

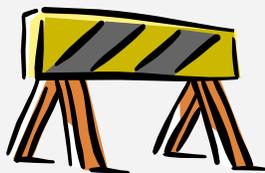
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## Dewatering Operations

It is often necessary to dewater from within a cofferdam to obtain a dry work area. Subsection 704.03.C of the 2003 and 2012 Standard Specifications for Construction describe the requirements for using a geotextile filter bag (filter bag) during dewatering operations. When the work requires pumping of water that may contain silt and sediment, it must be properly treated as described below and per specification. The engineer should inspect the water prior to allowing discharge directly into a watercourse and monitor during the course of pumping to ensure it remains silt and sediment free. If the water is silt and sediment free, it may be discharged directly to a watercourse. If the water is not silt and sediment free it must be pumped into a filter bag.

Filter bag requirements are specified in subsections 208.03.D.3 and 208.03.C.3 in the 2003 and 2012 Standard Specifications for Construction, respectively. Filter bags should be placed in a well-vegetated, relatively flat upland area, away from any watercourse. For those projects with limited right-of-way where the discharged water may not be adequately clarified before it enters the waterway, one or more gravel filter berms should be installed between the filter bag and the watercourse to provide additional filtration. The contractor must furnish and install filter bags per the specifications and maintain proper filtration prior to discharge to any watercourse.

The following items should be considered when utilizing filter bags:

- Filter bags with holes or tears are not acceptable
- Place filter bags in an upland area
- Pumps should be sized based on filter bag capacity
- Use multiple filter bags as necessary to accommodate water volume
- Filter bags should be adequately connected to the discharge hose
- Install gravel filter berms as necessary to provide adequate filtration
- Replace filter bags when full of sediment

Please share this construction advisory with local agencies and consultants within your jurisdiction, as well as Transportation Service Center staff.