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Michigan cone test : a reliability study

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The Michigan Cone Test: A Reliability Study

By

Karl M. Krueger

A REPORT

Submitted in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the degree of

MASTER OF SCIENCE

Civil Engineering

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This report, "The Michigan Cone Test: A Reliability Study," is hereby approved in partial fulfillment of the requirements for the Degree of MASTER OF SCIENCE IN CIVIL ENGINEERING.

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Problem Statement

The Michigan cone test is a field compaction test used by the Michigan Department of Transportation (MDOT) to determine the maximum density of granular materials and has been used for over 50 years. While most state DOTs (including the MDOT) use the modified Proctor compaction test to determine the required compaction for specific soils, Michigan is the only state that uses the cone test to do compaction testing in the field. That is, the cone test is used in the field to simulate the modified Proctor test in the laboratory. Both the cone test and the modified Proctor test are used to set the required compaction while the nuclear density gauge, sand cone, or rubber balloon are used to verify whether the required level of compaction has been met.

Recently, questions have risen concerning the accuracy and reliability of the cone test. Specifically, does the Michigan cone test lead to better overall compaction control than use of the modified Proctor test would? Additional issues concerning the cone test include: (1) how was the test developed, (2) does the cone test yield a density that is comparable to the modified Proctor test, (3) is the cone test repeatable between multiple technicians, and (4) what should be done for compaction testing on MDOT projects. The purpose of this report is to address the following specific issues

- Research the origins of the cone test and gain insight into the compaction principles behind it.
- How well does the cone test compare with the modified Proctor test.
- Determine the repeatability of the cone test for a single user as well as for multiple users.
- Make recommendations regarding the cone test.

Introduction: Importance of Compaction Quality Control

Compaction quality control is an essential component of roadway construction. Good compaction results in high quality, long lasting roadways, while poor or uneven compaction often leads to failures such as settlement, cracks, and rutting. The purpose of compaction is to improve the engineering properties of the road base material. Compaction increases the shear strength of soil, reduces the compressibility, but also reduces the permeability (R. Holtz 1990). For cohesionless soils, the most common form of compaction is by pressure and vibration using rollers (Terzaghi and Peck 1948). Vehicles driving on a pavement section also generate dynamic vibration loads similar to that of a roller, but smaller in magnitude. Over time, these small vibrations may cause additional compaction of the base material, which would result in settlement underneath the pavement. Obviously, the nearer the granular base material can be compacted to its respective maximum density, the less potential there is for settlement in the future. It is especially important that the level of compaction be uniform throughout the project to reduce the potential for local differential settlement.

In general, cohesionless soils are less dependent on moisture content, while the energy input is the main controlling factor (Hilf 1975). The main difference between cohesionless soils and clay, in general is that cohesionless soils are free draining. In sands and gravels with minimal fines, excess water can drain away rapidly during the compaction process. Water does not act as much of a lubricant and does not aid significantly in compaction of cohesionless material. Evidence of this is that the total stress friction angle of sands is similar to the effective stress friction angle. Bulking also leads to a poorly defined moisture density relationship for cohesionless soils. Bulking occurs in partially saturated sands, where capillary forces trap air voids and resist compaction. For this reason, sands reach higher densities when completely dry or saturated with lower densities when partially saturated. For these reasons, the Proctor compaction curve does not provide a well-defined optimum moisture content to obtain the maximum density (Hilf 1975).

Compaction Quality Control Criteria – Relative Density

Relative density is generally accepted as a better alternative as a compaction criteria for cohesionless soils compared to percent compaction. Relative density is expressed as the percentage that the density is currently at relative to the maximum and minimum values for that soil. Relative density can be expressed in terms of void ratio or in terms of dry unit weight (density).

$$
D_R = \frac{e_{max} - e}{e_{max} - e_{min}} \tag{1.1}
$$

$$
D_R = \frac{\gamma_{d,\max}(\gamma_d - \gamma_{d,\min})}{\gamma_d(\gamma_{d,\max} - \gamma_{d,\min})}
$$
 1.2

The benefit of using relative density instead of percent compaction is the quality of correlations between relative density and engineering properties such as compressibility and shear strength (Lee 1971). For example, sand with a relative density near 40% can be expected to be twice as compressible as sand at a relative density of 70% (Hilf 1975). Shear strength also correlates well with relative density for sands and gravels. The weakness of using relative density is that a small change in any of the input parameters results in a significant change in the result. The confidence interval for measurement of maximum and minimum densities in sand and gravel is plus or minus five pounds per cubic foot (pcf), and the measurement of in place field density with the sand cone method varies as much as plus or minus two pcf. The resulting relative density calculation can range by as much as 95% due to the combined error in the measurements (Tavenas, Ladd and LaRochelle 1973). The main drawback of using relative density over percent compaction is clearly the combined error involved in the calculation reduces the confidence in the result to the equivalent of a random guess. For this reason, percent compaction is more often used as acceptance criteria.

Compaction Control Criteria – Percent Compaction

Percent compaction, or relative compaction, is simply the percent of the measured field density relative to maximum laboratory density, and is determined by the following equation.

$$
Percent \,Component = \frac{\gamma_d (field)}{\gamma_{d,max} (lab)} \tag{1.3}
$$

The benefit of using this criterion instead of relative density is that one less measurement needs to be taken, thereby decreasing the compounding error problem previously mentioned. Percent compaction is also used in the case of cohesive soils and is very well understood by contractors and engineers. Another benefit of using percent compaction is that the engineer has a good idea of potential settlement for each percent of compaction. It is easy for an engineer to specify a required percent compaction once the acceptable settlements are known.

Field Compaction Quality Control

Compaction quality control is performed by measuring the field density of soil after it has been compacted and relating it to the same material compacted in the lab, similar to percent compaction. Implied by the specifications is that engineering properties such as strength and stiffness are acceptable at the required level of compaction. Compaction tests considered in this report include: the standard Proctor, modified Proctor, and Michigan cone. The modified Proctor test is viewed as being very near the maximum density of the soil, even though higher densities can be achieved. However, based on practical considerations and typical compaction equipment used in the field, the modified Proctor density is generally considered the soils maximum density.

Density inspectors for MDOT measure field density using a nuclear density gauge, then perform a cone test on the same soil to determine compliance with the specifications. The compaction test to be used depends on the type of soil being tested. For granular soils, sands and gravels with less than 15% fines, the Michigan cone test is used. Cohesive soils are tested using the standard Proctor, AASHTO T-99 test, and recycled material is tested according to the modified Proctor, AASHTO T-180 test (M-DOT 2003).

Field testing is done to ensure sufficient compaction in all areas of the project, and is meant to identify less compacted areas. Density related problems are still a common occurrence, because of significant uncertainties involved. Only a small portion of compacted material is field tested. For example, the sampling rate for compaction tests is about one test for 500 feet of roadway. In addition, uncertainty arises within the testing itself. A Troxler 3440 nuclear density gauge, which is used by MDOT, measures density with a composite error of 1.25 pcf for a customary one minute reading (Troxler 2007). Furthermore, every laboratory compaction test has a certain error associated with it depending on the method used as well as soil type and operator. The combined error in both laboratory and field testing may result in substandard compaction being accepted. The largest uncertainty lies with correlating stiffness and compressibility to density. Even with acceptable density levels, soil may still lack adequate engineering properties for a given application.

