Mechanical Testing of Steel Products
ASTM A 428/A 428M	(2006) Standard Test Method for Weight (Mass) of Coating on Aluminum-Coated Iron or Steel Articles
ASTM A 641/A 641M	(2003) Standard Specification for Zinc-Coated (Galvanized) Carbon Steel Wire
ASTM A 764	(1995; R 2001) Standard Specification for Metallic Coated Carbon Steel Wire, Coated at Size and Drawn to Size for Mechanical Springs
ASTM A 809	(2003) Standard Specification for Aluminum-Coated (Aluminized) Carbon Steel Wire
ASTM A 853	(2004) Standard Specification for Steel Wire, Carbon, for General Use
ASTM A 856/A 856M	(2003) Standard Specification for Zinc-5% Aluminum-Mischmetal Alloy-Coated Carbon Steel Wire
ASTM A 90/A 90M	(2006) Standard Test Method for Weight [Mass] of Coating on Iron and Steel Articles with Zinc or Zinc-Alloy Coatings
ASTM A 974	(1997; R 2003) Standard Specification for Welded Wire Fabric Gabion and Gabion Mattresses (Metallic Coated or Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Coated)
ASTM A 975	(1997; R 2003) Standard Specification for Double-Twisted Hexagonal Mesh Gabions and

	Revet Mattresses (Metallic-Coated Steel Wire or Metallic-Coated Steel Wire With Poly(Vinyl Chloride) (PVC) Coating)
ASTM B 117	(2003) Standing Practice for Operating Salt Spray (Fog) Apparatus
ASTM C 136	(2006) Standard Test Method for Sieve Analysis of Fine and Coarse Aggregates
ASTM C 33	(2003) Standard Specification for Concrete Aggregates
ASTM D 1499	(2005) Filtered Open-Flame Carbon-Arc Type Exposures of Plastics
ASTM D 2240	(2005) Standard Test Method for Rubber Property - Durometer Hardness
ASTM D 412	(1998a; R 2002e1) Standard Test Methods for Vulcanized Rubber and Thermoplastic Elastomers - Tension
ASTM D 5312	(2004) Evaluation of Durability of Rock for Erosion Control Under Freezing and Thawing Conditions
ASTM D 638	(2003) Standard Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics
ASTM D 746	(2004) Standard Test Method for Brittleness Temperature of Plastics and Elastomers by Impact
ASTM D 792	(2000) Density and Specific Gravity (Relative Density) of Plastics by Displacement
ASTM G 152	(2000ae1) Operating Open Flame Carbon Arc Light Apparatus for Exposure of Nonmetallic Materials

U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS (USACE)

COE CRD-C 144	(1992) Standard Test Method for Resistance of Rock to Freezing and Thawing
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1.2 DEFINITIONS

1.2.1 Rate of Aggresiveness

The determination of the rate of aggressiveness (non-aggressive, moderately, or highly aggressive) shall be made on a project-to-project basis, due to the many variables involved and the lack of criteria of general validity. It is normally recommended for the choice to be based on all the available data and on the experience of existing gabion structures in similar environments.

1.2.2 Double Twisted Wire Mesh Gabions[and Mattresses]

Classified according to the wire coating, which is applied prior to manufacturing the mesh. Coating styles are as follows:

1.2.2.1 Style 1

Wire mesh made from wire which is zinc coated before being double twisted into mesh. Fasteners, lacing wire, and stiffeners are produced from zinc-coated wire.

Style 1 for the wire coating is normally recommended for:

- a. Permanent gabion[or mattress] structures, for works installed in non-aggressive or non-polluted environments, and this condition remains unaltered over time;
- b. Temporary gabion[or mattress] structures, for works in moderately aggressive environments, depending on the minimum design life of the structure.

1.2.2.2 Style 2

Wire mesh made from wire which is coated with Zn-5Al-MM before being double twisted into mesh. Fasteners, lacing wire, and stiffeners are also produced from Zn-5Al-MM coated wire.

Style 2 for the wire coating is normally recommended for:

- a. Permanent gabion[or mattress] structures, for works installed in moderately aggressive environments;
- b. Temporary gabion[or mattress] structures, for works in aggressive environments, depending on the minimum design life of the structure.

1.2.2.3 Style 3

Wire mesh, lacing wire, and stiffeners as Style 1 and overcoated with PVC. Fasteners shall be of stainless steel wire.

Style 3 for the wire coating is normally recommended for both permanent and temporary gabion structures, for works installed in aggressive or polluted environments, or when the aggressiveness of the site is moderately unpredictable or variable from low to high.

1.2.2.4 Style 4

Wire mesh made from wire which is aluminum-coated before being double twisted into mesh. Fasteners, lacing wire, and stiffeners are also produced from aluminum-coated wire.

Style 4 for the wire coating is very seldom used in the gabion industry. Its life expectancy shall be adequately documented to guarantee its consistency and reliability.

1.2.3 Welded Wire Fabric Gabions[and Mattresses]

Classified according to wire coating styles as follows:

1.2.3.1 Style 1

Welded wire fabric made from wire which is zinc coated before being welded into fabric. Spiral binders, lacing wire, and stiffeners are produced from zinc-coated wire.

Style 1 for the wire coating is normally recommended for temporary gabion[or mattress] structures, for works in non-aggressive or non-polluted environments.

1.2.3.2 Style 2

Welded wire fabric which is made from uncoated wire and the fabric is subsequently zinc-coated after fabrication. Spiral binders, lacing wire, and stiffeners are produced from zinc-coated wire.

Style 2 for the wire coating is normally recommended for permanent gabion[or mattress] structures, for works installed in non-aggressive or non-polluted environments, and this condition remains unchanged over time

1.2.3.3 Style 3

Welded wire fabric made from wire which is coated with zinc-5% aluminum-mischmetal alloy (Zn-5Al-MM) before being welded into fabric. Spiral binders, lacing wire, and stiffeners are also produced from zinc-5% aluminum-mischmetal alloy (Zn-5Al-MM) coated wire.

Style 3 for the wire coating is normally recommended for:

- a. Permanent gabion[or mattress] structures, for works installed in moderately aggressive environments;
- b. Temporary gabion[or mattress] structures, for works in aggressive environments, depending on the minimum design life of the structure.

1.2.3.4 Style 4

Welded wire fabric made from wire which is aluminum-coated before being welded into fabric. Spiral binders, lacing wire, and stiffeners are also produced from aluminum-coated (aluminized) wire.

Style 4 for the wire coating is very seldom used in the gabion industry. Its life expectancy shall be adequately documented to guarantee its consistency and reliability.

