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DIVISION 46 - WATER AND WASTEWATER EQUIPMENT

SECTION 46 07 53.19

COMPOSTING TOILET

02/11

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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.

AMERICAN WOOD PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (AWPA)

AWPA P5 (2009) Standard for Waterborne Preservatives

ASM INTERNATIONAL (ASM)

ASM 06118G (1993) ASM Metals Reference Book (3rd Ed)

ASTM INTERNATIONAL (ASTM)

ASTM D 1248 (2005) Standard Specification for Polyethylene Plastics Extrusion Materials for Wire and Cable

ASTM D 1505 (2010) Density of Plastics by the Density-Gradient Technique

ASTM D 1525 (2009) Vicat Softening Temperature of Plastics

ASTM D 1593 (2009) Standard Specification for Nonrigid Vinyl Chloride Plastic Film and Sheeting

ASTM D 2765 (2001; R 2006) Determination of Gel Content and Swell Ratio of Crosslinked Ethylene Plastics

ASTM D 4357 (1996) Plastic Laminates Made from Woven-Roving and Woven-Yarn Glass Fabrics

ASTM D 638 (2010) Standard Test Method for Tensile Properties of Plastics

ASTM D 746 (2007) Standard Test Method for Brittleness Temperature of Plastics and Elastomers by Impact

ASTM D 790 (2010) Flexural Properties of Unreinforced and Reinforced Plastics and Electrical Insulating Materials

ASTM D 883 (2011) Terminology Relating to Plastics

1.2 SYSTEM DESCRIPTION

Provide the large, continuous composting type **composting toilet**. Add wastes at the top of the pile so that the composting material will eventually flow by gravity to the finished compost area as the underlying finished compost is removed. The composting toilet shall include the composting chamber, ventilation fan and vent stack, stool with chute, and urinal with piping. These elements and necessary related appurtenances and pieces shall be supplied by a single composting toilet manufacturer.

1.2.1 Design

The composting chamber shall hold a minimum of [_____] cubic **meter feet** of composting material. The composting chamber shall receive wastes from [_____] stools, and from [_____] urinals. Design the vents, air ducts, and air inlets to the composting chamber so that air can flow from the user compartment into the composting chamber but not in the reverse direction, and so that no air can reach the vent without first passing through the composting material. The toilet shall be designed so that all liquid entering the composting chamber will drain over and through the composting pile, and not along the chamber walls. The toilet shall collect all excess liquid to an easily accessible liquid holding area. The toilet shall [contain a pump for removing excess liquid] [be equipped with a drainage port in the bottom of the liquid holding area that can be connected to a liquid disposal system]. Depending on liquid volume, expected usage, and if a pump is used, the pump shall be a permanently installed [automatic] [manual] variety with automatic control. The toilet shall be designed and constructed so that liquids can enter the composting chamber only through the waste ports. Materials and joints in the toilet shall be impermeable to liquids and not subject to biological, chemical, or physical corrosion. Wood shall be preserved in accordance with **AWPA P5**.

1.2.2 Performance

The composting toilet shall produce an inert, odor-free compost with a moisture content less than 60 percent. The finished compost shall not produce enough gas to inflate a plastic bag which is 80 percent full of compost after being sealed in the bag for 24 hours at an ambient temperature. The toilet shall prevent the entry of insects in the user compartment and surrounding area through the use of noncorrosive screens over all air and ventilation inlets. Assure that the composting toilet is installed properly and demonstrate that it will operate properly.

1.3 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-02 Shop Drawings

Detail Drawings[; G][; G, [____]]
Installation[; G][; G, [____]]

Detail drawings of equipment and material to be provided. Detail drawings containing complete wiring and schematic diagrams and other details required to demonstrate that the system is coordinated and will function properly as a unit. Drawings shall show proposed layout and anchorage of equipment and appurtenances, and equipment relationship to other parts of the work, including clearances for maintenance and operation.

