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**DEVELOPMENT  
CONSTRUCTION  
SPECIFICATION**

**C231**

**SUBSOIL AND  
FOUNDATION DRAINS**

**Amendment Record for this Specification Part**

This Specification is Council's edition of the AUS-SPEC generic specification part and includes Council's primary amendments.

Details are provided below outlining the clauses amended from the Council edition of this AUS-SPEC Specification Part. The clause numbering and context of each clause are preserved. New clauses are added towards the rear of the specification part as special requirements clauses. Project specific additional script is shown in the specification as italic font.

The amendment code indicated below is 'A' for additional script 'M' for modification to script and 'O' for omission of script. An additional code 'P' is included when the amendment is project specific.

<b>Amendment Sequence No.</b>	<b>Key Topic addressed in amendment</b>	<b>Clause No.</b>	<b>Amendment Code</b>	<b>Author Initials</b>	<b>Amendment Date</b>
1	Measurement and Payment "Pay Items" omitted	C231.09	O	JM	22/2/99



## SPECIFICATION C231 : SUBSOIL AND FOUNDATION DRAINS

### GENERAL

#### C231.01 SCOPE

- |  |                                 |
|--|---------------------------------|
| 1. The work to be executed under this Specification covers the excavation, bedding, installation and backfilling of subsoil and foundation drains. | <b>Scope</b>                    |
| 2. Subsoil and foundation drains shall be constructed where and as shown on the Drawings or as directed by the Superintendent.                     | <b>Location</b>                 |
| 3. This Specification should be read in conjunction with the Specification for SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE - GENERAL.                                      | <b>Associated Specification</b> |

#### C231.02 TERMINOLOGY

- |  |                          |
|--|--------------------------|
| 1. Subsoil drains are intended for the drainage of ground water and/or the pavement in cuttings.                             | <b>Subsoil Drains</b>    |
| 2. Foundation drains are required for the drainage of seepage, springs and wet areas within and adjacent to the foundations. | <b>Foundation Drains</b> |

#### C231.03 REFERENCE DOCUMENTS

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1. Documents referenced in this specification are listed in full below whilst being cited in the text in the abbreviated form or code indicated. | <b>Documents<br/>Standards<br/>Test Methods</b> |
|--|---|

##### (a) Council Specifications

- |      |   |                               |
|------|---|-------------------------------|
| C213 | - | Earthworks                    |
| C230 | - | Subsurface Drainage - General |

##### (b) Australian Standards

- |               |   |  |
|---------------|---|--|
| AS 1289.5.4.1 | - | Compaction control test - Dry density ratio, moisture variation and moisture ratio |
|---------------|---|--|

#### C231.04 ORDER OF CONSTRUCTION

##### (a) Subsoil Drains

- |  |                               |
|--|-------------------------------|
| 1. Subsoil drains shall be constructed as soon as possible after necessary earthworks are completed in the area of the drain. Where stabilisation of the subgrade is required, subsoil drains shall be constructed after completion of stabilisation except that, where excessive ground water is encountered, they may be constructed prior to stabilisation of the subgrade. | <b>Timing of Work</b>         |
| 2. Where a Selected Material Zone is specified and excessive ground water is encountered, subsoil drains may be installed in two stages as follows:  | <b>Two Stage Construction</b> |

Stage 1: Standard subsoil drains installed below the base of the cutting prior to placement of select material in the Selected Material Zone.

Stage 2: Extension of subsoil drain to top of the Selected Material Zone after placement of selected material.

**(b) Foundation Drains**

1. Foundation drains shall be constructed after completion of clearing and stripping operations, and preceding the commencement of embankment construction.

**Timing of Construction**

## CONSTRUCTION

### C231.05 SUBSOIL DRAINS

**(a) Excavation**

**Associated Specification**

1. Excavation shall be undertaken in accordance with the requirement of the Specification for SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE - GENERAL.

2. Trenches for subsoil and foundation drains shall be excavated to the line, grade, width and depth as shown on the Drawings or as directed by the Superintendent.

**Dimensions and Grade**

3. The bottom of the trench shall be excavated to the same grade as the design pavement surface in the direction of the trench except where the grade of the design pavement surface in the direction of the trench is less than 0.5 per cent. In which case the trench depth shall be increased to provide a minimum grade of fall in the trench of 0.5 per cent. The bottom of the trench shall be excavated so that no localised ponding of water occurs.

**Minimum Grade**

4. If at any location the trench is excavated below the specified floor level, the trench shall be backfilled with non-porous subgrade material so that when the subgrade material is compacted to a relative compaction, determined by AS 1289.5.4.1, of at least 95 per cent (standard compaction), the bottom of the trench shall be at the specified floor level.

**Over-excavation**

5. Where a subsoil drain is constructed in two stages, the excavation for Stage 2 shall be carried out after placement and compaction of the selected material zone or the stabilised subgrade layer. The Stage 2 trench shall be excavated to the same line and width as the Stage 1 trench and to a depth to provide a clean, full contact with the filter material placed in Stage 1. All excavated material shall be disposed to waste or incorporated into fills.

**Two Stage Construction**

**(b) Laying of Pipe**

**Bedding**

1. The 100mm diameter corrugated slotted plastic piping, complying with the Specification for SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE - GENERAL, shall be laid on a bed of filter material 50mm in thickness and shall be laid to the required line and grade.

