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CONTENTS

ASCE STANDARDS	iii
PREFACE	ix
ACKNOWLEDGMENTS	xi
1 INTRODUCTION	1
1.1 Compaction Grouting Explained	1
1.2 Brief History of Compaction Grouting	1
1.3 Purpose and Development of this Guide	2
2 MECHANICS OF COMPACTION GROUTING	3
2.1 Basic Mechanics	3
2.2 Soil Conditions	4
2.3 Field Evidence on Compaction Grout Behavior	4
3 COMPACTION GROUTING MATERIALS	7
3.1 Introduction	7
3.2 Factors Affecting Grout Mobility	7
3.3 Composition	8
3.4 Design of the Grout Mix	8
4 GROUTING IN THE FIELD	11
4.1 Methodology	11
4.2 Equipment	11
4.2.1 Mixing	12
4.2.2 Pumps	13
4.2.3 Hoses and Fittings	13
4.2.4 Safety on Site	14
4.2.5 Casings	14
4.2.6 Headers	14
4.2.7 Fittings	14
4.2.8 Pressure Gauges	15
4.3 Drilling	15
5 SUBSURFACE INVESTIGATION FOR COMPACTION GROUTING	17
5.1 Investigation Planning	17
5.2 General Investigations	17
5.2.1 Data Review	17
5.2.2 Sampling	18
5.2.3 Investigation Limits	18
5.2.4 Laboratory Testing	18
5.2.5 Analysis and Report	18
5.3 Investigations for Grouting Design	18
5.3.1 Defining the Purpose of Grouting	18
5.3.2 Defining the Mechanism of Grouting	18
5.3.3 Determining the Extent of Grouting	19
5.3.4 Selecting Exploration Methods	19
5.3.5 Logging Field Investigation	20

5.3.6	Informing Field Inspectors.	20
5.3.7	Accommodating the Unexpected	20
5.3.8	Recording and Reporting Everything	20
6	DESIGN OF COMPACTION GROUTING.	21
6.1	Introduction.	21
6.2	Geometric Idealization of the Grout Mass	21
6.3	Suitability of In Situ Soil for Compaction Grouting	21
6.4	Pressure–Volume Behavior of In Situ Soil	23
6.5	Pressure–Volume Behavior of Grout	24
6.6	Pressure Losses in the Casing	24
6.7	Injection Sequence	24
6.8	Injection Spacing.	25
6.9	Estimation of Grout Quantities	25
6.9.1	Densification	25
6.10	Limitations on Grout Injection.	26
6.10.1	Soil Confinement.	26
6.10.2	Influence on Structures.	26
6.11	Refusal Measurement	27
6.12	Grouting Records.	27
7	ANALYSIS OF COMPACTION GROUTING	29
7.1	Introduction.	29
7.1.1	Geometric Idealization	29
7.1.2	Alternative Soil Models	29
7.1.3	Importance of Large Strain	30
7.1.4	Simple Approach.	30
7.1.5	Numerical Cavity Expansion	31
7.1.6	Commercial Finite-Element Codes	31
7.1.7	Consolidation of the In Situ Soil during and after Grouting	31
7.2	Importance of Monitoring Grout Injection	33
7.3	Centrifuge Modeling	33
7.4	Field Trials	33
7.5	Large-Scale Laboratory Tests	34
8	MONITORING DURING GROUTING.	35
8.1	Why Monitor?	35
8.2	What to Measure.	35
8.3	Automatic Monitoring of Grout Injection	35
8.4	Monitoring of Ground and Structure Movements.	37
8.4.1	Movement Detection.	37
8.4.2	Manual Methods	37
8.4.3	Automated Movement Monitoring.	40
8.5	Data Processing, Presentation, and Grouting Control.	43
8.5.1	Expectation Setting.	43
8.5.2	Grouting Control during Injection.	43
8.5.3	Piezometric Monitoring	43
8.5.4	Assessment of Grouting Protocol Based on Ground Response.	43
9	VERIFICATION OF GROUTING EFFECTIVENESS.	45
9.1	Overview of Verification Program Development	45
9.2	Verification Program Planning	45
9.2.1	Goals of Verification.	45
9.2.2	Design for Verification.	45
9.2.3	Test or Preconstruction Grouting	45
9.2.4	Review Injection Monitoring Data	45
9.3	Verification Methods.	46
9.3.1	Density Change Measurement.	46
9.3.2	Penetration Resistance	46
9.3.3	Geophysical Methods (Shear Wave Velocity).	47

9.3.4	Other Verification Tests	49
9.3.5	Excavation/Coring	49
9.4	Summary and Conclusions.	49
10	APPLICATIONS	51
10.1	Settlement Correction	51
10.1.1	Soil Improvement under Existing Structures	51
10.1.2	Deep Foundations	51
10.1.3	Collapsible Soils Improvement	51
10.1.4	Settlement Mitigation References	51
10.2	Preconstruction Soil Densification Applications.	51
10.2.1	Liquefaction Mitigation	52
10.2.2	Soil Improvement under Proposed Structures.	52
10.2.3	Soft Ground Tunneling	52
10.2.4	Foundations Involving Lateral Loading	52
10.2.5	Preconstruction Soil Densification References	52
10.3	Sinkhole Remediation	52
10.4	Further Information	52
	APPENDIX GUIDE SPECIFICATIONS FOR COMPACTION GROUTING USING THE BOTTOM-UP SYSTEM	53
	REFERENCES	61
	INDEX.	65

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PREFACE

This new edition of the *Compaction Grouting Consensus Guide* aims to promote good practice in compaction grouting. Compaction grouting is a reliable methodology for improving soil density and strength. Similar to other grouting technologies, compaction grouting is based on sound engineering principles, not a “black magic” that only a chosen few can understand. And, like all other soil improvement techniques, compaction grouting needs to be applied competently.

Scope

This standard provides background for those interested in specifying, designing, and/or undertaking compaction grouting. This guide is not a manual and is not intended for use as a code of practice; hence, the use of nonmandatory language throughout the text is not accidental. The developers of this guide hope that it will become a useful reference for all those interested in compaction grouting.

Compaction grouting is a ground improvement technique that enhances the ground’s strength and/or stiffness by slow and controlled injection of a low-mobility grout. The soil is displaced and compacted as the grout mass expands. Provided the injection process progresses in a controlled fashion, the grout material remains as a growing mass within the ground and does not permeate or fracture the soil. This behavior enables consistent densification around the expanding grout mass, resulting in stiff inclusions of grout surrounded by soil of increased density.

This guide focuses specifically on compaction grouting applications where the soil’s increased strength and/or stiffness due to compaction is a primary element of ground improvement. Applications wherein a ground improvement design requires the injected grout to obtain strength greater than that of the surrounding soil, although potentially a valid application of low-mobility grout, are not considered to be compaction grouting for the purposes of this guide and hence are beyond the scope of this document.

This guide discusses both practical and theoretical aspects of compaction grouting.

In addition, this guide follows ASCE guidelines and uses the International System of Units (SI) as the primary system of units; customary units are also provided in parentheses. Compaction grouting in North America typically uses customary units in the field; hence many of the SI units have been calculated from the original customary equivalents. In these cases, an effort has been made to keep the “rule of thumb” values in their original form, and some loss of accuracy in the conversion between units may occur. This standard may involve hazardous materials, operations, and equipment. This standard does not purport to address the safety problems associated with its application. Whoever uses this standard is responsible for establishing appropriate safety and health practices and for determining the applicability of regulatory and nonregulatory limitations.