Historical Review

The three compaction tests conducted by the MDOT, the standard and modified Proctor and cone test, are briefly discussed below.

The Standard Proctor Test

Compaction control was developed by R.R. Proctor and presented in a series of articles published in Engineering News Record (Proctor 1933). This series of articles discusses how compaction control was used on an earth dam project and how engineering properties such as strength and permeability could be estimated from the moisture content and dry density of the compacted material. The standard Proctor test was later accepted as the standard for compaction testing of soils. The standard Proctor test is an impact type test where a 5.5 pound hammer is dropped 12 inches, 25 times per layer, using three layers to fill the mold. The benefit of this test is that it is simple, repeatable, and the energy applied to compact the soil is constant for every test. The standard Proctor test also gives a well-defined compaction curve for cohesive soils. However, the standard Proctor level of compaction was insufficient for quality performance of roads with heavy loads operating on them. In response, the modified Proctor test was developed.

The Modified Proctor Test

The modified Proctor test was developed to account for heavy loads applied by aircraft on runways. The modified Proctor test uses a larger 10 pound hammer dropped 18 inches, 25 times per layer, and five layers of compaction per mold compared to three for the standard. The modified Proctor test was created to increase the compaction effort applied during the test to better match the capabilities of new equipment. "For all soils, in field or in laboratory compaction, increasing the energy applied per unit volume of soil results in an increase in the maximum unit weight and a decrease in the optimum moisture content." (Johnson and Sallberg 1960).

Both Proctor tests work well in most cases, but is time consuming to perform, especially on large projects where materials often change. Tavenas et. al. 1973 studied the statistical accuracy of relative density measurements, considering the Proctor tests as the maximum density. He found that for Proctor tests on sands that the standard deviation was approximately two pcf and the single user reproducibility standard deviation was near one pcf (Tavenas, Ladd and LaRochelle 1973). This results in a 95% confidence interval on the order of two pcf to four pcf when the modified Proctor test is used as the reference value.

The Michigan Cone Test

The Michigan cone test was developed by William Housel at the University of Michigan at about the same time the modified Proctor test was becoming popular (Housel 1958). The cone test can be described as an impact vibratory type compaction test, where the soil and the mold are both impacted against a hardwood block to compact the soil. Figure 1 shows the Michigan cone mold and the block. In Housel's original submittal for the compaction procedure, he specifies, "keep adding soil and tamping until cone cannot accommodate additional soil" (Housel 1958). The test was considered completed upon the tester's judgment. Numerous other tests for determining the maximum density of cohesionless soils were submitted at this time as well. ASTM Committee D-18 met at a symposium to discuss and propose which test should be adopted as the standard for finding maximum density of cohesionless soil. A study done by Felt examined methods including the standard Proctor test, the cone test, and several vibratory table type tests. Felt determined that the vibratory table test worked better than the cone test and Proctor test in that it produced a higher maximum density for almost every type of granular material considered. Felt's study did show that the cone test yielded the maximum density when the soils tested were dry or saturated, and lower densities were achieved at intermediate moisture contents (Felt 1958). Felt's study did not make any attempt to determine the variability or repeatability associated with the tests. The result of Committee D-18's research, however, was the adoption of what is now, "ASTM D-4253 Standard Test Methods for Maximum Index Density of Soils Using a Vibratory Table."

Figure 1 - Michigan cone test apparatus.

The procedure for conducting the Michigan cone test has since changed significantly over the years to improve on the maximum density and also the consistency of results. Primarily, the terminology has changed from tamping to "striking sharply", and a specified minimum 25 blows per layer is included The MDOT Density Testing and Inspection Manual. To determine when the test is completed, the total weight, meaning the weight of the soil, must increase less than 10 grams over a 20 blow interval. This is known as the 20/10 rule. The manual also specifies that material tested must be between 5% and optimum moisture to be considered a valid one-point test. The purpose of the moisture content limitation is to ensure that the soil is tested as near optimum moisture as possible to limit error generated through use of the one point chart (M-DOT 2003).

MDOT highway projects use the one-point method for determining the laboratory maximum density and optimum moisture for soil compaction. The one-point test was first developed for use as a rapid field method for determining maximum dry density and optimum moisture (R.C. Mainfort 1963). The one-point method shortens a typical standard Proctor test, which is a lengthy procedure, in that only a single mold need be compacted to estimate maximum density and optimum moisture. In 1963, Report No. R-412 presented a one-point chart to speed the time in performing standard Proctor T-99 tests. The chart could be used to predict maximum density and optimum moisture effectively based on a single compaction point as a starting reference. A single chart was generated for Michigan soils using compaction curves of more than 100 soils. The chart obviously works best when points are compacted near optimum moisture. The chart significantly loses accuracy when samples are compacted wet of optimum, and when samples are compacted very dry.

Michigan cone tests are used by MDOT for compaction control of granular soils containing 15% or less fine material. In 1967, a one-point chart was designed for Michigan cone tests, which is described in Report No. 658 (R. Mainfort 1967). Again, the chart and the onepoint test are most reliable when the compacted sample is near optimum moisture. The results of the report indicate that the one-point method correlates very well with the conventional Michigan cone method, where multiple cone molds are compacted to obtain a compaction curve.

Field Testing Procedures

The Michigan cone test is most often performed as a one point test, where a single test is compacted to determine optimum moisture and maximum density. The test procedure is designed to save time in the field. The benefit of a field test over a lab reference test is that site soils can be tested during construction at a site. Therefore construction decisions can be quickly made as to whether a soil is acceptable or not. Material used in the test can be taken from the exact location of a nuclear density field test to avoid the problem of non-representative material. A new field sample can be tested whenever the density inspector notices or suspects that the material being placed has changed.

Equipment required for the test include: a scale, a cone shaped mold with a solid large end, a hardwood block to compact samples on, and a stopper to close the open end of the cone (M-DOT 2003). A water bottle and work gloves are also useful in performing tests. As noted, the sample to be tested should be course grained material, with less than 15% passing the No. 200 sieve.

The compaction test is performed by striking the cone squarely against the block. Compaction is done in three lifts; approximately one third of the cone height is compacted on each lift. Each lift is struck against the block at least 25 times, but may be struck more if it appears necessary to complete compaction of the lift (M-DOT 2003). After the three lifts, more material must be added to completely fill the mold. Ten or more blows are required each time additional material is added to the mold. When no additional material can be added to the mold, it is near maximum compaction. The mold is weighed, material is added to the top, and the mold is stuck 20 additional times (M-DOT 2003). The sample is weighed again. If the total mass increased by less than 10 grams, the final weight is recorded. If the mass increased by more than 10 grams, the process is repeated until the step change is less than 10 grams. The moisture content of the sample is obtained in the field using the Speedy moisture content test (M-DOT 2003).

