# ITEM 767.121 SEDIMENT CONTROL BARRIER FOOT

*REV. 2022.02.01 (REV. DATE TO BE REMOVED BY MASSDOT CONTRACTS)*

**Note to Designer: Include Item 697 Sediment Fence in the contract if: turtle barrier is required, sediment fence is requested by regulators, or sediment fence is considered necessary for the project as a contingency item. Typically, sediment fence is not needed in addition to the MassDOT standard of filter tube.**

**If Sediment Fence is not required, the last paragraph of the spec may be removed.**

The work under this item shall conform to the relevant provisions of Subsections 670, 751 and 767 of the Standard Specifications and shall include the furnishing and placement of a sediment control barrier. Sediment control barrier shall be installed prior to disturbing upslope soil.

The purpose of the sediment control barrier is to slow runoff velocity and filter suspended sediments from storm water flow. Sediment barrier may be used to contain stockpile sediments, to break slope length, and to slow or prevent upgradient water or water off road surfaces from flowing into a work zone. Contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that barriers fulfill the intent of adequately controlling siltation and runoff.

Twelve-inch diameter (after installation) compost filter tubes with biodegradable natural fabric (i.e., cotton, jute, burlap) are intended to be the primary sedimentation control barrier. Photo-biodegradable fabric shall not be used.

For small areas of disturbance with minimal slope and slope length, the Engineer may approve the following sediment control methods:

* 9-inch compost filter tubes
* Straw bales which shall be trenched

No straw wattles may be used. Additional compost filter tubes (adding depth or height) shall be used at specific locations of concentrated flow such as at gully points, steep slopes, or identified failure points in the sediment capture line.

When required by permits, additional sediment barrier shall be stored on-site for emergency use and replacement for the duration of the contract.

Where shown on the plans or when required by permits, sedimentation fence shall be used in addition to compost filter tubes and straw bales and shall be compensated under that item.

Sediment control barriers shall be installed in the approximate location as shown on the plans and as required so that no excavated or disturbed soil can enter mitigation areas or adjacent wetlands or waterways. If necessary to accommodate field conditions and to maximize effectiveness, barrier locations may be shifted with approval from the Engineer. Barriers shall be in place prior to excavation work. No work shall take place outside the barriers.

## MATERIALS AND CONSTRUCTION

Prior to initial placement of barriers, the Contractor and the Engineer shall review locations specified on the plans and adjust placement to ensure that the placement will provide maximum effectiveness.

Barriers shall be staked, trenched, and/or wedged as specified herein and according to the Manufacturer’s instructions. Barriers shall be securely in contact with existing soil such that there is no flow beneath the barrier.

### Compost Filter Tube

Compost material inside the filter tube shall meet M1.06.0, except for the following: no peat, manure or bio-solids shall be used; no kiln-dried wood or construction debris shall be allowed; material shall pass through a 2-inch sieve; and the C:N ratio shall be disregarded.

Outer tube fabric shall be made of 100% biodegradable materials (i.e., cotton, hemp or jute) and shall have a knitted mesh with openings that allow for sufficient water flow and effective sediment capture.

Tubes shall be tamped, but not trenched, to ensure good contact with soil. When reinforcement is necessary, tubes shall be stacked as shown on the detail plans.

### Straw Bales

Straw bales shall be used if shown on the plans or when specified by Orders of Condition or other permit requirements. ­­­­

Bales should be placed in a single row, lengthwise on the contour, with ends of adjacent bales tightly abutting one another. All bales should be either wire-bound or string-tied. Straw bales should be installed so that bindings are oriented around the sides (rather than along the tops and bottoms) of the bales in order to prevent deterioration of the bindings.

The barrier should be entrenched and backfilled. A trench should be excavated the width of a bale and the length of the proposed barrier to a minimum depth of 4 inches. The trench must be deep enough to remove all grass and other material which might allow underflow. After the bales are staked and chinked (filled by wedging), the excavated soil should be backfilled against the barrier. Backfill soil should conform to the ground level on the downhill side and should be built up to 4 inches against the uphill side of the barrier.

