

SEGMENTAL GRAVITY RETAINING WALLS

(1-17-12)

1.0 GENERAL

Construct segmental gravity retaining walls consisting of segmental retaining wall (SRW) units supported by aggregate footings. If the plans do not include Standard Drawing No. 453.02 or 453.03, design and construct segmental gravity retaining walls based on actual elevations, wall dimensions and batter in accordance with the contract and accepted submittals. Otherwise, construct segmental gravity retaining walls based on actual elevations, wall dimensions and batter in accordance with the contract, accepted submittals and Standard Drawing No. 453.02 or 453.03.

Define "block wall" as a segmental gravity retaining wall and "standard block wall" as a block wall that meets a standard segmental gravity retaining wall drawing (Standard Drawing No. 453.02 or 453.03). Define "blocks" as SRW units, "cap blocks" as SRW cap units and "Block Vendor" as the vendor licensing the block producer.

2.0 MATERIALS

Refer to the *Standard Specifications*.

Item	Section
Anchor Pins	1056-2
Geotextiles, Type 2	1056
Segmental Retaining Wall Units	1040-4
Select Material, Class VI	1016
Silicone Sealant	1028-3
Subsurface Drainage Materials	815-2
Wire Staples	1060-8(D)

Provide Type 2 geotextile for separation geotextiles. Use Class VI select material for No. 57 stone. Provide PVC pipes, fittings, outlet pipes and concrete pads for subsurface drainage materials. For PVC pipes behind block walls, use pipes with perforations that meet AASHTO M 278.

Provide blocks produced by a manufacturer approved or licensed by the Block Vendor. Unless required otherwise in the plans, use blocks with a depth (front to back) of at least 12" and cap blocks with a depth of at least 8".

Use approved SRW units for standard block walls. Blocks for standard block walls are approved for either 2 ft or 4 ft maximum design heights with the design height as shown in Standard Drawing No. 453.02 or 453.03. The list of approved SRW units with maximum design heights is available from:

www.ncdot.org/doh/preconstruct/highway/geotech/seggravwalls

Do not mix blocks from different Block Vendors on the same block wall. Damaged blocks with excessive discoloration, chips or cracks as determined by the Engineer will be rejected.

Provide adhesives recommended by the Block Vendor. Store adhesives in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions. Load, transport, unload and store block wall materials so materials are kept clean and free of damage.

3.0 PRECONSTRUCTION REQUIREMENTS

A. Block Wall Surveys

The plans typically show a plan view, typical sections, details, notes and an elevation or profile view (wall envelope) for each block wall. Before beginning block wall design or construction, survey existing ground elevations along wall face locations and other elevations in the vicinity of block wall locations as needed. Based on these elevations, finished grades and actual block wall dimensions, details and batter, submit wall envelopes for acceptance. Use accepted wall envelopes for design, if required, and construction.

B. Block Wall Designs

If the plans do not include Standard Drawing No. 453.02 or 453.03, submit 11 copies of working drawings and 3 copies of design calculations and a PDF copy of each for block wall designs at least 30 days before starting block wall construction. Do not begin block wall construction until a design submittal is accepted.

Design block walls in accordance with the plans and Article 11.11 of the *AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* unless otherwise required. Design block walls for the wall batter required by the Block Vendor and clearances shown in the plans. Do not locate blocks or footings outside right-of-way or easement limits.

Use No. 57 stone for aggregate footings beneath blocks. Use 10" thick footings that are continuous at steps and extend at least 6" in front of and at least 9" behind bottom row of blocks. Unless required otherwise in the plans, embed bottom of footings at least 18" below bottom of walls shown in the plans. When noted in the plans, locate a 4" diameter continuous perforated PVC drain pipe in the No. 57 stone in back of footings.

Fill block core spaces with No. 57 stone and between and behind blocks with No. 57 stone for a horizontal distance of at least 12" so stone is continuous in all directions. Assume a unit weight of 100 lb/cf for No. 57 stone. Separation geotextiles are required between No. 57 stone and backfill or natural ground and between stone and overlying fill or pavement section except when concrete pavement, full depth asphalt or cement treated base is placed directly on stone.