1.2.3.5 Style 5

Welded wire fabric, spiral binders, lacing wire, and stiffeners as Styles 1, 2, 3, or 4, and overcoated with PVC.

Style 5 for the wire coating is normally recommended for both permanent and temporary gabion structures, for works installed in aggressive or polluted environments, or when the aggressiveness of the site is moderately unpredictable or variable from low to high.

1.3 UNIT PRICES

NOTE: For small projects, the district may opt to

use lump sum payment.

Double twisted wire mesh gabions manufactured in SI (metric) units are different in size from those manufactured in English (inch-pound) units.

Sizes for double twisted wire mesh gabions and mattresses in SI (metric) units must refer to Tables 3 and 5 on ASTM A 975. Sizes for double twisted wire mesh gabions and mattresses in English (inch-pound) units must refer to Tables 4 and 6 on ASTM A 975. Sizes for welded wire mesh gabions and mattresses both in SI (metric) and English (inch-pound) units must refer to Table 1 on ASTM A 974.

This note also applies to the subparagraphs below titled Unit of Measure.

1.3.1 Filter Material

1.3.1.1 Payment

Payment will be made for costs for filter material, including furnishing, hauling, placing, and maintenance of the filter layers until placement of the gabion [and mattress] cover is completed and accepted. No payment will be made for excess thickness of filter layers or for material required to replace material lost by rain wash, wind erosion, or otherwise, except for additional filter material ordered in writing.

1.3.1.2 Measurement

Filter material will be measured for payment based upon computations made from the theoretical filter thickness as specified or shown, and the areas acceptably placed where shown or staked in the field.

1.3.1.3 Unit of Measure

Unit of measure shall be cubic meter cubic yard.

1.3.2 Gabion [and Mattress] Protection

1.3.2.1 Payment

Payment will be made for costs associated with gabion [or mattress protection], including the costs of furnishing, assembling, and placing the wire baskets, the stone fill, and all other materials, labor, equipment, tools, supplies, and incidental costs in connection with completing this item of work.

1.3.2.2 Measurement

Gabions [or mattresses] meeting the requirements of these specifications and acceptably placed within the limits indicated on the drawings or otherwise established in the field, will be measured for payment by the cubic meter cubic yard of stone filled gabions [or mattresses] in place.

1.3.2.3 Unit of Measure

Unit of measure shall be cubic meter cubic yard.

1.4 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

The work under this specification includes furnishing, assembling, filling and tying open wire mesh rectangular compartmented gabions [and mattresses] placed on a prepared surface of [filter material] [geotextile], [geotextile and filter materials], as specified, and in accordance with the lines, grades, and dimensions shown or otherwise established in the field.

1.5 SUBMITTALS

NOTE: Review submittal description (SD) definitions in Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES and edit the following list to reflect only the submittals required for the project. Submittals should be kept to the minimum required for adequate quality control.

A "G" following a submittal item indicates that the submittal requires Government approval. Some submittals are already marked with a "G". Only delete an existing "G" if the submittal item is not complex and can be reviewed through the Contractor's Quality Control system. Only add a "G" if the submittal is sufficiently important or complex in context of the project.

For submittals requiring Government approval on Army projects, a code of up to three characters within the submittal tags may be used following the "G" designation to indicate the approving authority. Codes for Army projects using the Resident Management System (RMS) are: "AE" for Architect-Engineer; "DO" for District Office (Engineering Division or other organization in the District Office); "AO" for Area Office; "RO" for Resident Office; and "PO" for Project Office. Codes following the "G" typically are not used for Navy, Air Force, and NASA projects.

Choose the first bracketed item for Navy, Air Force and NASA projects, or choose the second bracketed item for Army projects.

Government approval is required for submittals with a "G" designation; submittals not having a "G" designation are for [Contractor Quality Control approval.] [information only. When used, a designation following the "G" designation identifies the office that will review the submittal for the Government.] The following shall be submitted in accordance with Section 01 33 00 SUBMITTAL PROCEDURES:

SD-04 Samples

Gabions or Mattresses
Alternative Wire Fasteners

Samples of the materials, used to fabricate the gabions or mattresses, shall be furnished to the Contracting Officer 60 days prior to assembly of units onsite so that testing may be performed by the Government in accordance with either ASTM A 974 or ASTM A 975 depending on which system is being furnished by the Contractor.

SD-06 Test Reports

Gabions or Mattresses
Alternative Wire Fasteners[; G][; G, [_____]]

For each shipment of wire gabions or mattresses delivered to the site, the Contractor shall furnish the Contracting Officer, in duplicate, test reports or records that have been performed during the last year on all material contained within the shipment meets the composition, physical, and manufacturing requirements stated in this specification.

SD-07 Certificates

Stone Fill
Filter Material

A certificate or affidavit signed by a legally authorized official of the supplier of the stone fill and the supplier of the natural filter material that it meets the quality required and gradation limits specified.

1.6 DESCRIPTION

Gabions[and mattresses] are wire mesh containers of variable sizes, uniformly partitioned into internal cells, interconnected with other similar units, and filled with stone at the project site to form flexible, permeable, monolithic structures. Gabions[and mattresses] shall be manufactured with all components mechanically connected at the production facility with the exception of the mattress lid, which is produced separately from the base. The supply to the jobsite of unassembled individual wire mesh components (panels) forming gabions [and mattresses] will not be permitted. Definitions of terms specific to this specification and to all materials furnished on the jobsite, with the exception of the rock to fill the baskets and the filter material, shall refer and be in compliance with ASTM A 975 for double twisted wire mesh Gabions[and Revet mattresses], or with ASTM A 974 for welded wire fabric Gabions[and Gabion Mattresses]. [For ease of reference, the term "mattress" will be used in this specification in place of Revet mattress and/or Gabion mattress, where the statement is of general nature and it is not specific to the double twisted or welded wire mesh products.]

1.7 GOVERNMENT TESTING AND STUDIES

1.7.1 Samples

Samples of materials used to fabricate the gabions or mattresses shall be furnished to the Contracting Officer 60 days prior to start of installation. Samples will be tested in accordance with specification and either ASTM A 974 or ASTM A 975 depending on which system is being furnished by the Contractor. The Government reserves the right to test

additional samples to verify the submitted test records at the Government's expense. When the first test results indicate that the fasteners do not meet the specified requirements, the additional test will be at the Contractor's expense. The fasteners will be rejected after two tests failing to meet the requirements.