SD-03 Product Data

Composting Toilet[; G][; G, [____]]

Manufacturer's descriptive data and technical literature, performance charts and curves, catalog cuts, and installation instructions. Spare parts data, including a complete list of parts and supplies, with current unit prices and source of supply, and a list of the parts recommended by the manufacturer to be replaced after [1] [and] [3] years of service, after approval of the detail drawing and not later than [____] months prior to the

date of beneficial occupancy.

Battery Capacity

Calculations which prove that the batteries will provide power for the periods indicated.

Photovoltaic Thin-film Modules

Calculations which prove that the system designed will provide power for the periods indicated.

Framed Instructions

Proposed diagrams, instructions and other sheets for framed instructions.

SD-06 Test Reports

Acceptance Tests Installation

Factory test results attesting to manufacturing quality control of the proposed system, at least [_____] days before the Contracting Officer approves or disapproves the composting toilet proposed for installation. Document [_____] installations of composting toilets, essentially identical to the composting toilet installed under this specification, and that those installations have at least [_____] consecutive years of operating experience. Include available operating data for each of the [_____] installations, along with the names, addresses, and telephone numbers of personnel at the [_____] installations that will furnish information upon request regarding questions of interest to the Contracting Officer.

SD-10 Operation and Maintenance Data

Composting Toilet

Operation manual outlining step-by-step procedures required for system operation. Include with the instructions the manufacturer's name, model number, service manual, parts list, and brief description of all equipment and their basic operating features. Maintenance manual listing routine maintenance procedures, possible breakdowns and repairs. Include with the manual diagrams for the system as installed.

1.4 DELIVERY, STORAGE, AND HANDLING

Protect from the weather, humidity and temperature variations, dirt, dust, and other contaminants equipment delivered and placed in storage.

PART 2 PRODUCTS

2.1 JOINT SEALANTS

Joint sealants shall be resistant to water and biological decomposition in conformance with [CID A-A-272](#).

2.2 LUMBER

Lumber used for the tank support shall be pressure-treated or preserved sanded, two sided (S2S) construction-grade pine or fir without excess crown. The lumber shall be treated for preservation in accordance with [AWPA P5](#).

2.3 DRAIN PIPE

The drain pipe from the urinal to the composting tank shall be at least [32 mm 1-1/4 inches](#) inside diameter (ID) and sloped continuously toward the tank. The pipe shall be made of a corrosion-resistant material. The pipe outlet to the composting tank shall be located such that the urine flows onto or close to the center of the compost pile, to ensure that the urine flows through the pile and does not short-circuit down the tank walls.

2.4 STOOL, CHUTE, SEAT, AND LID

The toilet stool shall be constructed in two pieces, an exterior piece that shall be permanently connected to the floor of the user compartment and an interior piece that is mounted inside the exterior piece and conveys wastes into the toilet chute. The interior piece shall be constructed of high-density polyethylene, fiberglass, or stainless steel (Type 304). The exterior piece shall be constructed of [\[high-density polyethylene\]](#) [\[fiberglass\]](#) [\[oak\]](#) [\[stainless steel\]](#). The top of the installed toilet stool shall be a minimum of [360 to a maximum of 460 mm 14 to a maximum of 18 inches](#) above the user compartment floor. The minimum diameter of the interior piece opening into the chute shall be [300 mm 12 inches](#). The toilet chute shall be fabricated from stainless steel ([0.4775 to 0.6350 mm 24 to 26 gauge](#)), high-density polyethylene, or fiberglass, and may be fabricated in one piece or in several pieces that are assembled in the field. The chute shall be attached to the composting toilet with a chute/tank connector fabricated from the same material as the chute. The seat and lid shall be fabricated from high-density polyethylene, ABS plastic, hardwood, or stainless steel. The toilet, chute, chute/tank connector, seat, and lid shall be provided by the composting toilet manufacturer and shall be certified by the manufacturer to be compatible with the manufacturer's composting toilet.

