

UNDERSTANDING & SCHEDULING GEOTECHNICAL LABORATORY TESTS



Course Outline

The course comprises a one day overview of Geotechnical Laboratory Testing from sampling through scheduling to reviewing the test data. The course aims to provide the delegate with information of why particular tests are chosen, what the results should look like and where they are used in geotechnical design practice.

The course provides guidance on scheduling of samples with respect to the sample types, quality and sizes required to enable compliant geotechnical laboratory testing to be carried out in accordance with the current British Standards. The influence of sample quality, sampling methods, transportation and storage will be considered with respect to the parameters which may be obtained and affected by poor practice.

Descriptions of how each test is undertaken will be given along with demonstrations of some of the laboratory methods and testing equipment. Through the day, the data derived from the scheduled tests will be reviewed and discussed with respect to their use in design.

Course Contents

- Why test?
- Sample and sampling requirements
- Handling, transportation and storage
- Scheduling and reporting of routine testing:
 - Classification tests
 - Earthworks tests
 - Strength tests
 - Consolidation and Permeability tests
 - Basic chemical testing for soil properties
- Specialist testing

The relationship of various parameters with each other will also be studied.



Summary

At the end of the course the delegates should be able to:

- Identify appropriate samples for particular tests
- Understand the limitations of tests
- Understand why and which testing would be most appropriate
- Have an appreciation of how to schedule laboratory tests including information required by laboratories regarding test specifications.
- Understand why it is important to determine an appropriate and structured testing regime
- Recognize accuracy of results
- Have an appreciation of what the results mean and how they are obtained

Who should attend?

This course is aimed at Geologists, Engineers, Geoenvironmental specialists and Field Technicians who are or may become involved with sampling, specifying, scheduling and interpreting geotechnical laboratory testing. This course will greatly enhance understanding of the geotechnical laboratory testing process and typical tests performed.

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