1.7.2 Test Report or Documents

Copies of all test results shall be furnished to the Technical Representative of this specification, USACE District, Vicksburg, 4155 Clay St., Vicksburg, MS 39183-3435, Attn: Dale Goss (ED-GI).

PART 2 PRODUCTS

2.1 MATERIALS

NOTE: The use of the most appropriate Style for the wire coating in double twisted and welded wire gabions [and mattresses] is determined by the minimum required design life of the structure in relationship with the aggressiveness of the surrounding environment (air and water quality).

2.1.1 Double twisted wire mesh Gabions[and Mattresses]

Double twisted wire mesh gabions[and mattresses] shall be [Style 1], [Style 2], [Style 3], [and] [Style 4] manufactured with a non-raveling mesh made by twisting continuous pairs of wires through three half turns (commonly called double twisted) to form a hexagonal-shaped opening. Gabion [and mattress] sizes, wire diameters, mesh opening sizes, and tolerances shall comply with the requirements of [ASTM A 975](#) (Tables 1, 3, 4, 5, 6, and Sections 9). Gabions [and Mattresses] shall meet the following test requirements:

a. Metallic coating - The coating weights shall conform to the requirements of [[ASTM A 641/A 641M](#), Class 3 (Style 1)], [[ASTM A 856/A 856M](#) (Style 2)], [[ASTM A 90/A 90M](#)] or [[ASTM A 428/A 428M](#)] as applicable, and [[ASTM A 809](#) (Style 4)].

b. PVC for Coating - The PVC coating shall show no cracks or breaks after the wires are twisted in the fabrication of the mesh. The initial properties of PVC coating material shall have a demonstrated ability to conform to the following requirements:

1). Specific Gravity - In the range from 1.30 to 1.35 dN/dm³, when tested in accordance with test method [ASTM D 792](#);

2). Tensile Strength - Not less than 20.6 MPa 2985 psi when tested in accordance with test method [ASTM D 412](#);

3). Modulus of Elasticity - Not less than 18.6 MPa 2700 psi when tested in accordance with test method [ASTM D 412](#);

4). Hardness - Shore "D" between 50 and 60, when tested in accordance with test method [ASTM D 2240](#);

5). Brittleness Temperature - Not higher than -9 degrees C 15

degrees F, or lower temperature when specified by the purchaser, when tested in accordance with test method ASTM D 746.

6). Resistance to Abrasion - The percentage of the weight loss shall be less than 12%;

7). Salt Spray Exposure and Ultra Violet Light Exposure - The PVC shall show no effect after 3,000 h of salt spray exposure in accordance with ASTM B 117. The PVC shall show no effect of exposure to ultra violet light with test exposure of 3,000 h, using apparatus Spectral Irradiance of Open Flame Carbon Arc with Daylight Filters and 63 degrees C 145 degrees F, when tested in accordance with practice ASTM D 1499 and ASTM G 152;

8). Evaluation of Coating After Salt Spray and Ultraviolet Exposure Test - After the salt spray test and exposure to ultraviolet light, the PVC coating shall not show cracks nor noticeable change of color, or blisters or splits. In addition, the specific gravity, tensile strength, hardness and resistance to abrasion shall not change more than 6%, 25%, and 10% respectively, from their initial values.

c. Wire Tensile Strength - The tensile strength of the wire used for the double twisted mesh, lacing wire, and stiffener, when tested in accordance with Test Methods and definitions ASTM A 370, shall be in accordance with the requirements of [ASTM A 641/A 641M (Style 1)], [ASTM A 809 (Style 4)], and [ASTM A 856/A 856M (Style 2)], for soft temper wire.

d. Mesh strength and panel to panel joint strength - The minimum strength requirements of the mesh, selvedge wire to mesh connection, panel to panel connection, and punch test, when tested in accordance with ASTM A 975 Section 13.1, shall be as shown in Table 1. The strength values reported in kN/m lb/ft are referred to the unitary width of the specimen. The panel to panel test shall demonstrate the ability of the fastening system to achieve the required strength, and indicate the number of wire revolutions for the lacing wire or the ring spacing for ring fasteners used. The same number of wire revolutions or ring spacing shall be used in the field installation. Pleating the based panel to obtain internal panels is prohibited.

TABLE 1

Minimum Strength Requirements of Mesh and Connections

Test description	Gabions, metallic coated kN/m	Gabions, PVC coated kN/m	[Revet mattresses] (metallic and PVC coated) kN/m
Tensile strength parallel to twist	51.1	42.3	33.6
Tensile strength perpendicular to twist	26.3	20.4	13.1
Connection to selvedges	20.4	17.5	10.2
Panel to panel (using lacing wire or ring fasteners)	20.4	17.5	10.2

Test description	Gabions, metallic	Gabions, PVC	[Revet mattresses]
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TABLE 1

Minimum Strength Requirements of Mesh and Connections

Test description	Gabions, metallic coated kN/m coated kN	Gabions, PVC coated kN/m coated kN	[Revet mattresses] (metallic and PVC coated) kN/m (metallic and PVC coated) kN
Punch Test	26.7	23.6	17.8

TABLE 1

Minimum Strength Requirements of Mesh and Connections

Test description	Gabions, metallic coated lb/ft	Gabions, PVC coated lb/ft	[Revet mattresses] (metallic and PVC coated) lb/ft
Tensile strength parallel to twist	3500	2900	2300
Tensile strength perpendicular to twist	1800	1400	900
Connection to selvages	1400	1200	700
Panel to panel (using lacing wire or ring fasteners)	1400	1200	700
Test description	Gabions, metallic coated lb	Gabions, PVC coated lb	[Revet mattresses] (metallic and PVC coated) lb
Punch Test	6000	5300	4000

2.1.1.2 Welded Wire Fabric Gabions[and Mattresses]

Welded wire fabric gabions[and mattresses] shall be [Style 1], [Style 2], [Style 3], [Style 4], [and] [Style 5] manufactured with a welded wire mesh composed of a series of longitudinal and transverse steel wires arranged substantially at right angles to each other, and welded together at the points of intersection by electrical resistance welding to form fabricated sheets. Gabion [and mattress] sizes, wire diameters, mesh opening sizes, physical properties of the PVC for coating, and tolerances shall comply with the requirements of [ASTM A 974](#) (Tables 1, 2, 3, and Sections 9). Gabions [and Mattresses] shall meet the following test requirements:

a. Metallic coating - The coating weights shall conform to the requirements of [[ASTM A 641/A 641M](#), Class 3 (Style 1)], [[ASTM A 856/A 856M](#) (Style 2)], [[ASTM A 90/A 90M](#)] or [[ASTM A 428/A 428M](#)] as applicable, and [[ASTM A 809](#) (Style 4)].