2.5 COMPOSTING VENTILATION SYSTEM

Install a ventilation system to draw air through the composting tank to provide a continuous supply of oxygen to the compost pile, ensuring that aerobic decomposition and dehydration occur. The ventilation system shall also draw off odors or gases generated by the pile. Provide a system with the following components:

- a. An electrically powered exhaust fan, installed and sized to provide a minimum flow of [0.042 to 0.057 cubic meters/second 90 to 120 cfm](#) of air. The fan shall be as high as possible in the building, but easily accessible for maintenance or replacement. The fan shall not be closer than [760 mm 30 inches](#) to the roof and a maximum of [1.8 m 6 feet](#) from a power disconnect. A 110 volt fan shall be used if alternating current (ac) is available. If ac power is not available, a 12 volt direct current (dc) fan may be substituted and powered by a solar power generating system. Solar power generating array shall be roof mounted and consist of amorphous [photovoltaic thin-film modules](#) with a minimum power output required to operate the fan and recharge the battery at one sun. Array nominal voltage rating shall be 12 volts dc. Storage

battery shall consist of sealed, liquid, lead-acid, deep-cycle batteries with absolute style plate technology. This configuration permits the fan to operate at night, and during overcast conditions. The battery storage area shall be secured and ventilated to prevent the buildup of explosive gases. The battery capacity shall provide a minimum of 18 hours continuous operation without recharging.

b. An interior vent pipe, at least 150 mm 6 inches in diameter, extending from the composting tank to support box just under the exterior roof. If elbows are used, they shall have minimal bend and frequency of occurrence. Vent pipe shall be made of a corrosion-resistant material. Pipes shall be installed with the bell down to prevent the entry of water. Joints shall be taped using duct tape.

c. An exterior pipe extending from the support box to the rain cap. The pipe shall be surrounded with insulation (fiberglass or equivalent R-1.23 (7) R-7). The exterior pipe shall extend at least 600 mm 2 feet above the peak or highest point of the roof. Pipes shall be installed with the bell down to prevent the entry of water. Elbows greater than 45 degrees shall not be used. Elbows shall be made of, or coated with, a corrosion-resistant material.

d. Vent pipe roof sleeves made of, or coated with, a corrosion-resistant material.

e. A slip joint installed above the fan for the easy removal of the fan. The sleeve of the slip joint shall be long enough to slide down and close the gap left by the fan when the fan is removed.

f. A support box installed under the roof to connect the interior and exterior vent pipes. The support box shall be made of, or coated with, a corrosion-resistant material.

g. A roof jack and rain collar. These components shall be made of, or coated with, a corrosion-resistant material.

h. A rain cap mounted on the top of the exterior vent pipe. The rain cap shall be made of, or coated with, a corrosion-resistant material.

i. Braces installed on the exterior vent pipe if winds greater than 80 km/hour 50 mph or snow load greater than 900 mm 3 feet can be expected, or if the exterior pipe extends more than 1.2 m 4 feet above the peak of the roof.

2.6 URINALS

One trough urinal shall be installed for each composting unit. This trough shall be made of stainless steel or corrosion-resistant material. The trough shall be at least 660 mm 26 inches long and 200 mm 8 inches deep; the back shall extend at least 890 mm 35 inches above the bottom of the trough to protect the wall in back of the urinal. The urinal shall be mounted at a height of approximately 400 mm 16 inches.

2.7 COMPOST BAFFLES

There shall be two baffles, front and back, to form a compartment to contain the compost pile. The front baffle shall be attached securely; however, sealing is not required.