To determine the maximum dry density and optimum moisture content of the test material, the one-point Michigan cone test chart is used. The chart uses the compacted wet density and moisture content as inputs to determine maximum dry density and optimum moisture. In some cases, such as aggregate base course, the standard Michigan cone test may be more appropriate than the one-point test. In such an instance, 2 or 3 cones are compacted of the same material at varying moisture contents within 5 to 8 percent moisture (M-DOT 2003). The dry density of each cone is determined directly without use of the one-point chart. The maximum density and optimum moisture is simply the maximum of the tests.

Compaction Principles Influence on Test Results

Soil compaction is conducted by rapidly applying mechanical energy to rearrange particles into a denser configuration. For granular soils in the field, compaction is usually done with some type of vibratory mechanism, typically a roller. Clean sands and gravels are not affected by moisture content to the degree that cohesive soils are. The reason for this is that clean granular soils rapidly drain water even after compaction (Hilf 1975). Dry density of these soils will be high when the soil is completely dry and high when completely saturated, with somewhat lower density values when partially saturated. The result is a poorly defined compaction curve for these materials. The phenomenon which results in poor compaction curves is known as bulking (Hilf 1975). Pore pressure in partially saturated granular soils tends to resist compaction effort. Therefore, relative density may be a better criterion than a compaction curve for such materials.

The compaction mechanism for the Michigan cone test is the dynamic impulse from striking the mold against the block. Vibrations generated from striking the block rearrange the particles into a denser configuration. Loose soils compact much faster than dense soils. That is to say, there comes a limit where additional vibration or applied energy no longer densifies the soil. At this point, the soil is said to be at its maximum density. The energy applied must be large enough to overcome particle friction and interlock in order to get to the maximum density. Larger more angular particles should be expected to require a greater force in order to achieve compaction. Large downward accelerations, from forcefully driving the cone into the block do not necessarily provide better compaction, and may be counterproductive for some soils. In the first lifts when there is space in the cone for particles to move upward, a forceful blow will loosen the material each time before it is re-densified upon striking the mold. The sudden impulse of the mold striking the block also caused segregation of particles with the largest particles floating on top. This was evident in the compaction of coarse aggregate samples. The shape of the cone does aid in compaction to a degree. As the soil is compacted, it generates an increase in lateral pressure which tends to force the soil outward. Soil in contact with the edge of the cone will be compacted down as well as out, leading to better compaction along the edges than if the mold were cylinder shaped.

Proctor tests use a drop weight hammer to perform compaction. The energy input can be calculated by controlling the drop height of the hammer and the number of blows applied. This method was designed to provide compaction in a manner similar to that of a static or vibratory roller. The benefit of this method is that the energy required to reach a specified level of compaction can be calculated. The standard Proctor can be specified in areas expected to carry small loads, and the modified Proctor can be used in areas where loads are high.

Differences between the cone test and Proctor tests that may influence results include: mold shape and boundary effects, particle crushing, particle angularity, and total compaction energy applied. It is reasonable to assume that larger samples are more likely to be representative for granular soils. Therefore, the test method that uses the most material per test is likely to have less error due to material inconsistencies. Similarly, boundary effects can be compared by looking at the ratio of boundary area to sample volume for each test. Soil particles compacted against the edge of the mold may include larger void spaces than particles in the center of the mold. The cone mold has the highest ratio of surface area to volume, and the six inch Proctor mold has the lowest ratio. The conclusion to draw from this is that the cone test will have a greater error due to boundary effects than the Proctor test.

Particle angularity influences results in that the method of compaction likely has different efficiencies. Specifically, a larger impact force will be more efficient than a light force when compacting angular soils. The large force is necessary to overcome particle interlock that develops with angular soils.

Materials and Testing Methods

In order to access the accuracy and repeatability of the Michigan cone test, a number of tests were conducted over a range of materials. In total, eleven samples were identified for testing: three 22A road gravels, one 21AA road gravel, three Class 2 sands, three Class 3 sands, and one 4G open graded crushed stone. All materials were collected in Michigan. These soils were specifically selected to match up with the most common soil specifications in use on MDOT projects. Gradations for each material used in the study are shown in figure 2 through figure 4. In total, each sample was tested 10 times as repeat trials for the cone tests. A standard Proctor, a modified Proctor, full Michigan cone test, and three grain size analyses were completed as the first phase of the testing program.

Upon completion of phase one, a second technician was employed to perform additional Michigan cone tests to better estimate variability between users. Additional tests were completed using soft or very hard hitting styles to simulate multiple users. Finally, a force accelerometer was also installed in the base of the cone to accurately determine the energy applied to the soil during the course of one test cycle. Several students were also asked to complete a series of tests after being instructed how to properly perform the test to determine variations in cone-block hitting effort. The accelerometer data was then used to quantify the extent of variability due to multiple users. A PCB Model 353B15 force accelerometer was mounted to the bottom of the cone. The accelerometer was capable of measuring large impact accelerations up to 10,000 g within a precision of ten percent. The ideal measuring range of the instrument was 500 g or less. The accelerometer was linked directly into data acquisition software system called DASYLab. A photo of the experimental setup is shown in figure 5. A program was set up within DASYLab to record the accelerations and to integrate the data to determine velocities. Acceleration measurements were sampled at a rate of 5000 Hz to ensure that the peak acceleration was recorded.

Figure 2 - Class 2 sand samples.

Figure 3 - Class 3 sand samples.

Figure 4 - Coarse aggregate samples.

Figure 5 - Accelerometer test setup.

Results

Comparison of cone test to standard and modified Proctor tests

Figures 6 through 16 present the moisture density relationships for the samples tested. As a general observation, the cone test matched up well with the modified Proctor test in the shape and the magnitude of the moisture density relationship curves. These compaction curves also show the limited effect moisture has on the resulting dry density.

Figure 6 – Class2 (CL II) sand moisture density relationships.

Figure 7 - Class 2 (63-121) sand moisture density relationships.

Figure 8 - Class 2 (77-26) sand moisture density relationships.

Figure 9 – Class 3 (CL III) sand moisture density relationships.

Figure 10 - Class 3 (63-121) sand moisture density relationships.

Figure 11 - Class 3 (77-26) sand moisture density relationships.

Figure 12 - 22A SS&G dense graded aggregate base moisture density relationships.

Figure 13 – 22A 28-54 dense graded aggregate base moisture density relationships.

Figure 14 - 22A 41-13 dense graded aggregate base moisture density relationships.

Figure 15 - 21AA dense graded aggregate base moisture density relationships.

Figure 16 - 4G open graded aggregate moisture density relationships.

Data Analysis

Based on the above results, a number of factors are presented and discussed. These factors include the following items:

- Comparison of compaction methods
- Effects of particle crushing
- Single user repeatability
- Multiple user repeatability
- Particle segregation
- Proctor test input energy
- Michigan cone test input energy

Comparison of the standard Proctor, modified Proctor, and Michigan cone test results.