b. PVC for Coating - PVC adhesion test shall be PVC coating shall show no cracks or breaks after the wires are twisted in the fabrication of the mesh. The initial properties of the PVC coating on the wire and welded wire fabric shall have a demonstrated ability to conform to the following requirements:

1). Adhesion - The PVC coating shall adhere to the wire such that

the coating breaks rather than separates from the wire, in accordance with test method [ASTM A 974](#) Section 13.3;

2). Mandrel bend - The PVC-coated wire when subjected to a single 360 bend at [-18 degrees C](#) [0 degrees F](#) around a mandrel ten times the diameter of the wire, shall not exhibit breaks or cracks in the PVC coating;

3). Specific Gravity - In the range from 1.20 to 1.40 dN/dm³, when tested in accordance with test method [ASTM D 792](#);

4). Tensile Strength - Not less than [15.7 MPa](#) [2275 psi](#) when tested in accordance with test method [ASTM D 638](#);

5). Modulus of Elasticity - Not less than [13.7 MPa](#) [1980 psi](#) at 100% strain, when tested in accordance with test method [ASTM D 638](#);

6). Hardness - Shore "A" not less than 75, when tested in accordance with test method [ASTM D 2240](#);

7). Brittleness Temperature - Not higher than [-9 degrees C](#) [15 degrees F](#), or lower temperature when specified by the purchaser, when tested in accordance with test method [ASTM D 746](#).

8). Resistance to Abrasion - The percentage of the weight loss shall be less than 12%;

9). Salt Spray Exposure and Ultra Violet Light Exposure - The PVC shall show no effect after 3,000 h of salt spray exposure in accordance with [ASTM B 117](#). The PVC shall show no effect of exposure to ultra violet light with test exposure of 3,000 h, using apparatus Spectral Irradiance of Open Flame Carbon Arc with Daylight Filters and [63 degrees C](#) [145 degrees F](#), when tested in accordance with practice [ASTM D 1499](#) and [ASTM G 152](#);

10). Evaluation of Coating After Salt Spray and Ultraviolet Exposure Test - After the salt spray test and exposure to ultraviolet light, the PVC coating shall not show cracks nor noticeable change of color, or blisters or splits. In addition, the specific gravity, tensile strength, hardness and resistance to abrasion shall not change more than 6%, 25%, and 10% respectively, from their initial values.

c. Wire Tensile strength - The tensile strength of the wire used for the welded wire fabric, spiral binders, lacing wire and stiffeners shall be soft medium in accordance with [ASTM A 641/A 641M](#) (Style 1), [ASTM A 856/A 856M](#) (Style 3), and [ASTM A 809](#) (Style 4) or hand drawn in accordance with [ASTM A 853](#) (Style 2). The cross-sectional area of the test specimen shall be based on the diameter of the metallic coated wire. All the wires used in the fabrication of gabions [and mattresses] must use the same temper wire per given order.

d. Weld Shear Strength - The minimum average shear value in [Newtons](#) [pounds-force](#) shall be 70% of the breaking strength of the wire or as indicated in the table as follows, whichever is greater, when tested in accordance with [ASTM A 974](#) Section 13.4. Typical minimum average shear strengths as specified are as follows:

TABLE 2

Minimum average shear strength values for the welded mesh

Wire Diameter mm	Min. Av. Shear Strength N	Min. Shear Strength N
2.20	1300	1000
2.70	2100	1600
3.05	2600	2000

TABLE 2

Minimum average shear strength values for the welded mesh

Wire Diameter inch	Min. Av. Shear Strength lbs	Min. Shear Strength lbs
0.087	292	225
0.106	472	360
0.120	584	450

The material shall be deemed to conform with the requirements for weld shear strength if the average of the test results of the first four specimens or if the average of the test results for all welds tested comply with TABLE 2.

Panel to Panel Joint Strength - The minimum strength of the joined panels, when tested as described in [ASTM A 974](#) Section 13.5, shall be as follows:

TABLE 3

Panel to panel joint strength for welded gabions

Test Description	Gabions, Metallic coated kN/m	Gabions, PVC coated kN/m	(Revet mattresses metallic and PVC coated) kN/m
Connection to selvages	20.4	17.5	10.2
Panel to panel (using lacing wire or ring fasteners)	20.4	17.5	10.2

TABLE 3

Panel to panel joint strength for welded gabions

Test Description	Gabions, Metallic coated lb/ft	Gabions, PVC coated lb/ft	(Revet mattresses metallic and PVC coated) lb/ft
Connection to selvages	1400	1200	700
Panel to panel (using lacing wire or ring fasteners)	1400	1200	700

The strength values reported in [kN/m](#) [lb/ft](#) are referred to the unitary width of the specimen. The panel to panel test shall demonstrate the ability of the fastening system to achieve the

required strength, and indicate the number of wire revolutions for the lacing wire used. The same number of wire revolutions shall be used in the field installation.

2.1.1.3 Alternative Wire Fasteners for Gabions[and Mattresses]

NOTE: The use of steel rings is normally accepted in ASTM A 975, for woven wire gabions and mattresses. Stainless steel rings will be used on PVC coated gabions or mattresses which meet the requirements of ASTM A 313/A 313M. Accepted alternative wire fasteners for welded wire gabions and mattresses are spiral binders, according to ASTM A 974. The inclusion of rings for welded gabions is allowed only if proper guarantees over the pull apart, connection strength and long term durability (salt spray) are provided.

Subject to approval of the Contracting Officer, alternative fastening systems may be used in lieu of lacing wire. Alternative fasteners to lacing wire recommended for woven wire gabions and mattresses, according to [ASTM A 975](#), are steel ring fasteners for metallic coated gabions and mattresses, or stainless steel rings for PVC coated gabions and mattresses.