2.8 LIQUID BAFFLE, DRAIN PORTS, AND SCREENS

A liquid baffle with a screen shall be installed at the front of the compost tank to retain the compost, and permit the passage of water seeping from the compost pile. The screen openings shall be at least 6 mm 1/4 inch to minimize plugging. The screen shall be easily accessible so that it can be checked for plugging and can be cleaned. A drain port shall be provided in front of the liquid baffle to drain any seepage to a wastewater collection or treatment system. The drain port shall be as low as possible in front of the liquid baffle so that no water stands in the bottom of the tank. An overflow drain shall be provided to permit the drainage of water should the drain plug become clogged. The overflow port shall be just below the level of the top of the liquid baffle. The drain line shall be at least 32 mm 1-1/4 inches ID.

2.9 LIQUID DRAIN FITTINGS

Fittings shall be made of corrosion-resistant or impervious material such as polyvinyl chloride, polyethylene, or stainless steel.

2.10 AIR DUCTS

At least 2 air ducts shall be provided to carry air beneath the compost pile. The air ducts shall be constructed of a material impervious to corrosion and to biological decomposition.

2.11 AIR INTAKES

Air intakes shall be provided at the front of the compost tank. Intakes shall be at least 5800 square mm 9 square inches in cross section.

2.12 SIGNS

Signs shall be affixed to the major components of the composting toilet that identify those components. The names on the signs shall be consistent with the identifying names in the operating instructions. Other signs shall be placed securely in the user compartment telling users that trash, cigarettes and matches thrown into the toilet can interfere with the composting process or set the compost pile on fire.

2.13 FIRE EXTINGUISHER

If fire extinguishers are used, they shall be of a type that will not interfere with the composting process (ammonium phosphate type is acceptable).

2.14 COMPOST RAKE

A conventionally sized (approximately 1.5 m 5 foot long handle, 300 mm 12 inch side-toothed end), commercially available garden rake or cultivator (approximately 1.5 m 5 foot long handle, 150 mm 6 inch tined head) shall be supplied for raking the compost pile.

2.15 COMPOST HOLDING TANK

2.15.1 Design

The tank that shall receive and hold the human wastes during composting

(the compost holding tank) shall be designed so that wastes enter from the top of the tank, and the composting material and excess liquid are removed from the bottom of the composting pile. The tank may be supplied in 1, 2, or 3 pieces; tanks supplied in more than 1 piece shall be bolted together in place. The tank shall be constructed of [plastic] [layered polyester fiberglass] [stainless steel] or an equivalent material that is impermeable to water and is corrosion-resistant. The inner surfaces of the tank shall be constructed of material that is not susceptible to chemical or biological decomposition and is impervious to the absorption of waste and chemical derivatives. The tank bottom shall slope towards the compost removal and liquid removal areas of the tank. The tank walls and floor shall be designed to resist forces equal to or greater than the hydrostatic forces that would occur if the tank were filled with water with a maximum deflection in the walls or floor of 13 mm 1/2 inch. The tank roof shall resist a 445N 100 pound load, with a maximum deflection of 13 mm 1/2 inch. The tank shall be equipped with a door that provides access to the bottom of the composting pile and an inspection door opening into the area above the composting pile as specified. The composting tank selected for installation shall be subject to the approval of the Contracting Officer, and shall be based on the detail drawings.

2.15.2 Polyethylene Tank

NOTE: When a polyethylene tank is specified, delete paragraphs "Fiberglass Tank" and "Stainless Steel Tank".

2.15.2.1 Alternative Standards I

ASTM D 1248, Type 1, Class M, Grade 2, Category 3, with the following additional requirements:

- a. The resin shall contain [stabilizers] [pigmentation] to resist ultraviolet degradation (for occasional exposure).
- b. The [uncolored] [unfilled] resin density range shall be 0.938 to 0.942 grams per mL 0.938 to 0.942 grams per mL.
- c. The resin shall have a maximum melt index of 5.

2.15.2.2 Alternative Standards II

Alternatively, the following standards apply.