A summary of all peak dry densities for each sample is presented in [Table 1.](#page-23-1) The Michigan cone values shown in [Table 1](#page-23-1) is an average of 15 tests for class 2, class 3, and 22A materials. For the 21AA material the average of 10 tests is reported for the Michigan cone, while five tests were averaged for the 4G material. As expected, the modified Proctor consistently yielded higher peak densities than the standard Proctor. The Michigan cone test matched the modified Proctor relatively closely. In some cases, the Michigan cone test had a higher density than the modified Proctor, and in some cases it was lower. However, in all cases the Michigan cone test had a higher density than the standard Proctor test.

	Modified Proctor	Standard Proctor	(SP/MP)	MI Cone	(MI/MP)
Soil	(MP) (pcf)	$(SP)(\text{pcf})$	$\%$	(MI) (pcf)	$\%$
Class II	113.4	109.3	96%	111.1	98%
Class 2 77-26	108.8	105.9	97%	107.4	99%
Class 2 63-121	111.0	107.2	97%	110.5	100%
Class III	120.5	111.6	93%	120.4	100%
Class 3 77-26	107.4	105.5	98%	105.5	98%
Class 3 63-121	127.4	121.6	95%	125.4	98%
22A SS&G	142.8	139.4	98%	145.2	102%
22A 28-54	134.3	133.5	99%	138.8	103%
22A 41-13	144.4	143.7	100%	147.9	102%
21 AA	142.8	126.4	89%	133.3	93%
4G	127.2	115.7	91%	125.6	99%

Table 1 - Compaction Characteristic Results

Gradation Analysis: Effects of Particle Crushing

To determine the effects of particle crushing, each sample gradation was tested before and after compaction for the Michigan cone and modified Proctor tests. The reason this analysis was conducted was due to the observation of large particles crushing during the modified Proctor test. Figures 17 through 19 show the results of the before and after compaction testing. For sands (figure 17), particle crushing was not observed, since there is no change in the gradation before and after compaction. Sands transfer force through many more contact points than gravels or larger stones. This transfer results in minimal particle breakage.

Figure 18 shows the results for the 22A gradation. This gradation includes between 15 and 35 percent gravel. It is shown that there is a significant amount of crushing large particles from to the modified Proctor test. Note on figure 18 that the results of the before and after cone test are essentially identical and plot as one line.

Figure 19 shows the results for the 4G gradations. This gradation contains approximately 70 percent gravel. It can be seen that a large amount of crushing occurs with the modified Proctor. As is well known, particle crushing does occur with the modified Proctor test. In

comparison, the Michigan cone test produces minimal crushing during compaction. This is beneficial, because the Michigan cone test is performed on post compacted material, so the cone test does not add additional breakage to the material. Additional particle crushing analyses for remaining samples can be found in appendix 1.

Figure 17 - Class 2 Sand particle crushing analysis.

Figure 18 - 22A Gradation Analysis

Figure 19 - 4G particle crushing analysis.

Single User Repeatability for the Michigan Cone Test

One of the main issues to be answered in this research is to determine the variability of the test with a single user. Table 2 presents the results of the Michigan cone tests from a single user. In general, the test data followed a normal distribution. This can be seen in figure 20, where the cone maximum densities for sample 22A are plotted against frequency forms a reasonable normal distribution. This distribution is based on 30 tests.

Based on research by Tavenas, Ladd and LaRochelle (1973), the modified Proctor method has a standard deviation of approximately 2.5 pcf for sands and gravels. Table 2 also presents one and two standard deviation results for a single user. For sands and 22A, the standard deviation for the cone test falls between 0.3 pcf and 2.2 pcf, which is less than what was found by Tavenas, Ladd and LaRochelle (1973). However, the larger gradations (21AA and 4G), had a standard deviation on the order of 4.1 pcf to 4.8 pcf, although fewer tests were conducted on these materials. Based on this limited amount of data, it can be concluded that the Michigan cone test is well within the repeatability of the modified Proctor test for a single user.

Soil	Number of Tests	Average (pcf)	STDEV (pcf)	Min (pcf)	Max (pcf)	Confidence 95% Interval (pcf)
CL II	10	111.1	0.3	110.7	111.7	± 0.6
CL 277-26	10	107.4	0.9	106.7	109.5	± 1.8
CL 2 63-121	10	110.5	1.2	108.3	112.5	± 2.4
CL III	10	120.4	1.7	118.0	122.9	± 3.4
CL 3 77-26	10	105.5	1.0	104.6	108.2	± 2.0
CL 3 63-121	10	125.4	1.6	122.5	127.2	± 3.2
22A SS&G	30	145.2	2.2	140.0	149.8	±4.4
22A 28-54	10	138.8	1.2	136.9	141.2	± 2.4
22A 41-13	10	146.7	1.2	144.7	148.6	± 2.4
21 AA	8	133.3	4.8	141.6	127.1	±9.6
4G	$\overline{4}$	121.9	4.1	116.1	125.5	± 8.1

Table 2 - Single technician repeatability results.

Figure 20 - Histogram of sample 22A SS&G data points, showing a normal distribution trend.

Multiple User Repeatability of the Michigan Cone Tes[t](#page-27-2)

[Table 3](#page-27-2) and table 4 show the repeatability statistics for multiple users performing Michigan cone test. Three technicians each performed five repeat trials on six selected soils. The technicians each employed a different hitting style when performing the tests in an attempt to better determine the effects of multiple users. Consequently, the purpose of varying the styles for each technician was to maximize the variability associated with the user input. The resulting data therefore represents the widest possible range to be expected from the cone test. The confidence interval shown in table 3 takes into consideration data from all three technicians. When comparing the standard deviation for multiple technicians to that of a single technician in table 4, it can be observed that the variability increases and almost doubles when multiple technicians are performing the tests. It should be noted that for most soils, excluding 21 AA and 4G, the standard deviation ranges from 1.5 pcf to 2.2 pcf, still better than the Tavenas, Ladd and LaRochelle (1973) estimation of repeatability using the modified Proctor. However, the larger gradations increased to 5.8 pcf to 6.1 pcf. Based on this limited amount of data, it can be concluded that the Michigan cone test is still within the repeatability of the modified Proctor test for a multiple user. Consequently, based on this data, it appears that the repeatability of the Michigan cone test is well within the repeatability of the laboratory based modified Proctor test for class 2 and class 3 sands as well as 22A. For 21AA and 4G, the cone test does produce slightly less reliable results than the modified Proctor test.