Ring fasteners for woven wire gabions and mattresses shall comply with the minimum requirements indicated in paragraph Ring Fasteners below, and they shall develop a minimum panel to panel joint strength as indicated in TABLE 1. Alternative fasteners to lacing wire for welded wire gabions and mattresses, according to [ASTM A 974](#), are spiral binders. Spiral binders for welded wire gabions and mattresses shall comply with the minimum requirements indicated in paragraph Spiral Binders below. Ring fasteners may alternatively be used for welded wire gabions or mattresses, provided that they comply with the minimum specified requirements (salt spray and pull-apart resistance). Connections panel to panel for welded gabions and mattresses with ring fasteners shall develop a minimum joint strength as indicated in TABLE 3. The Contractor shall provide a complete description of the fastener system and a description of a properly installed fastener, including drawings or photographs if necessary. The Contractor shall provide test results that demonstrate that the alternative-fastening system meets the requirements of the specifications, according to the following criteria:

- a. That the proposed fastener system can consistently produce a panel to panel joint strength as indicated in the TABLE 1 for double twisted wire mesh gabions and TABLE 3 for welded wire mesh gabions;
- b. That the proposed fastener system does not cause damage to the protective coating on the wire;
- c. That the Contractor has the proper equipment and trained employees to correctly install the fasteners;
- d. That proper installation can be readily verified by visual inspection.

Samples of wire fasteners with their certified test records shall be submitted at least 60 days in advance to the Contracting Officer for

approval. The Government reserves the right to test additional samples to verify the submitted test records at the Government's expense. When the first test results indicate that the fasteners do not meet the specified requirements, the additional test will be at the Contractor's expense. The fasteners will be rejected after two tests failing to meet the requirements.

2.1.3.1 Ring Fasteners

The tensile strength of the zinc-coated steel wire, zinc-5% aluminum coated mischmetal alloy-coated steel wire and aluminum-coated steel wire used for fasteners shall be in accordance with the requirements of [ASTM A 764](#), Type A, B, or C, Table 2 or Table 3. The tensile strength of stainless steel wire used for fasteners shall be in accordance with the requirements of [ASTM A 313/A 313M](#), Type 302, Table 2. Any fastener system shall give the number of fasteners required to comply with TABLE 1, in accordance with [ASTM A 975](#) (Section 13.1.2) for woven wire gabions and mattresses, and TABLE 3, in accordance with [ASTM A 974](#) (Section 7.3), for welded wire gabions and mattresses. Ring fasteners shall not be installed more than [100 mm 4 inches](#) apart. Each fastener type shall be closed and the free ends of the fastener shall overlap a minimum of [25 mm 1 inch](#). The manufacturer or supplier shall state the number of fasteners required for all vertical and horizontal connections for single and multiple basket joining. Approved ring fasteners including fasteners made of stainless steel shall be subject to the salt spray test and pull-apart resistance test and shall be documented by actual testing of panel to panel connections within the last year by validated laboratories.

a. Salt Spray Test - A set of two identical rectangular gabion panels, each with a width about 10-1/2 mesh openings along a selvedge wire, shall be joined by properly installed wire fasteners along the two selvedge wires so that each fastener confines two selvedge and two mesh wires. If the fasteners are also to be used to joint two individual empty gabion baskets, two additional selvedge wires which are each mechanically wrapped with mesh wires shall be included so that each fastener confines four selvedge and four mesh wires. The set of the jointed panels shall be subject to salt spray test, [ASTM B 117](#), for a period of not less than 48 hours. At the end of the test, the fasteners, the selvedge, or mesh wires confined by the fasteners shall show no rusty spots on any part of the surface excluding the cut ends. A properly installed fastener shall meet the following requirements:

- 1). Each interlocking fastener shall be in a locked and closed position.

- 2). Each ring fastener shall be closed, and the free ends of the fastener shall overlap a minimum of [25 mm 1 inch](#).

b. Pull-Apart Resistance Test - A new set of the jointed panels, which are prepared by the same method as specified in the salt spray test but without being subject to the 48-hour salt spray test, shall be mounted on a loading machine with grips or clamps such that the panels are uniformly secured along the full width. The grips or clamps shall be designed to transmit only tension forces. The load will then be applied at a uniform rate of [220 N/s 50 lbs/sec](#) until failure occurs. The failure is defined as when the maximum load is reached and a drop of strength is observed with subsequent loading or the opening between any two closest selvedge wires, applicable to a fastener confining either two or four selvedge wires, becomes greater than [50 mm 2 inches](#) at any place along the panel width. The strength of the jointed panels

at failure shall have a minimum as indicated in TABLE 1 or TABLE 3.

2.1.3.2 Spiral Binders

Spiral binders are defined as a length of metallic coated steel wire or metallic coated steel wire with PVC coating preformed into a spiral, used to assemble and interconnect empty gabion and/or mattress units, and to close and secure stone-filled units. Spiral binders shall be fabricated with the same wire and coating style as the wire mesh. Test requirements for spiral binders shall refer to TABLE 3 regarding Metallic Coating, PVC for coating, Tensile Strength, and Panel to Panel Joint Strength.

2.1.4 Testing

Test records made within one year by certified laboratories and Government agencies will be used to determine the acceptability of the fastening system. Samples of wire fasteners and samples of material for fabricating the gabions and mattresses with their certified test records shall be submitted at least 60 days in advance to the Contracting Officer for approval. The Government reserves the right to test additional samples to verify the submitted test records at the Government's expense. When the first test results indicate that the fasteners do not meet the specified requirements, the additional test will be at the Contractor's expense. The fasteners will be rejected after two tests failing to meet the requirements.

2.1.5 Stone Fill

2.1.5.1 General

NOTE: Stones having a lower unit (not less than 140 lb/ft³) may be approved by the Contracting Officer, provided that the design is performed on the selected unit weight and the stone has a performance record to prove its durability.

If stone sources are not listed in the bid documents, the District must ensure that these sources contain stone with required quality and quantity. It is the Contractor's responsibility to determine that the selected source is capable of supplying the quantities and gradation needed and at the rate needed. Acceptance of a source of stone does not imply acceptance of all material from the source, when such materials are unsuitable as determined by the Contracting Officer.

For gabions[and mattresses], the ability to function properly depends upon their stability, which is partly depending upon the rocks filling them. Rock sizes should be chosen to prevent them from falling through the mesh of the gabions [or mattresses]. The rock has also to withstand natural weathering processes during the life of the project that would cause it to breakdown to sizes smaller than the wire mesh opening dimensions. Rock to fill gabions[and mattresses] shall be durable and of suitable quality to ensure permanence in the structure and climate in which it is to be used.

