
Standard Method of Test for Progressing Auger Borings for Geotechnical Explorations

AASHTO Designation: T 306-11 (2023)

Technically Revised: 2011

Reviewed but Not Updated: 2023

**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. This practice covers equipment and procedures for the use of earth augers in geotechnical subsurface explorations.
- 1.2. This procedure is applicable in soils that permit auger drilling to obtain representative or *in situ* samples and when information concerning resistance to driving casing or drive pipe is not necessary.
- 1.3. *The quality of the results produced by this standard are dependent on the competence of the personnel performing the procedure and the capability, calibration, and maintenance of the equipment used. Agencies that meet the criteria of R 18 are generally considered capable of competent and objective testing/sampling/inspection/etc. Users of this standard are cautioned that compliance with R 18 alone does not completely assure reliable results. Reliable results depend on many factors; following the suggestions of R 18 or some similar acceptable guideline provides a means of evaluating and controlling some of those factors.*

2. REFERENCED DOCUMENTS

- 2.1. *AASHTO Standards:*
- R 13, Conducting Geotechnical Subsurface Investigations
 - R 18, Establishing and Implementing a Quality Management System for Construction Materials Testing Laboratories
 - T 206, Penetration Test and Split-Barrel Sampling of Soils
 - T 207, Thin-Walled Tube Sampling of Soils
 - *Manual on Subsurface Investigations*, 2nd ed., 2022

3. SIGNIFICANCE AND USE

- 3.1. Auger borings provide a simple method of soil investigations and sampling. They are used for collecting representative, split-spoon, or undisturbed tube samples, determining groundwater levels, observing changes in earth strata, and setting of slope inclinometers. Depths of auger investigations are, however, limited by groundwater conditions, soil characteristics, and the equipment used. Location, depths, and number of auger borings should be established in accordance with R 13 and the AASHTO *Manual on Subsurface Investigations*.