			CL 3 63-	22A	22A		
Technician	Soil	CL II	121	28-54	$41 - 13$	21 AA	4G
	Number of						
KMK	Tests	5	5	$5\overline{)}$	5	5	$\overline{4}$
	Average (pcf)	114.2	126.6	138.1	147.9	139.0	121.9
	STDEV (pcf)	0.6	1.3	1.2	1.4	2.4	4.1
	Number of						
JV	Tests	5	5	5	5 ⁵	5	$\overline{3}$
	Average (pcf)	115.6	128.0	140.4	148.4	140.3	125.6
	STDEV (pcf)	0.5	1.5	0.7	1.5	2.2	4.9
	Number of						
#3	Tests	5	5	5	5 ⁵	5	3
	Average (pcf)	112.5	123.9	136.2	146.0	128.4	113.5
	STDEV (pcf)	1.2	1.6	1.1	1.3	2.1	1.3
Combined	Min (pcf)	111.2	122.3	134.5	144.1	125.8	112.4
	Max (pcf)	116.1	122.3	141.2	150.2	143.3	130.0
	95% Confidence						
	Interval	± 3.0	±4.4	± 4.0	± 3.4	±11.6	± 12.2

Table 3 - Multiple technician repeatability data.

	Single User		Multiple Users		
Soil	Average (pcf)	STDEV (pcf)	Average (pcf)	STDEV (pcf)	
CL II	111.1	0.3	114.1	1.5	
CL 3 63-121	125.4	1.6	126.2	2.2	
22A 28-54	138.8	1.2	138.2	2.0	
22A 41-13	146.7	1.2	147.4	1.7	
21 AA	133.3	4.8	135.9	5.8	
4G	121.9	4.1	120.5	6.1	

Table 4 - MI cone repeatability comparison.

Particle Segregation During the Michigan Cone Test

During compaction of the larger aggregate gradations 22A, 21AA, and 4G, it was very apparent that larger particles were segregating upwards during the compaction. This was observed especially with the first two compacted layers. In addition, when the cone was almost filled, but yet needed additional material to top the cone off, only the smaller particles could be used, causing an additional stratification of the compacted material. Thus, small particles dominate the upper and lower regions of the mold while large particles concentrate in the center.

The effect of this on the resulting maximum density is difficult to quantify. If the segregation is severe, the result is most likely a lower density. Small material will have to filter down through the dense upper portion to fill voids in between the larger particles in the middle. Evidence of small particles filtering down can possibly be inferred by observing how the total weight of the sample increases by regular, small amounts after successive 20 hit intervals. For example, a sample with a large amount of segregation, i.e., large particles segregated towards the center of the cone, may require an additional five or more 20/10 trials before the maximum density is reached. However, according to the MDOT 20/10 rule, the test could be stopped before the maximum density is actually reached. That is, additional material can still be added after the test is considered complete, even though it increases less than 10 grams per interval, thus over several intervals a significant amount of material could be added. A possible solution to this segregation problem for larger size materials (21AA and 4G), would be to reduce the 20/10 rule to a 20/5 rule. One additional observation concerning segregation is that the total number of hits required to densify the 21AA and 4G was significantly greater than class 2, class

3, and 22A. A later section will discuss the total number of hits required to densify the aggregates in the Michigan cone test.

Evaluation of Energy Input for the Standard and Modified Proctor Test

The amount of energy input during compaction has a significant impact on the resulting dry density of the compacted soil. Loose soils will compact rapidly with small additions of energy, while more dense soils will require larger amounts of energy to see an appreciable increase in density. The standard Proctor test inputs a moderate energy level; therefore the resulting densities are always less than the modified Proctor. The modified Proctor on the other hand inputs a high level of energy, and is often assumed to compact the soil to the maximum density. As noted previously, the maximum density here refers to the limit that conventional compaction equipment can achieve.

To illustrate the relationship between compaction energy of the standard and modified Proctor test, the energy input during a Proctor test was determined by multiplying the weight of the hammer, times the height of the drop, times the number of drops. The energy input was also normalized to the volume of the compacted sample. Four compaction tests using a 22A aggregate were tested. Two of the tests were conducted using the standard and modified Proctor test procedure, while two additional tests were conducted applying only half of the required hits for a standard and modified Proctor test respectively. The results of the testing are presented in figure 21. The trend, shown in figure 21, is clearly logarithmic suggesting that the modified Proctor is near the maximum density for the aggregate. Additional energy input will continue to increase the density of the sample, but with minimal gain.

Figure 21 – Proctor energy density relationship.

Evaluation of Energy Input During the Cone Test

A set of three cone tests were performed with modifications of the standard procedure to track the densification as the test progressed. The procedure was modified by filling the cone completely at the beginning of the test, weighing it to determine the density, and compacting with 20 blows. The test continued with filling the cone and compacting it with 20 blows, until the cone was completely filled, meeting the 20/10 rule. This way the density could be calculated at each stage of the test. This procedure was conducted three times using different energy inputs, which consisted of striking the cone lightly (first test), moderately (second test), and lastly hard (third test).

The results from this testing are shown in figure 22, where the relationship between dry density and the number of hits applied is presented. The number of hits applied is directly proportional to the energy input for each test. It can be seen from figure 22 that for the early stages of the test when the sample is loose, the soil compacts at the same rate regardless of the energy per hit. This portion of the curve is controlled by the number of hits, not necessarily the total energy input. However, as the test progresses and the soil becomes denser, the energy input per hit becomes significant. [Figure 22](#page-32-0) also shows that the level of energy input of the cone striking the block does not necessarily have to be hard. That is, moderate hitting of the wooden block produced the same results as the hard hitting.

Figure 22 - MI cone energy density relationship

To investigate the actual force of the cone hitting the wooden block, a force accelerometer was attached to the base of the cone as described above. An additional consideration was the surface on which the block was placed. In the field, blocks are generally placed on soil, while in a laboratory a block is generally placed on a concrete floor. [Figure 23](#page-33-0) and figure 24 show the acceleration time histories of the cone hitting the block placed on both sand and concrete surfaces. The peak acceleration, shown in figure 23, was very similar for both the concrete base and sand base when normal hits were used; the peak accelerations were 629 g and 615 g respectively, however the first rebound acceleration varies greatly with material. Sand rebound was 488 g and concrete was 586 g. The variation in rebound acceleration can be explained by the damping effect sand has on the system. Concrete is a rigid material, which transmits energy well. On the other hand, sand is a particulate material which damps energy. [Figure 24](#page-33-1) shows a detailed acceleration time history of a single hit on both concrete and sand. Both hits have similar peak accelerations; however the concrete hit takes more time to damp out. The resulting densities for testing on sand versus on concrete, however, indicated that there was no difference even though the acceleration curves show different damping characteristics.

Figure 23 - Comparison of different base materials.

Figure 24 - Detailed base material comparison.

[Figure 25](#page-34-0) compares the acceleration time histories for two experienced technicians, where tests were performed with sand below the block. Both records are extremely similar, indicating that trained testers should generate reliable results.

Figure 25 - Trained technician accelerometer comparison.

[Figure 26](#page-35-0) shows the acceleration time histories for five students with no prior experience with the cone. Students were instructed in the proper method for hitting the cone according to the M-DOT Density Testing and Inspection Manual (M-DOT 2003). This data shows that for the majority of hits, the inexperienced students perform as consistently as a trained technician. However, in some instances, the students did not hit the cone sharply or as square as directed. These are indicative in the peak accelerations lower than the 600 g peak. It is expected that with even little practice, an inexperienced technician will be able to perform a test as reliably as a fully trained and experienced technician, based on the acceleration records. In general, it appears that minimal error can be attributed to differences in hitting style.