- a. Unless otherwise indicated, the plastics technology used shall be in accordance with the definitions given in ASTM D 883.
- b. The molding resin shall not contain any fillers. All plastics shall contain a minimum of 0.25 percent ultraviolet stabilizer and a maximum of 0.50 percent. Pigments may be added but shall not exceed 1.0 percent of the weight of the molded compost shell.
- c. The minimum mechanical properties of the materials are as follows based on molded parts:

Property	ASTM	Value	Units
Density	ASTM D 1505	(0.935 - 0.940)	gm/cc
ESCR spec. thickness 125 mils F50	ASTM D 1593	900-1000	hr
Tensile strength ultimate 2 in./min.	ASTM D 638 Type IV Spec.	17,925	kPa
Elongation at break 2 in./min.	ASTM D 638 Type IV Spec.	400	percent
Vicat softening temp.	ASTM D 1525	116 degrees C	
Brittleness temp.	ASTM D 746	minus 118	degrees C
Flexural modulus	ASTM D 790	690.5-758.4 (100,000-110,000)	MN/square meter

Property	ASTM	Value	Units
Density	ASTM D 1505	59 (0.933-0.940)	lb/cu ft
ESCR spec. thickness 125 mils F50	ASTM D 1593	900-1000	hr
Tensile strength ultimate 2 in./min.	ASTM D 638 Type IV Spec.	2600	psi
Elongation at break 2 in./min.	ASTM D 638 Type IV Spec.	400	percent
Vicat softening temp.	ASTM D 1525	240 degrees F	
Brittleness temp.	ASTM D 746	minus 180	degrees F
Flexural modulus	ASTM D 790	100, 1000-110,000	psi

d. The finished surface of the molded part shall be as free as possible through commercial processing from visual defects such as foreign inclusions, air bubbles, pinholes, and craters. Cut edges shall be trimmed and smooth.

e. Composting tank shells shall be molded to a nominal 10 mm 3/8 inch thickness. Physical dimensions shall be taken externally and shall fall within plus or minus 1 percent of the required dimensions.

2.15.3 Fiberglass Tank

NOTE: When a fiberglass tank is specified, delete paragraphs "Polyethylene Tank" and paragraph "Stainless Steel Tank."

Fiberglass construction shall follow appropriate industrial standards. The holding tank inside and outside layers of the polyester-glass laminates shall conform to ASTM D 4357 and the gel coating shall be a minimum of 2 mm 1/16 inch thick, impervious to corrosion and microbial degradation. The next layers shall be 12 to 25 mm 0.5 to 1.0 inch of high-density polyurethane insulation. The mats shall be saturated with isothallic resin.

2.15.4 Stainless Steel Tank

NOTE: When a stainless steel tank is specified, delete paragraphs "Polyethylene Tank" and paragraph "Fiberglass Tank." In general, stainless steel is

not recommended due to its corrosivity.

Stainless steel tank shall be constructed in accordance with [ASM 06118G](#).

2.16 COMPOST ACCESS DOOR

NOTE: Metal hinges are permissible, but it is recommended that an appropriate plastic hinge be substituted because plastic is corrosion-resistant.

2.16.1 Design and Construction

The compost holding tank shall be equipped with a door mounted above the finished compost holding area to remove compost and to detect and remove excess liquid. The minimum door opening shall be [0.339 square meters](#) [525 square inches](#). The door shall be constructed of material that is impermeable to water, corrosion-resistant, and not susceptible to attack by composting organisms. The door shall support a minimum of [1.33 kN](#) [300 pounds](#) with a maximum deflection of [13 mm](#) [1/2 inch](#). The door opening shall be positioned such that personnel can see all of the finished compost and liquid storage excess liquid without requiring their heads or torsos to enter the composting tank. The door shall be attached to the compost holding tank with stainless steel hinges meeting the standards of [ANSI/BHMA A156.1](#), or a full-length stainless steel piano hinge, or with plastic hinges. The door shall stay in any open position, when required, without braces or other external support or restraint. Normally, the door shall remain closed, and shall be equipped with a stainless steel latch that is easily operated by personnel but that prevents animals from entering the composting chamber.

