

TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS

ITEM 7

TRENCH SAFETY SYSTEMS

1. DESCRIPTION: This item shall govern for the Trench Safety Systems required for all trench excavation and including all additional excavation and backfill necessitated by the safety system. A trench shall be defined as a narrow excavation (in relation to its length) made below the surface of the ground. In general, the depth is greater than the width, but the width of a trench (measured at the bottom) is not greater than fifteen (15) feet. Trench Safety Systems include, but are not limited to, sloping, sheeting, trench boxes or trench shields, sheet piling, cribbing, bracing, shoring, dewatering or diversion of water to provide adequate drainage.
2. CONSTRUCTION METHODS: Trench safety systems shall be accomplished in accordance with the detailed specifications set out in the provisions of Excavations, Trenching, and Shoring, Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Standards, 29CFR, Part 1926, Subpart P, as amended, including Proposed Rules published in the Federal Register (Vol. 52, No. 72) on Wednesday, April 15, 1987. The sections that are incorporated into these specifications by reference include Sections 1926-650 through 1926-653. Legislation that has been enacted by the Texas Legislature (H.B. No. 662 and H.B. 665 and any subsequent) with regard to Trench Safety Systems, is hereby incorporated, by reference, into these specifications.

If the Contractor elects to use a trench protective system that, in the Proposed Rules, requires "design by a qualified person or a qualified Engineer", (for example see 1926-652 (b) (3) and 1926.652 (c) (4), "a qualified person or a qualified engineer" shall be a Professional Engineer Registered in the State of Texas.

3. SAFETY PROGRAM: The Contractor shall submit a safety program specifically for the construction of trench excavation.

The trench safety program shall be in accordance with OSHA standards governing the presence and activities of individuals working in and around trench excavation.

4. INSPECTION: The Contractor shall make daily inspections of the Trench Safety Systems to ensure that the systems meet OSHA requirements. Daily inspection is to be made by a competent person provided by the Contractor with actual experience in trench safety systems.

If evidence of possible cave-ins, or slides, is apparent, all work in the trench shall cease until the necessary precautions have been taken by the Contractor to safeguard personnel entering the trench. It is the sole duty, responsibility and prerogative of the Contractor, not the Owner or the Engineer, to determine the specific applicability of the designed trench safety systems to each field condition encountered on the project. The Contractor shall maintain a permanent record of daily inspections.

5. INDEMNIFICATION: The Contractor shall indemnify and hold harmless the City, its employees and agents, from any and all damages, costs (including, without limitation, legal fees, court costs, and the cost of investigation), judgements or claims by anyone for injury or death of persons resulting from the

collapse or failure of trenches constructed under this contract.

The Contractor acknowledges and agrees that this indemnity provision provides indemnity for the City in case the City is negligent either by act or omission in providing for trench safety, including, but not limited to, inspections, failure to issue stop work orders, and the hiring of the Contractor.