Figure 26 - Inexperienced student accelerometer comparison.

The acceleration records can also be used to determine the energy input for a cone test. A typical acceleration curve was analyzed by integrating the area under the first peak of the acceleration curve to determine velocity. Velocity was then used to calculate an approximate amount of energy input per hit. This was accomplished by multiplying one half the mass of the soil in the cone times the velocity squared $(E=\frac{1}{2}mv^2)$. Only the first peak was integrated, with the assumption that the additional vibrations canceled each other out and could be neglected. The calculation showed that approximately 20 ft*lb of energy was input by each hit. The total amount of energy was determined by multiplying the total number of hits by 20 ft*lb per hit. The total energy input during the test was normalized by the volume of the sample. Table 5 presents the energy estimated for each type of aggregate tested in this research. It can be seen from table 5, that for all samples, the average energy input during the Michigan cone test is greater than the energy input for modified Proctor test, which is approximately 56,300 ft*lb/ft³.
		Minimum	Maximum	Average # of	
	Number	Blows per	Blows per	Blow per	Average Energy Per
Soil	of Tests	Test	Test	Test	Test (ft^*lb/ft^3)
CL II	25	120	170	136	65,400
CL 277-26	10	130	150	136	65,400
CL 2 63-121	10	130	160	150	72,100
CL III	10	140	190	172	82,700
CL 3 77-26	10	130	170	141	67,800
CL 3 63-121	25	130	170	141	67,800
22A SS&G	21	140	230	172	82,700
22A 28-54	25	130	170	148	71,200
22A 41-13	25	150	200	169	81,300
21 AA	21	230	350	274	131,700
4G	10	180	370	275	132,200

Table 5 - Hit counts required to complete cone tests

Conclusions and Recommendations

The Michigan cone test has been used for over 50 years in the state of Michigan. Recently, questions have been raised concerning the accuracy and reliability of this test. To address these concerns, a research program was conducted to investigate the history of the cone test, its accuracy compared to the modified Proctor test, which it is assumed to be equivalent to, and to determine the reliability of the cone test. The testing program investigated 11 aggregate types consisting of class 2, class 3, 22A, 21AA, and 4G gradations. The major conclusions from this research are provided below.

- 1. The Michigan cone test was developed by William Housel in the 1940's at about the same time the modified Proctor was developed. In 1958, the cone test was considered by ASTM as a suggested test method for compaction of soils, but was not accepted. However, the MDOT did adopt the test as a method for field testing. At some point during the early use of the cone test, it was found that the Michigan cone test simulated the modified Proctor test. However, there was no data to collaborate this claim.
- 2. The testing of the 11 samples, which represented five gradations, determined that the Michigan cone test, in general, replicates the modified Proctor test, and in all cases is greater than the standard Proctor test.
- 3. Particle crushing was observed in the modified Proctor test, especially with the larger gradations such as 21AA and 4G. The Michigan cone test, however, showed minimal crushing. Since the Michigan cone test is conducted on post compacted materials, particle breakage is minimized and thus is more representative of the required compacted density in the field.
- 4. The results of the cone density testing generally followed a normal distribution, allowing for the use of averages and standard deviations to be calculated.
- 5. Single user repeatability tests showed that the standard deviations for the Michigan cone test were less than published results for the modified Proctor test for class 2, class 3, and 22A. However, the standard deviations for 21AA and 4G were slightly higher than published results for the modified Proctor test.
- 6. Multiple user repeatability tests showed that the standard deviations for the Michigan cone test were still less than published results for the modified Proctor test for class 2, class 3, and 22A. However, the standard deviations for 21AA and 4G were slightly higher than published results for the modified Proctor test.
- 7. Particle segregation during testing was observed for the larger gradations 21AA and the 4G, which the larger particles tended to concentrate towards the center of the cone. This could be inferred by the large number of hits required to reach maximum density. In general, the number of hits required for 21AA and 4G was almost twice that of the class 2, class 3, and 22A gradations. The reason speculated for this is that the finer materials must migrate into the large openings in the center of the cone, requiring additional hits to accomplish maximum compaction. However, the amount of increase is relatively small

and could be in the range of 10 grams or less, which according to the 20/10 rule, causes the test to stop, therefore not reaching maximum compaction. That is, small amounts of finer material are possibly still working their way into the voids of the larger particle sizes.

- 8. Analysis of tests in which the cone was hit lightly, moderately, and hard indicated that the same density can be achieved by either moderate or hard hitting.
- 9. The resulting densities for testing with the block placed on sand versus on concrete bases, however, indicated that there was no difference in density results even though the acceleration curves show different damping characteristics between the sand and the concrete base.
- 10. The recorded accelerations between two trained technicians showed virtually identical results. Additional testing with non-trained individuals also showed relatively consistent recorded accelerations.
- 11. The cone test inputs more energy per volume of soil compacted than the modified Proctor test.

Based on testing results presented in this report and the above conclusions, the following recommendations are made.

- 1. The cone test is a viable and repeatable test, however, additional testing should be conducted, especially with the larger gradation sizes such as 21AA and 4G. There is clear segregation occurring which needs to be better understood in regards to its effect on maximum density.
- 2. In addition, a major problem is that larger gradations require at least twice the number of hits per test. It is possible that a larger cone may work better, but this would increase the weight of the cone, making it a more difficult test to conduct.
- 3. Class 3 materials, especially materials near the 15% fines limit, should be investigated as to whether these materials do not reach maximum density due to the possibility of pumping.
- 4. The Michigan cone test could be automated with the design of a mechanical apparatus to perform the compaction.

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Appendix

Appendix 1 – Gradation Curves Appendix 2 – Soil Testing Data 4G 21AA 22A SS&G 22A 28-54 22A 41-13 CL II CL 2 63-121 CL2 77-26 CL III CL 3 63-121 CL 3 77-26

Appendix 1 – Gradation Curves

Appendix 2 – Soil Data

Michigan Cone Testing

Gradation Analysis

Karl Krueger

Sample ID: $\overline{2}$ Description: 4G Before Modified Proctor

Date: 8/24/2011 g F Bowl ID:

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 2172.4 g After Wash g

Table 902-1 Grading Requirements for Coarse Aggregates, Dense-Graded Aggregates, and Open-Graded

		Maximum	Minimum
Sieve Size	Opening (mm)	Allowable	Allowable
1.5"	37.5	100	
3/4"	19.0	80	60
$1/2$ "	12.7	65	35
No. 8	2.38	25	10
No. 30	0.595	18	

Michigan Cone Testing

Michigan Cone Testing

Gradation Analysis

124.4

 $\overline{4}$

 61.5

330.8

324.0

2.56

121.3

4551.3

133.8

47

 63.1

514.4

492.2

 5.18

 127.2

4179.9

122.9

 33

62.5

553.4

552.8

 0.11

 122.7

Weight of moist Soil

Moisture Tin ID

Moisture Content

Dry Unit Weight (pcf)

Moist Unit Weight (pcf)

Mass of Moisture Tin

Mass of Tin and Moist Soil

Mass of Tin and Dry Soil

Cone Tests

Karl Krueger

 \mathbf{I}

j.