- a. Delivery. Rock shall be delivered to the work site in a manner to minimize its reduction in sizes (breakdown) during the

handling of the rock, and be placed and secured within the assembled and interconnected gabion[or mattress].

b. Sources. The sources from which the Contractor proposes to obtain the material shall be selected well in advance of the time when the material will be required in the work. The inclusion of more than 5% by weight of dirt, sand, clay, and rock fines will not be permitted. Rock may be of a natural deposit of the required sizes, or may be crushed rock produced by any suitable method and by the use of any device that yields the required size limits chosen in TABLE 4.

c. Properties. Rocks shall be hard, angular to round, durable and of such quality that they shall not disintegrate on exposure to water or weathering during the life of the structure. [Selected stone from the required excavation may be used if satisfying all requirements as to quality and dimensions.] [All stone shall be obtained from one of the sources listed [below] [at the end of this section]].

d. Non-listed Source. The Contractor may, as an option, propose to furnish stone from one non-listed source. The Government [will] [may] make such investigations and tests as necessary to determine whether acceptable stone can be produced from the proposed source. Suitable samples of stone fill material shall be collected in the presence of a Government representative and submitted to the Contracting Officer for approval prior to delivery of any such material to the work site. Unless otherwise specified, all test samples shall be obtained and delivered at the Contractor's expense to [_____] at least 60 days in advance of the time when placing of the stone-filled gabions [or mattresses] is expected to begin. Suitable tests and/or service records will be used to determine the acceptability of the stone. In the event suitable test reports and service records are not available, as in the case of newly operated sources, the material may be subjected to petrography analysis, specific gravity, absorption, wetting and drying, freezing and thawing, and such other tests as may be considered necessary to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the Contracting Officer that the materials are acceptable for use in the work. All tests will be made by or under the supervision of the Government and at its expense.

2.1.5.2 Stone Quality

Stone fill, crushed stone, shall meet the quality requirements of ASTM C 33, and freezing and thawing requirements of [ASTM D 5312] [COE CRD-C 144] for the region of the United States in which the structure will be constructed.

2.1.5.3 Gradation

Gradation of stone for gabions shall be performed every 1000 tons placed under this contract in accordance with ASTM C 136. Sizes of rock to fill gabions and mattresses are chosen on the basis of the mesh sizes, the structure's thickness, and within the limits shown in TABLE 4. Within each range of sizes, the rock shall be large enough to prevent individual pieces from passing through the mesh openings. Each range of sizes may allow for a variation of 5% oversize rock by weight, or 5% undersize rock by weight, or both.

a. Oversize Rock. In all cases, the sizes of any oversize rock shall allow for the placement of three or more layers of rock within each gabion compartment[and two or more layers of rock within each mattress compartment dependent upon the height of the mattress].

b. Undersize Rock. In all cases, undersize rock shall be placed within the interior of the gabion or mattress compartment and shall not be placed on the exposed surface of the structure. There shall be a maximum limit of 5% undersize or 5% oversize rock, or both, within each gabion[or mattress] compartment. The required rock gradation is reported in Table 4.

TABLE 4

Required rock gradation for gabions [and mattresses]

Type of structure	Thickness (height) m	Rock sizes mm
[Mattresses]	0.17	75 - 130
[Mattresses]	0.23	75 - 130
[Mattresses or] Gabions	0.30	100 - 200
Gabions	0.50 or higher	100 - 200

TABLE 4

Required rock gradation for gabions [and mattresses]

Type of structure	Thickness (height) inch	Rock sizes inch
[Mattresses]	6	3 - 5
[Mattresses]	9	3 - 5
[Mattresses or] Gabions	12	4 - 8
Gabions	18 or higher	4 - 8

2.1.6 Filter Material

NOTE: When a filter layer is required beneath the gabion or mattress foundation, care must be taken to ensure that the minimum thickness is achieved evenly across the surface to be protected. To assure sufficient relative permeability and drainage, to prevent the migration of slope materials into the filter layer, and for the retention of filter materials by the overlying gabion units, the particle size distribution of the filter material should conform to "Filter Design," Appendix E of EM 1110-2-1913."

Stone-filled units have a potential for becoming impermeable. For extreme cases of long protected slope distances, or any application where large volumes of seepage or captured runoff is anticipated, design consideration should be given to the carrying capacity of the filter material and the need for providing pipe drains through the gabion

Although the provision of a pervious filter layer beneath gabion slope protection is preferred, particularly for slopes steeper than 1V on 2H, construction economy may be achieved in some cases through the use of geotextile. The specifications for the geotextile should be in accordance with the instructions contained in Section 31 05 22 GEOTEXTILES USED AS FILTERS.

The material shall meet the quality requirements of **ASTM C 33** for the region in which the structure is located. The gradation test shall be performed in accordance with **ASTM C 136**. Filter material shall consist of sand and gravel or crushed stone, well graded between the prescribed limits listed below.

PART 3 EXECUTION

Moreover, unassembled units delivered to the jobsite increase the likelihood to perform the construction by attaching units with a missing end panel rather than using entirely pre-assembled baskets. This will lower the structural integrity of the system, its strength at the connections and its overall resistance to the earth pressures.

a. Mattress lids may be supplied either as individual units (bundled) or in roll form. Lacing wire shall be shipped in coils

with a diameter of the coil approximately 0.60 m 2 feet.
Fasteners shall be shipped in boxes. Preformed stiffeners shall be shipped in bundles.

b. Gabions[and mattresses] shall be delivered to the jobsite labeled in bundles. Labels shall show the dimensions of the gabions[or mattresses] included, the number of pieces and the color code.

3.2 FOUNDATION PREPARATION

Foundation preparation [may][shall not] take place on frozen or snow-covered ground. After excavation or stripping, to the extent indicated on the drawings or as directed by the Contracting Officer, all remaining loose or otherwise unsuitable materials shall be removed. All depressions shall be carefully backfilled to grade. If pervious materials are encountered in the foundation depressions, the areas shall be backfilled with free-draining materials. Otherwise, the depressions shall be backfilled with suitable materials from adjacent required excavation, or other approved source, and compacted to a density at least equal to that of the adjacent foundation. Any debris that will impede the proper installation and final appearance of the gabion layer shall also be removed, and the voids carefully backfilled and compacted as specified above. Immediately prior to placing the material, the Contracting Officer shall inspect the prepared foundation surface, and no material shall be placed thereon until that area has been approved.

3.3 FILTER PLACEMENT

Filter material shall be spread uniformly on the prepared foundation surface in a manner satisfactory to the Contracting Officer, and to the slopes, lines, and grades as indicated on the drawings or as directed. Placing of filter material by methods, which will tend to segregate particle sizes, will not be permitted. Any damage to the foundation surface during the filter placement shall be repaired before proceeding with the work. Compaction of the filter materials will not be required, but it shall be finished to present a reasonably even surface free from mounds or windrows.