2.16.2 Surrounding Area

The area around the compost access door shall be designed so that maintenance personnel can remove compost while in a standing position. A dry, stable work platform shall be provided with adequate area for personnel movement and placement of the buckets or bags receiving the removed compost or liquids. Stairs or ramps to the compost removal area shall be designed to allow easy access to the area and safe transportation of compost and liquid containers from the area.

2.17 INSPECTION DOOR

NOTE: Metal hinges are permissible, but it is recommended that an appropriate plastic hinge be substituted because plastic is corrosion-resistant.

2.17.1 Design and Construction

The compost holding tank shall be equipped with a door near the top of the tank which shall be used to remove debris, to rake the top of the compost pile, to observe the pile surface, to add water, and to perform other necessary operation and maintenance activities on the pile surface. The minimum door opening shall be [0.186 square meters](#) [288 square inches](#). The door opening shall be constructed of material that is impermeable to water,

corrosion-resistant, and not susceptible to attack by composting organisms. The door opening shall be positioned so that personnel can see all of the pile surface from outside the tank and can reach all of the pile surface without requiring their head or torsos to enter the composting tank. The door shall be attached to the compost holding tank with aluminum or stainless steel piano hinge, or with plastic hinges. The door shall be designed to stay in an open position when required, without braces or other external support or restraint. Normally, the door shall remain closed, and shall be equipped with a stainless steel latch that is easily operated by personnel but that prevents animals from entering the composting chamber.

2.17.2 Maintenance Provisions

The area in front of the inspection door shall be designed so that maintenance personnel shall have a stable, level platform to stand upon while inspecting the top of the compost pile. The platform surface shall be constructed at an elevation that shall put the center of the inspection door at eye level of maintenance personnel using the platform. An area in front of the inspection door shall be kept clear of obstructions that would interfere with inserting a 1.8 m 6 foot long rake through the inspection door.

2.18 MOLDED UNIT INSPECTION

Each molded unit shall be visually inspected to ensure that it is as free as possible from defects. In addition, test samples shall be taken from a "cut-away" section of the compost tank shell and the following tests performed:

- a. Impact Test: ASTM D 746 shall be used for this test. Sample shall not shatter at 162.7 J (120 foot pounds) 120 foot pounds at minus 29 degrees C minus 20 degrees F (minimum).
- b. Degree of Cross-Linking Test: Using ASTM D 2765, a minimum gel of 70 percent must be reported on the inside half of the sample.

PART 3 EXECUTION

3.1 INSTALLATION

Install toilet in accordance with the manufacturer's installation instructions and in accordance with the approved submittals. The toilet shall be installed using craftsmen and laborers with demonstrable experience and, where appropriate, certification or license in the required skills. Ensure that composting toilet is in working order.

3.2 CLEANING

The installed composting toilet, enclosure, and appurtenances shall be thoroughly cleaned.

3.3 FRAMED INSTRUCTIONS

Framed operating instructions, under glass or in laminated plastic, including wiring and control diagrams showing the complete layout of the entire system, shall be posted where directed. Condensed operating instructions explaining preventive maintenance procedures, methods of checking the system for normal, safe operation, and procedures for starting and maintaining the system safely shall be prepared in typed form, framed

as specified for the wiring and control instructions and posted beside the diagrams.

3.4 TRAINING COURSE

Conduct a training course for the operating staff as designated by the Contracting Officer. The training period shall consist of a total of [_____] hours of normal working time, and shall start after the system is functionally completed but prior to final [acceptance tests](#). The field instructions shall cover all of the items contained in the operating and maintenance instructions, as well as demonstrations of routine maintenance operations. Notify the Contracting Officer at least 14 days in advance of proposed beginning of the training course.

-- End of Section --