Cone Tests

MI Cone Curve

Gradation Analysis

Karl Krueger

 $\sf g$ $\sf g$ $\sf g$

Date: 7/25/2011

Sample ID: 21AA

After 1 Cone Test

Bowl ID: 207.7 $\mathsf g$

 \mathbf{I}

Mass of Sample Oven Dry:
After Wash: 1626.7 $\mathsf g$

 \mathbf{I}

14814 g

Volume of Mold

Tested By

56250 ft*lb/ft^3

Karl Krueger

Dillman B003 0.075 ft^3 KMK

Sample No 21AA

7/25/2011 Date

Cone Tests

Karl Krueger

Sample No. 21AA

Cone Tests

Cone Tests

MI Cone Curve

Karl Krueger

Table 902-1 Grading Requirements for Coarse Aggregates, Dense-Graded Aggregates, and Open-Graded

		Maximum	Minimum
Sieve Size	Opening (mm)	Allowable	Allowable
1 ⁿ	25.0	100	100
3/4"	19.0	100	90
3/8"	9.5	85	65
No. 8	2.36	50	30
No. 200	0.075		

M-DOT Michigan Cone Testing

Gradation Analysis

M-DOT Michigan Cone Testing

Karl Krueger

62

Gradation Analysis

Karl Krueger

M-DOT Michigan Cone Testing

 $10\,$

 $\overline{20}$

40

60

100

140

200

Pan

 $\overline{2}$

 0.85

 0.425

 0.25

 0.15

 0.106

0.075

 \sim

482.7

423.2

328.9

369.5

352.3

297.1

334.6

278.6

 Σ

179.2

137.9

152.9

 167.1

 96.6

28.6

22.9

 10.0

1938.6

 8.7

 6.7

 7.4

 8.1

 $\overline{4.7}$

 1.4

 $1.1\,$

 0.5

36.0

29.3

 21.9

13.8

 $\overline{9.1}$ 7.8

 $6.6\,$

 6.2

 $\mathsf g$

661.9

561.1

481.8

536.6

448.9

325.7

357.5

288.6

 $3.8%$

129.8

133.6

 $5.7%$

133.3

158.1

 $7.1%$

138.8

190.3

10.4%

133.9

Mass of Tin and Dry Soil

Moisture Content

Dry Unit Weight (pcf)

 97.9

 $0.6%$

127.2

 $3.3%$

134.3

123.0

 $6.0%$

137.3

Mass of Tin and Dry Soil

Dry Unit Weight (pcf)

Moisture Content

119.9

 $0.4%$

134.2

Proctor Test Worksheet

Karl Krueger

185.9

13.4%

131.0

159.6

 $7.7%$

139.4

136.8

141.0

135.3

Dry Unit Weight (pcf)

136.2

Proctor Test Worksheet

140.3

142.8

135.6

M-DOT Michigan Cone Testing

Dry Unit Weight (pcf)

141.6
Cone Tests

Cone Tests

Cone Tests

Weak Hits: 18" free fall

MI Cone

Curve

 \overline{c}

Gradation Analysis

Karl Krueger

 $\sf g$

Sample ID: 22A 28-54 Description:

Before Testing

Date: 8/2/2011 Bowl ID: 209.8

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 1291.24 $\sf g$ $\mathsf g$

After Wash: 1219.6

Sample ID: 22A 28-54 Date: 8/2/2011

 $\mathsf g$

Bowl ID: 206.8

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 1314.9 g

Description:

After 1 Cone Test

After Wash: 1245.2 g Sieve and **Sieve Size** Opening (mm) Retained (g) Sieve (g) Retained (g) % Retained % Passing $1 - 1/2$ " 0.0 0.0 100.0 38.1 $3/4$ " 19.05 0.0 0.0 100.0 $3/8''$ 9.525 1088.4 780.9 307.5 23.4 76.6 4.75 709.4 $\overline{4}$ 906.1 196.7 15.0 61.7 $10\,$ $\overline{2}$ 656.1 485.8 170.3 13.0 48.7 20 0.85 545.5 426.3 119.2 9.1 39.6 40 0.425 525.2 330.7 194.5 14.8 24.8 60 0.25 547.3 369.8 177.5 13.5 11.3 $100\,$ 0.15 412.1 352.2 59.9 4.6 6.8 12.5 140 0.106 309.3 296.8 1.0 5.8 200 0.075 342.8 334.4 0.6 8.4 5.2 Pan $\frac{2\pi\sigma}{\sigma^2\sigma}$ 374.7 374.0 0.7 0.1 5.2 1247.2 Σ

Gradation Analysis

Karl Krueger

M-DOT Michigan Cone Testing

Sample ID:

Bowl ID: 208.97 g

Description: **After 1 Modified Proctor Test**

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 1565.61 g

After Wash: 1441.01 g

74

Cone Tests

Karl Krueger

Sample No. 22A 28-54

Cone Tests

Karl Krueger

1.2 pcf

average 1.1202678 pcf

Cone Tests

MI Cone Curve

Gradation Analysis

Karl Krueger

Sample ID: 22A 41-13 Description:

Before Testing

Date: 8/8/2011

Bowl ID: 333.54 g

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 1757.32 g

After Wash: 1614.15 g

Sample ID: 22A 41-13 Description:

After 1 Cone Test

Date: 8/8/2011

Bowl ID: 333.64 g

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 1341.59 g

After Wash: 1225.79 g

Sample ID: 22A 41-13 Description:

After 1 Modified Proctor Test

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 2429.25 g

After Wash: 2207.46 g

8/16/2011 Date

KMK

Tested By

84

Cone Tests

Karl Krueger

8/8/2011

Sample No. 22A 41-13

Date

Cone Tests

Karl Krueger

Sample No.

Cone Tests

Karl Krueger

Sample No.

