

SECTION A7.1

WOOD SHEATHING OF EXCAVATIONS

GENERAL

Whenever an excavation is dug to a depth of five feet or more, such trench shall be supported in accordance with the rules and regulations for the prevention of accidents in construction operations pursuant to Section 129A of Chapter 149 of the General Laws and current OSHA regulations.

Where sheathing is to be used as the method of trench support it shall be done so under the guidelines in this specification.

The Contractor shall furnish, place and maintain such sheathing as may be necessary to support the sides of the excavation and prevent movement of earth which would cause injury, delay the work or endanger adjacent structures.

MATERIAL

Unless otherwise noted in the Special Conditions, noted on the plans, or permitted by the Engineer in writing, sheathing shall be a minimum of three (3) inch tongue and groove closed wood sheathing.

CONSTRUCTION METHODS

Sheathing shall be driven ahead of the excavation to avoid loss of material from behind the sheathing, except as may be otherwise permitted in writing by the Engineer. Care shall be taken to prevent voids outside of the sheathing. If voids occur, they shall be filled immediately with sand and compacted, or with controlled density fill.

All sheathing shall be left in place unless otherwise directed in writing by the Engineer. Where walers and bracing are to be salvaged by the Contractor, they shall not be removed until the backfill is consolidated up to within 2 feet of the bracing to be removed. The Engineer may direct that the sheathing be cut off at any elevation below finished grade. For construction purposes, the normal cut-off point is two feet below finished grade. For estimating purposes that cut off point shall be at grade. This normal point of cut-off may be varied in writing by the Engineer.

MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

Item A7-1 Sheathing Installed S.F.

Sheathing Installed shall be measured in place, by a Commission Inspector, by the square foot. Such measurement shall be based upon the length of trench wall and the depth of the sheathing between street grade and the lower limit. In all cases where the lower limit of the sheathing is not exposed for measurement, it shall be agreed that the lower limit of sheeting is one (1) foot below the bottom of the pipe laid.

Payment for sheathing shall include all incidental work and materials such as bracing, extra backfill materials, walers, cleats, cutting, etc.

Walers may be salvaged at the option of the contractor.

The cutting off of wood sheathing shall be considered incidental to the sheathing installation and included in the payment for Item A7-1 or A7-2 whichever is applicable.