Use cap blocks at top of walls. Step top of walls as shown in the plans and double stack cap blocks at steps so cap blocks are continuous at steps. Extend top of walls 4" to 12" above where finished grade intersects back of blocks or cap blocks. When single faced precast concrete barrier is required in front of and against block walls, fill voids between barrier and wall faces with No. 57 stone.

Submit working drawings and design calculations for acceptance in accordance with

Article 105-2 of the *Standard Specifications*. Submit working drawings showing plan views, wall profiles with required resistances, typical sections, No. 57 stone and geotextile locations and details of footings, blocks, cap blocks, etc. If necessary, include details on working drawings for obstructions extending through walls or interfering with footings. Submit design calculations for each wall section with different geometry or material parameters. When designing block walls with computer software, a hand calculation is required for the tallest wall section. Provide block wall designs sealed by an engineer licensed in the state of North Carolina.

4.0 CONSTRUCTION METHODS

Control drainage during construction in the vicinity of block walls. Direct run off away from block walls, No. 57 stone and backfill. Contain and maintain stone and backfill and protect material from erosion.

Excavate as necessary for block walls in accordance with the plans and accepted submittals. Notify the Engineer when foundation excavation is complete. Do not place No. 57 stone for footings until excavation dimensions and foundation material are approved.

Construct aggregate footings at elevations and with dimensions shown in the plans and accepted submittals. If a drain is required, install wall drainage systems consisting of drains and outlet components as shown in the plans and accepted submittals and in accordance with Section 815 of the *Standard Specifications*. Compact No. 57 stone for footings with a vibratory compactor to the satisfaction of the Engineer.

Stack blocks with no negative wall batter (wall face leaning forward) so the final wall position is as shown in the plans and accepted submittals. Place blocks with a maximum vertical joint width of 3/8". Stagger blocks to create a running bond by centering blocks over joints in the row below as shown in the plans and accepted submittals. Construct block walls with the following tolerances:

- A. Blocks are level from front to back and between blocks when checked with a 3 ft long level,
- B. Final wall face is within 2" of horizontal and vertical alignment shown in the plans and accepted submittals, and
- C. Wall batter is within 2° of batter required by the Block Vendor.

Overlap adjacent separation geotextiles at least 18" at seams and hold geotextiles in place with wire staples or anchor pins as needed. Place No. 57 stone between and behind blocks in 8" to 10" thick lifts. Compact stone with hand operated compaction equipment to the satisfaction of the Engineer. Backfill for block walls behind No. 57 stone in accordance with Article 410-8 of the *Standard Specifications*.

Set cap blocks with a 1/2" to 1-1/2" overhang as shown in the plans and accepted submittals. Place cap blocks using adhesive in accordance with the manufacturer's

instructions. Do not place cap blocks if surfaces caps will be attached to are wet or frozen or the air temperature measured at the wall location in the shade away from artificial heat is below 40°F. Before applying adhesive, clean surfaces cap blocks will adhere to and ensure surfaces are dry and free of oil, grease, dust and debris. Seal joints above and behind block walls between blocks and ditches with silicone sealant.

5.0 MEASUREMENT AND PAYMENT

Segmental Gravity Retaining Walls will be measured and paid in square feet. Block walls will be measured as the square feet of exposed wall face area with the height equal to the difference between top and bottom of wall elevations. Define “top of wall” as top of cap blocks. Define “bottom of wall” as shown in the plans and no measurement will be made for portions of block walls embedded below bottom of wall elevations.

The contract unit price for *Segmental Gravity Retaining Walls* will be full compensation for providing designs, if required, submittals, labor, tools, equipment and block wall materials, excavating, backfilling, hauling and removing excavated materials and supplying footings, blocks, No. 57 stone, wall drainage systems, geotextiles, cap blocks and any incidentals necessary to construct block walls.

The contract unit price for *Segmental Gravity Retaining Walls* does not include the cost for ditches, fences, handrails, barrier or guardrail associated with block walls as these items will be paid for elsewhere in the contract.

Where it is necessary to provide backfill material behind No. 57 stone from sources other than excavated areas or borrow sources used in connection with other work in the contract, payment for furnishing and hauling such backfill material will be paid as extra work in accordance with Article 104-7 of the *Standard Specifications*. Placing and compacting such backfill material is not considered extra work but is incidental to the work being performed.

Payment will be made under:

Pay Item

Segmental Gravity Retaining Walls

Pay Unit

Square Foot