3.4 ASSEMBLY

3.4.1 Double twisted wire mesh Gabions

The gabions shall be opened and unfolded one by one on a flat, hard surface. Gabion units over 1.82 m 6 foot in length usually have an extra shipping fold, which must be removed. The sides, ends and diaphragms shall be lifted up into a vertical position to form an open box shape. The back and the front panels of the gabion shall be connected to the end panels and center diaphragms. The top corner of the end panels and center diaphragms have a selvedge wire extending approximately 100 mm 4 inches out from the corner edge. The end panels and the diaphragms shall be raised to a vertical position and the selvedge wire shall be wrapped around the edge wire of the top and back panels.

3.4.2 Double Twisted Wire Mesh Revet Mattresses

NOTE: Remove this paragraph if not needed.

The mattress shall be laid on a flat, hard surface. When the units are unfolded for assembly, depending on their length, they will have one or two shipping folds, which must be removed. The double flap of the side panel shall be folded in and wired to the diaphragm. At the corners, the end flaps shall be folded along the sides and the joint laced up. Each Revet mattress shall be assembled individually, by erecting the sides, ends and diaphragms, ensuring that all creases are in the correct position and the tops of all sides are level.

3.4.3 Welded Wire Fabric Gabions[and Gabion Mattresses]

The gabions[or gabion mattresses] shall be opened and unfolded on a flat, hard surface. The units shall be rotated into position and the edges joined with fasteners for assembly. Where spiral fasteners are used, the ends shall be crimped to secure them in place. Where lacing wire is used, the wire shall be wrapped with alternating double and single loops with spacings not to exceed 150 mm 6 inches. Ends shall be secured with two complete revolutions and finished with a one-half hitch. The same fastening procedures shall be used to secure interior diaphragms and end panels. When two gabions are placed side by side, the two end panels may be connected along the vertical edges with a single spiral fastener.

3.5 LACING OPERATIONS

3.5.1 Double Twisted Wire Mesh Gabions[and Mattresses]

Either lacing wire or ring fasteners are permitted to lace double twisted wire mesh gabions[or revet mattresses].

a. When using lacing wire, a piece of wire 1.2 to 1.5 times the length of the edge to be laced shall be cut off. If the edge of the basket is 0.91 m 3 foot long, no more than 1.2 to 1.5 m 4 to 5 feet of wire should be used at a time to lace. For vertical joints, starting at the bottom end of the panel, the lacing wire shall be twisted and wrapped two times around the bottom selvedge and double and single loops shall be alternated through at intervals not bigger than 100 to 150 mm 4 to 6 inches. The operation shall be finished by looping around the top selvedge wire. The use of pliers to assemble the units with lacing wire is normally recommended.

b. When steel wire ring fasteners are used, the rings shall be installed at the top and bottom connections of the end and center diaphragms. The ring spacing shall be based on the minimum pull apart strength as specified in TABLE 1. In any case, the maximum ring spacing along the edges shall not exceed 0.15 m 6 inches. The use of either a mechanical or a pneumatic fastening tool for steel wire ring fasteners is required. Ring fasteners shall be galvanized, stainless steel or Zn-5% aluminum-mischmetal alloy coated.

3.5.2 Welded Wire Mesh Gabions[and Mattresses]

Either lacing wire or spiral binders are permitted to lace welded wire mesh gabions[or gabion mattresses]. The empty units shall be placed on the foundation and interconnected with the adjacent unit along the top, bottom and vertical edges using spiral fasteners. Lacing wire may be used in lieu of spiral binders for the interconnection of gabions[or mattresses] as

specified above. The connection with lacing wire or spiral binders shall be based on the minimum panel to panel joint strength as specified in TABLE 3. Spiral binders shall be screwed along the connecting edges, and then each end crimped to secure the spiral in place. Each layer of gabions[or mattresses] shall be interconnected to the underlying layer along the front, back and sides.

3.6 INSTALLATION AND FILLING

Empty gabion[and mattress] units shall be assembled individually and placed on the approved surface to the lines and grades as shown or as directed, with the sides, ends, and diaphragms erected in such a manner to ensure the correct position of all creases and that the tops of all sides are level. All gabion units shall be properly staggered [horizontally][and vertically] as shown in the construction drawings. Finished gabion[or mattress] structures shall have no gaps along the perimeter of the contact surfaces between adjoining units. All adjoining empty gabion units shall be connected along the perimeter of their contact surfaces in order to obtain a monolithic structure. All lacing wire terminals shall be securely fastened. All joining shall be made through selvedge-to-selvedge or selvedge-to-edge wire connection; mesh-to-mesh or selvedge-to-mesh wire connection is prohibited except in the case where baskets are offset or stacked and selvedge-to-mesh or mesh-to-mesh wire connection would be necessary. As a minimum, a fastener shall be installed at each mesh opening at the location where mesh wire meets selvedge or edge wire.

a. The initial line of basket units shall be placed on the prepared [filter layer surface][foundation] and adjoining empty baskets set to line and grade, and common sides with adjacent units thoroughly laced or fastened. They shall be placed in a manner to remove any kinks from the mesh and to a uniform alignment. The basket units then shall be partially filled to provide anchorage against deformation and displacement during the filling operation. The stone shall be placed in the units as specified in paragraph Stone Fill, subparagraph Gradation, part b.

b. Undue deformation and bulging of the mesh shall be corrected prior to further stone filling. Care shall be taken, when placing the stone by hand or machine, to assure that the PVC coating on gabions will not be damaged. All visible faces shall be filled with some hand placement to ensure a neat and compact appearance and that the void ratio is kept to a minimum.

c. Gabions [and mattresses] shall be uniformly overfilled by about 25 to 50 mm 1 to 2 inches to compensate for future rock settlements. Gabions [and mattresses] can be filled by any kind of earth-filling equipment, such as a backhoe, gradall, crane, etc. The maximum height from which the stones may be dropped into the baskets shall be 0.91 to 1.20 m 3 to 4 feet. If PVC coated materials are used, no work shall take place unless the ambient temperature is above -7 degrees C 20 degrees F.