2. The type of filter material shall be as shown on the Drawings or as directed by the Superintendent.

**Filter Material**

3. Joints in the pipeline shall be kept to the minimum number and, where required, shall be made using a suitable external joint coupling. The inlet end of the pipe shall be fitted with a cap.

**Joints and Capping**

**(c) Backfilling**

**Filter Material**

1. The trench shall be backfilled with filter material to the level specified. The type of filter material shall be as shown on the Drawings or as directed by the Superintendent. The filter material shall be placed and compacted in layers with a maximum compacted

thickness of 300mm. Tamping around and over the pipe shall be done in such a manner as to avoid damage or disturbance to the pipe.

2. The filter material shall be compacted for its full depth to a relative compaction of not less than 100 per cent (standard compaction) as determined by AS 1289.5.4.1. **Compaction of Filter Material**

3. The upper section of the trench, above the level specified for filter material backfill, shall be backfilled with selected backfill material, conforming to the requirements of the Specification - EARTHWORKS, compacted for its full depth to a relative compaction of not less than 100 per cent (standard compaction) as determined by AS 1289.5.4.1. **Select Material**

4. Where shown on the Drawings or as directed by the Superintendent, a geotextile conforming with the requirements of the Specification for SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE - GENERAL, shall be provided at the interface between the filter material and adjoining materials. Laps of 500mm shall be provided at joints in the fabric. **Geotextile**

**(d) Outlets** **Pipes and Structures**

1. Outlets are to be provided at maximum intervals of 150m. Where possible, subsoil drains shall discharge into gully pits and other stormwater drainage structures. Where not possible, an outlet shall be constructed of unslotted plastic pipe of the same diameter as the main run to discharge below the edge of the road shoulder. An outlet structure in accordance with the Drawings shall be constructed at the discharge end.

**(e) Cleanouts** **Location**

1. Cleanouts are to be provided at the commencement of each run of subsoil drain line and at intervals of approximately 60m or as shown on the Drawings.

2. Details of the required cleanout construction are shown on the Drawings. The standard CI caps as shown on the Drawings shall be supplied by the Contractor. **Details**

**C231.06 FOUNDATION DRAINS**

**(a) Excavation**

1. Excavation shall be undertaken in accordance with the requirements of the Specification for SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE - GENERAL and Clause C231.05 of this Specification. **Associated Specification**

**(b) Laying of Pipe**

1. The 100mm diameter corrugated slotted plastic piping, complying with the Specification for SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE - GENERAL, shall be laid on a bed of filter material 50mm in thickness and shall be laid to the required line and grade. **Bedding**

2. The type of filter material shall be as shown on the Drawings or as directed by the Superintendent. **Filter Material**

3. Joints in the pipeline shall be kept to the minimum number and, where required, shall be made using a suitable external joint coupling. The inlet end of the pipe shall be fitted with a PVC cap. **Jointing of Pipe**

**(c) Backfilling**

1. The trench shall be backfilled with filter material in accordance with the provisions of Clause C231.05(c). **Filter Material**

2. The upper section of the trench, above the level specified for filter material backfill, shall be backfilled with suitable earth backfill material, compacted for its full depth to a relative compaction of not less than 95 per cent (standard compaction) as determined by AS 1289.5.4.1.

***Earth Backfill  
and  
Compaction***

3. Where shown on the Drawings or as directed by the Superintendent, a geotextile, conforming with the requirements of the Specification for SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE - GENERAL, shall be provided at the interface between the filter material and adjoining materials. Laps of 500mm shall be provided at joints in the fabric.

***Geotextile***

**(d) Outlets**

1. An outlet structure in accordance with the detail shown on the Drawings and the Specification for SUBSURFACE DRAINAGE - GENERAL shall be constructed at the discharge end. The outlet shall be located so that erosion of the adjacent area does not occur or shall be protected by the placement of selected stone in the splash zone of the outlet.

***Construction  
Detail***

## **SPECIAL REQUIREMENTS**

**C231.07 RESERVED**



## LIMITS AND TOLERANCES

### C231.08 SUMMARY OF LIMITS AND TOLERANCES

1. The limits and tolerances applicable to the various clauses in this Specification are summarised in Table C231.1 below.

Item	Activity	Tolerances	Spec Clause
1.	<b>Excavation</b> Trench Grade	≥0.5%	C231.05(a)
2.	<b>Subsoil Drain Backfill</b>		
	(a) Layer thickness	300mm max	C231.05(c)
	(b) Compaction (Relative) Filter and Backfill material	100% standard	C231.05(c)
3.	<b>Outlet Spacing</b>	150m max	C231.05(d)
4.	<b>Cleanout Spacing</b>	60m approx	C231.05(e)
5.	<b>Foundation Drain Backfill</b>		
	(a) Layer thickness	300mm max	C231.05(c)
	(b) Compaction (Relative) Filter material	100% Standard	C231.05(c)
	Backfill material	>95% Standard	C231.06(b)

**Table C231.1 - Table of Limits and Tolerances**

**C231.09 RESERVED**

**SPECIFICATION C231 - SUBSOIL AND FOUNDATION DRAINS**

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