MI Cone Curve

Karl Krueger

Sample ID: CL II Description: CL II **Before Testing**

Date: 7/20/2011 Bowl ID: 16-209.0 g Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 611 $\mathsf g$ After Wash: 593.8 $\mathsf g$

Date: 7/20/2011

Sample ID: CL II

Description: CL II

After 1 Cone Test

Bowl ID: x-332.5 g

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 534.7 $\mathsf g$

After Wash: 520.7 g

103.8

99.9

105.6

109.3

Dry Unit Weight (pcf)

106.6

Proctor Test Worksheet

Dry Unit Weight (pcf)

 107.8

Karl Krueger

103.2

 101.6

107.9

109.3

Dry Unit Weight (pcf)

109.6

Karl Krueger

104.6

106.8

108.4

110.4

Karl Krueger

150.71

 4.3

108.2

148.71

 10.7

 111.1

159.29

 14.2

113.4

138.86

6.5

109.4

114.55

 1.0

112.2

Mass of Tin and Dry Soil

Moisture Content

Dry Unit Weight (pcf)

Cone Tests

Karl Krueger

7/19/2011

Sample No. CL II

Date

Cone Tests

Karl Krueger

Description of Soil Location Volume of Mold Weight of Mold **Tested By**

 $CL II$ Dillman B003 0.0459 ft^3 1421 g KMK

Sample No. CL II

Test No. $\overline{16}$ $\overline{17}$ $\overline{18}$ $\overline{19}$ $\overline{20}$ Wet Soil + Mold (g) 3913.8 3941 3921.8 Wet Soil (g) 2492.8 2500.8 2520 Wet Soil (lb) 5.50 5.51 5.56 **Compacted Soil Wet (pcf)** 119.7 120.1 121.0 **Compacted Soil Dry (pcf)** 110.6 112.8 111.9 **Moisture Tin ID** $\overline{8}$ $\overline{2}$ $\overline{14}$ 30.5 29.35 62.06 **Mass of Moisture Tin** Mass of Tin and Moist Soil 191.83 205.05 496.16 Mass of Tin and Dry Soil 179.55 194.37 463.3 Moisture Content 8.24 6.47 8.19 **Max Density (pcf)** 111.2 113.9 112.6 **Optimum Moisture %** 14.7 $\overline{13.8}$ $\overline{14.2}$ **Total Hits** 150.0 130.0 130.0 After Full 40.0 20.0 20.0

average 112.56667

Cone Tests

Karl Krueger

115.6 pcf

MI Cone Curve

Sample No.	

7/19/2011

Gradation Analysis

Karl Krueger

Sample ID: CL 2 63-121 Description:

Before Testing

Date: 8/8/2011

Bowl ID: 299.5 $\sf g$

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 599.03 g $g_{\rm s}$

After Wash: 582.08

Sample ID: CL 2 63-121 Description:

After 1 Cone Test

Date: 8/8/2011

Bowl ID: 390.03 g

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 596.21 g

After Wash: 579.62 g

100

Sample ID: CL 2 63-121 Description:

Date: 8/12/2011

After 1 Modified Proctor Test

Bowl ID: 207.22 g Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 773.92

 $\sf g$ After Wash: 740.53 g

Karl Krueger

Description of Soil CL 2 63-121 Location Volume of Mold Weight of Mold **Tested By**

Dillman B003 0.04439 ft^3 1944.4 g KMK

Sample No. CL 2 63-121

Date

MI Cone Curve

18" free fall

Sample No.

Date

Karl Krueger

Sample ID: CL 2 77-26 Description:

Before Testing

Date: 8/12/2011

Bowl ID: 332.54 g

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 530.79 g

After Wash: 520.44 $\mathsf g$

Sample ID: CL 2 77-26 Description:

After 1 Cone Test

Date: 8/12/2011

Bowl ID: 208.91 g

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 818.47 $\mathsf g$

After Wash: 800.4

Sample ID: CL 277-26 Description: After 1 Modified Proctor Test

Date: 8/12/2011

Bowl ID: 108.99 g Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 739.48

 $\sf g$ After Wash: 708.99 g

Proctor Test Worksheet

Karl Krueger

M-DOT Michigan Cone Testing

Proctor Test Worksheet

Karl Krueger

M-DOT Michigan Cone Testing

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Karl Krueger
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Description of Soil Location Volume of Mold Weight of Mold **Tested By**

CL 277-26 Dillman B003 0.04439 ft^3 1944.4 g KMK

Sample No.

Date

 $8/12/2011$

MI Cone Curve

Karl Krueger

Sample ID: CL III Description: CL III

Before Testing

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 547.1

 $\mathsf g$ After Wash: 479.87 $\mathsf g$

Sample ID: CL III

Description: CL III

After 1 Cone Test

Date: 7/29/2011

 208.1 g Bowl ID:

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 644.1 $\mathsf g$

After Wash: 560.03 g

Pan

 $\ddot{}$

 $\mathsf g$ $\mathsf g$ g

278.7

 $\overline{\Sigma}$

 1.5

631.9

 0.2

16.8

280.2

113

Proctor Test Worksheet

Karl Krueger

M-DOT Michigan Cone Testing

 30.6

 200.7

193.9

 4.13

116.3

37.0

179.2

170.2

 6.78

120.5

29.9

231.5

217.4

 7.54

129.0

Mass of Moisture Tin

Mass of Tin and Moist Soil

Mass of Tin and Dry Soil

Dry Unit Weight (pcf)

Moisture Content

41.7

166.2

164.8

 $1.11\,$

118.0

Proctor Test Worksheet

Karl Krueger

Cone Tests

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Karl Krueger
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Description of Soil $\mathsf{CL}\,\mathsf{III}$ Location Dillman B003 Volume of Mold 0.0459 ft^3 Weight of Mold Tested B_1

Sample No. CL III

MI Cone Curve

Gradation Analysis

Karl Krueger

Sample ID: CL 2 63-121 Description:

Before Testing

Date: 8/8/2011

Bowl ID: 299.5 g

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 599.03 g $\mathsf g$

After Wash: 582.08

Sample ID: CL 2 63-121 Description:

Pan

 $\overline{}$

Date: 8/8/2011

Bowl ID: 390.03 $_{\rm g}$

 5.21 $\mathsf g$

 $\overline{2.2}$

 $\overline{2.6}$

 $\mathsf g$

389.4

 376.1

Σ

13.3 580.7

118

Sample ID: CL 2 63-121 Description:

Date: 8/12/2011

After 1 Modified Proctor Test

Bowl ID: 207.22 g Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 773.92

 $\sf g$ After Wash: 740.53 g

Proctor Test Worksheet

Karl Krueger

M-DOT Michigan Cone Testing

Krueger

Karl Krueger

Description of Soil CL 2 63-121 Location Volume of Mold Weight of Mold **Tested By**

Dillman B003 0.04439 ft^3 1944.4 g KMK

Sample No. CL 2 63-121

 $\overline{1}$ Date

MI Cone Curve

18" free fall

Sample No.

Date

Karl Krueger

Sample ID: CL 3 77-26 Description:

Before Testing

Date: 8/12/2011

 $\mathsf g$

Bowl ID: 206.31 g

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 502.38 $\mathsf g$

After Wash: 489.59

Sample ID: CL 3 77-26 Description:

After 1 Cone Test

Date: 8/12/2011

Bowl ID: 208.94 g

Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 625.82 g

After Wash: 604.46 g

Sample ID: CL 3 77-26 Description:

Date: 8/12/2011

After 1 Modified Proctor Test

Bowl ID: 207.31 g Mass of Sample Oven Dry: 723.65 g

After Wash: 687.12 g

Karl Krueger

103.7

104.0

107.4

108.6

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Karl Krueger
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Description of Soil Location Volume of Mold Weight of Mold **Tested By**

CL 3 77-26 Dillman B003 0.04439 ft^3 1944.4 g KMK

Sample No.

Date

 $8/12/2011$

MI Cone Curve

