
Standard Specification for Terms Relating to Subgrade, Soil–Aggregate, and Fill Materials

AASHTO Designation: M 146-91 (2021)

Technically Revised: 1991

Reviewed but Not Updated: 2021

**Technical Subcommittee: 1b, Geotechnical Exploration,
Instrumentation, Stabilization, and Field Testing**



**American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials
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1. SCOPE

- 1.1. These definitions cover terms used in descriptions and specifications of materials occurring as or employed in the construction of subgrades, soil–aggregate base and surface courses, and fills.
- 1.2. The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard.

2. TERMINOLOGY FOR ROCK AND SOIL

- 2.1. *rock*—natural solid mineral matter occurring in large masses or fragments.
- 2.2. *soil*—sediments or other unconsolidated accumulations of solid particles produced by the physical and chemical disintegration of rocks, and that may or may not contain organic matter.
- 2.3. *broken rock*—angular fragments of rock that will be retained on a 75-mm (3-in.) sieve.
- 2.4. *cobble (cobblestone)*—a rock fragment, usually rounded or semirounded, with an average dimension between 75 and 305 mm (3 and 12 in.).
- 2.5. *boulder*—a rock fragment, usually rounded by weathering or abrasion, with an average dimension of 305 mm (12 in.) or more.

3. TERMINOLOGY FOR SOIL–AGGREGATE AND ITS COMPONENTS

- 3.1. *soil–aggregate (dense-graded aggregate)*—natural or prepared mixtures consisting predominately of stone, gravel, or sand and containing silt–clay (minus 75- μ m (No. 200) material).
- 3.2. *binder (soil binder)*—portion of soil passing 0.425-mm (No. 40) sieve.
- 3.3. *stone*—crushed or naturally angular particles of rock that will pass a 75-mm (3-in.) sieve and be retained on a 2.00-mm (No. 10) sieve.
 - 3.3.1. *coarse stone*—stone passing the 75-mm (3-in.) sieve and retained on the 25.0-mm (1-in.) sieve.
 - 3.3.2. *medium stone*—stone passing the 25.0-mm (1-in.) sieve and retained on the 9.5-mm ($3/8$ -in.) sieve.
 - 3.3.3. *fine stone*—stone passing the 9.5-mm ($3/8$ -in.) sieve and retained on the 2.00-mm (No. 10) sieve.