

## DEVELOPING MOISTURE-DENSITY RELATIONS FOP FOR AASHTO R 75

### Scope

This procedure provides a method to develop soils density-relations in accordance with AASHTO R 75-24 using multiple moisture-density curves developed using the same method, A, B, C, or D, from the FOP for AASHTO T 99/T 180.

All curves used in a group must be developed using a single Method: A, B, C, or D of a procedure for AASHTO T 99 or T 180. See the FOP for AASHTO T 99/T 180.

### Terminology

*soil moisture-density relations* — a group of soil moisture-density relations (commonly known as a family of curves) determined using AASHTO T 99 or T 180, which reveal certain similarities and trends characteristic of the soil type and source.

*spine* — smooth line extending through the point of maximum density and optimum moisture content of a group of moisture-density curves.

### Procedure

1. Sort the curves by Method (A, B, C, or D of the FOP for T 99/T 180). At least three curves are required per group.
2. Select the highest and lowest maximum dry densities from those selected to assist in determining the desired scale of the subsequent graph.
3. Plot the maximum density and optimum moisture points of the selected curves on the graph.
4. Draw a smooth, “best fit,” curved line through the points creating the spine of the soil moisture-density relations.
5. Remove maximum density and optimum moisture points that were not used to establish the spine.
6. Add the moisture-density curves associated with the points that were used to establish the spine. It is not necessary to include the portion of the curves over optimum moisture.

*Note 1*—Intermediate curves using slopes similar to those of the original moisture-density curves may be included when maximum density points are more than 2.0 lb/ft<sup>3</sup> apart. Intermediate curves are indicated by a dashed line.

7. Plot the 80 percent of optimum moisture range when desired:
  - a. Using the optimum moisture of an existing curve, calculate 80 percent of optimum moisture and plot this value on the curve. Repeat for each curve in the group.
  - b. Draw a smooth, “best fit,” curved line connecting the 80 percent of optimum moisture points plotted on the curves that parallel the spine.

**Calculations**

Calculate 80 percent of optimum moisture of each curve:

Example:

Optimum moisture of the highest density curve = 14.6%

$$80\% \text{ point} = \frac{80}{100} \times 14.6\% = 11.7\%$$