3.6.1 Double Twisted Wire Mesh Gabions

After the foundation has been prepared, the pre-assembled gabions shall be placed in their proper location to form the structure. Gabions shall be connected together and aligned before filling the baskets with rock. All connections (panel-to-panel) and basket-to-basket shall be already carried out as described in paragraph ASSEMBLY. Stone fill shall have a gradation of 0.10 to 0.20 m 4 to 8 inches, as described in paragraph Gradation, and shall be placed in 0.30 m 1 foot lifts. Cells shall be filled to a depth not exceeding 0.30 m 1 foot at a time. The fill layer should never be more

than 0.30 m 1 foot higher than any adjoining cell. Stiffeners or internal cross ties shall be installed in all front and side of the gabions at 1/3 and 2/3 of the height for 0.91 m 3 feet or higher gabions, as the cell is being filled. Stiffeners shall be installed in the center of the cells. In

0.46 m 1.5 foot high units, stiffeners or internal crossties are not required. Internal cross ties, or alternatively the preformed stiffeners, shall be looped around three twisted wire mesh openings at each basket face and the wire terminals shall be securely twisted to prevent their loosening. The number of voids shall be minimized by using a well-graded stone in order to achieve a dense, compact stone fill. All corners shall be securely connected to the neighboring baskets of the same layer before filling the units. When more than one layer of gabions is required, in order for the individual units to become incorporated into one continuous structure, the next layer of gabions shall be connected to the layer underneath after this layer has been securely closed. Gabions shall be uniformly overfilled by about 25 to 50 mm 1 to 2 inches to compensate for future rock settlements.

3.6.2 Double Twisted Wire Mesh Revet Mattresses

NOTE: Remove this paragraph if not needed.

After being assembled, the revet mattresses shall be placed in their proper location and securely attached to the adjacent units. For structural integrity, all adjoining empty units shall be connected by means of lacing wire or ring fasteners along the edges of their contact surfaces in order to form a monolithic structure. Revet mattresses shall be placed and securely connected while empty. The filling shall be done unit by unit; however, several units can be pre-assembled prior to filling the units. Revet mattress units shall be filled with hard, durable, clean stone having a gradation as indicated in paragraph Gradation. Care shall be taken to ensure that diaphragm tops are accessible for wiring. On slopes, the Revet mattress shall be laid with the 1.83 m 6 foot dimension (width) longitudinally to the slope and progressing up the slope, except for small ditches or where otherwise specified in the project. When the installation is performed on a slope, the filling of the baskets shall start from the lower side of the bank. Where Revet mattresses are to be placed on steep slopes (3H to 2V), the units shall be secured by hardwood pegs driven into the ground just below the upper end panel, at 1.83 m 6 foot centers, or as specified in the project. When the Revet mattress is to be placed over a geotextile, care shall be taken to ensure that any projecting ends of wire are bent upward to avoid puncturing or tearing the cloth. Lids shall be securely connected to the ends of the mattress and to the top sides and diaphragms using alternate double and single loops, or steel wire ring fasteners, as indicated in paragraph FOUNDATION PREPARATION. In case that more adjacent bases are to be covered at one time, mesh rolls shall be used in place of unit size lids. Revet mattresses shall be uniformly overfilled by about 25 to 50 mm 1 to 2 inches to compensate for future rock settlements.

3.6.3 Welded Wire Fabric Gabions

After the foundation has been leveled, the assembled gabions shall be placed in their proper location to form the structure. Care shall be taken to ensure that the top of the diaphragms are aligned correctly. The diaphragms shall be securely connected by either spiral binders or lacing wire. Gabions shall be connected together and aligned before filling them

with 100 to 200 mm 4 to 8 inch diameter rocks. Rock filling material shall be as specified in paragraph Gradation and shall be placed in 0.30 m 1 foot lifts. The fill layer shall be carefully hand-packed and braced to prevent bulging. Stiffeners shall be provided every 0.30 m 12 inch levels for 0.91 m 3 foot or higher gabions. Stiffeners shall be formed from lacing wire and placed across the corners at 0.30 m 12 inches from the corner, providing a diagonal bracing. Preformed hooked stiffeners can be utilized.

Care shall be taken to ensure the number of voids is minimized by using a well-graded stone and avoiding large rocks in order to achieve a dense, compact compartment. After each 0.30 m 1 foot lift has been placed, it shall be leveled for the next lift. Almost all gabion structures consist of more than one course of gabions; in order that the individual gabions may become incorporated into one continuous structure, they shall be wired to neighboring gabions and the course below, before filling. Gabions shall be uniformly overfilled by about 25 to 50 mm 1 to 2 inches to compensate for future rock settlements.

3.6.4 Welded Wire Fabric Gabion Mattresses

NOTE: Remove this paragraph if not needed.

After being assembled, the Gabion mattresses shall be placed in their proper location and securely attached to the adjacent units. For structural integrity, all adjoining empty units shall be connected by means of lacing wire or spiral binders along the edges of their contact surfaces in order to form a monolithic structure. Gabion mattresses shall be placed and securely connected while empty. The filling shall be done unit by unit; however, it is recommended that several units be pre-assembled prior to filling the units. Gabion mattress units shall be filled with hard, durable, clean stone having a gradation as indicated in paragraph Gradation. Care shall be taken to ensure that diaphragm tops are accessible for wiring.

a. On slopes, the Gabion mattress shall be laid with the 1.83 m 6 foot dimension (width) longitudinal to the bank, with the exception of small ditches or when otherwise specified in project. When the installation is performed on a slope, the filling of the units shall start from the lower side of the bank. Where Gabion mattresses are to be placed on steep slopes (3H to 2V), the units shall be secured by galvanized pipes driven into the ground inside the upper end panel, at 1.83 m 6 foot centers, or as specified in the project.

b. When the Gabion mattress is to be placed over a geotextile, care shall be taken to ensure that any projecting ends of wire are bent upward to avoid puncturing or tearing the cloth.

c. Lids shall be securely connected to the ends of the mattress and to the sides and diaphragms using alternate double and single loops, or steel wire ring fasteners, as indicated in paragraph FOUNDATION PREPARATION. In case that more adjacent bases are to be covered at one time, mesh rolls can be used in place of unit size lids. Gabions mattresses shall be uniformly overfilled by about 25 to 50 mm 1 to 2 inches to compensate for future rock settlements.

3.6.5 Non-Rectangular Shapes

Gabion[and mattress] units can conform to bends up to a radius of

curvature of 18 to 21 m 60 to 70 feet without alterations. Units shall be securely connected together first, and be placed to the required curvature, holding them in position by staking the units to the ground with hardwood pegs before filling. For other shapes, bevels and miters can be easily formed by cutting and folding the panels to the required angles.

3.7 CLOSING

Lids shall be tightly secured along all edges, ends and diaphragms in the same manner as described for assembling. Adjacent lids may be securely attached simultaneously. The panel edges shall be pulled to be connected using the appropriate closing tools where necessary. Single point leverage tools, such as crowbars, may damage the wire mesh and shall not be used. All end wires shall then be turned in.

-- End of Section --