Each bale should be securely anchored by at least 2 stakes or re-bars driven through the bale. The first stake in each bale should be driven toward the previously laid bale to force the bales together. Stakes or re-bars should be driven deep enough into the ground to securely anchor the bales. For safety reasons, stakes should not extend above the bales but should be driven in flush with the top of the bale.

The gaps between the bales should be chinked (filled by wedging) with straw to prevent water from escaping between the bales. Loose straw scattered over the area immediately uphill from a straw bale barrier tends to increase barrier efficiency. Wedging must be done carefully in order not to separate the bales.

When used in a swale, the barrier should be extended to such a length that the bottoms of the end bales are higher in elevation than the top of the lowest middle bale to assure that sediment-laden runoff will flow either through or over the barrier but not around it.

### Sedimentation Fence

Materials and Installation shall be per Section 670.40 and 670.60 of the Standard Specifications and the following:

Sedimentation fence shall only be used if shown on the plans or when specified by Orders of Condition or other permit requirements.

When used with compost filter tubes, the tube shall be placed on a minimum of 8 inches of folded fabric on the upslope side of the fence. Fabric does not need to be trenched.

When used with straw bales, an 8-inch deep and 4-inch wide trench or V-trench shall be dug on the upslope side of the fence line. One foot of fabric shall be placed in the bottom of the trench followed by backfilling with compacted earth or gravel. Stakes shall be on the down slope side of the trench and shall be spaced such that the fence remains vertical and effective.

Width of fabric shall be sufficient to provide a 36-inch high barrier after fabric is folded or trenched. Sagging fabric will require additional staking or other anchoring.

## MAINTENANCE

Maintenance of the sediment control barrier shall be per Section 670.60 of the Standard Specifications or per the Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP), whichever is more restrictive.

The contractor shall inspect the sediment barrier in accordance with relevant permits. At a minimum, barriers shall be inspected at least once every 7 calendar days and after a rain event resulting in 0.25 inches or more of rainfall. Contractor shall be responsible for ensuring that an effective barrier is in place and working effectively for all phases of the Contract.

Barriers that decompose such that they no longer provide the function required shall be repaired or replaced as directed. If the resulting berm of compost within the fabric tube is sufficiently intact (despite fabric decay) and continues to provide effective water and sediment control, barrier does not necessarily require replacement.

## DISMANTLING & REMOVING

Barriers shall be dismantled and/or removed, as required, when construction work is complete and upslope areas have been permanently stabilized and after receiving permission to do so from the Engineer.

Regardless of site context, nonbiodegradable material and components of the sediment barriers, including photo-biodegradable fabric, plastic netting, nylon twine, and sedimentation fence, shall be removed and disposed off-site by the Contractor.

For naturalized areas, biodegradable, natural fabric and material may be left in place to decompose on-site. In urban, residential, or other locations where aesthetics is a concern, the following shall apply:

* Compost filter tube fabric shall be cut and removed, and compost shall be raked to blend evenly (as would be done with a soil amendment or mulch). No more than a 2-inch depth shall be left on soil substrate.
* Straw bales shall be removed and disposed off-site by the Contractor. Areas of trenching shall be raked smooth and disturbed soils stabilized with a seed mix matching adjacent seeding or existing grasses (i.e., lawn or native grass mix).
* Sedimentation fence, stakes, and other debris shall be removed and disposed off-site. Site shall be restored to a neat and clean condition.

## **METHOD OF MEASUREMENT AND BASIS OF PAYMENT**

Item 767.121 will be measured and paid for at the contract unit price per foot of sediment control barrier which price shall include all labor, equipment, materials, maintenance, dismantling, removal, restoration of soil, and all incidental costs required to complete the work.

Additional barrier, such as double or triple stacking of compost filter tubes, will be paid for per foot of tube installed.

Barriers that have been driven over or otherwise damage by construction activities shall be repaired or replaced as directed by the Engineer at the Contractors expense.

Sedimentation fence used in conjunction with compost filter will be measured and paid for separately under Standard Item 697, Sedimentation Fence.