

10-1.1__ GABIONS (POLYVINYL CHLORIDE COATED)

Gabions shall be constructed as shown on the plans and in conformance with these special provisions.

Gabions shall consist of wire mesh, cubical-celled or mattress-styled baskets that are filled on the project site with hard, durable rock. The individual wires shall have a polyvinyl chloride (PVC) coating.

Standard gabion sizes and the overall plan and profile dimensions of the gabion structures shall be as shown on the plans. Each standard gabion size shall be divided into 36-inch long cells by diaphragm panels. The width, height or length of the standard gabions shall not vary more than 5 percent from the dimensions specified in these special provisions or as shown on the plans.

Empty gabion baskets shall be assembled individually and joined successively. Individual gabion mesh panels (base, front, ends, back, diaphragms, and lid) and successive gabions shall be assembled so that the strength and flexibility along the joints is comparable to a single panel.

MATERIALS

All materials for the gabions and gabion assembly shall conform to the provisions in these special provisions. Each shipment of gabion baskets to the project site shall be accompanied by a Certificate of Compliance conforming to the provisions in Section 6-1.07, "Certificates of Compliance," of the Standard Specifications.

Mesh

At the Contractor's option, either twisted mesh or welded mesh shall be used, in conformance with Table 1 and Table 2 herein. For each standard gabion size, the same mesh style shall be used for the base, front, ends, back, diaphragms, and lid panels. Individual wires of either the twisted-mesh style or the welded-mesh style shall conform to the definitions and requirements in ASTM Designation: A 641/A 641M.

Mattress-style gabion baskets that are 12 inches and 18 inches high shall be manufactured from either 11 gage welded mesh or 12 gage twisted mesh. Cubical-celled gabion baskets that are 36 inches high by 36 inches wide shall be fabricated from 12 gage twisted mesh or welded mesh gages between 11 gage and 9 gage , inclusive.

Table 1

CUBICAL-CELLED FACILITIES	
USA WIRE GAGE	MESH STYLE
12	Twisted Mesh
11 Min to 9 Max	Welded Mesh

Table 2

MATTRESS-STYLE FACILITIES	
USA WIRE GAGE	MESH STYLE
12	Twisted Mesh
11	Welded Mesh

GABION MESH MATERIAL PROPERTIES

Characteristic	Test Designation	Requirement
Minimum tensile strength	ASTM A 370	60 ksi
Wire Size	USA Steel Wire Gage	12
Wire Diameter	ASTM A 641/A 641M	0.106 in.
(Minimum)	ASTM A 641/A 641M	0.102 in.
Galvanizing, Zinc	ASTM A 641/A 641M, Class 3 and ASTM A90/A90M	0.75 oz/ft ²
Wire Size	USA Steel Wire Gage	11
Wire Diameter	ASTM A 641/A 641M	0.120 in.
(Minimum)	ASTM A 641/A 641M	0.116 in.
Galvanizing, Zinc	ASTM A 641/A 641M, Class 3 and ASTM A 90/A 90M	0.80 oz/ft ²
Wire Size	USA Steel Wire Gage	9
Wire Diameter (Minimum)	ASTM A 641/ A641M	0.148 in.
Galvanizing, Zinc	ASTM A 641/A 641M ASTM A 641/A 641M ASTM A 641/A 641M, Class 3 and ASTM A 90/A 90M	0.144 in. 0.85 oz/ft ²

Twisted-mesh wires shall form a uniform hexagonal pattern and shall be formed with a nonraveling twist. The area of the hexagonal opening shall not exceed the dimensions shown on the plans. Twisted-mesh gabion panels shall be manufactured from 12 gage wires with 10 gage selvage wires.

Welded-mesh wires shall form a grid pattern as shown on the plans. Welds shall be made by resistance welding. Welds and panels shall conform to the requirements in ASTM Designation: A 185, except weld shears shall be 600 pounds minimum for 11 gage wires and 800 pounds minimum for 9 gage wires. Resistance welding after coating the wire with zinc will be acceptable if there are no large splashes, flakes or flashes of zinc at the weld.

Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Coating

External coating shall consist of a nonconductive material, primarily polyvinyl chloride (PVC). Mesh wire, standard tie wires, standard spiral binders, internal connecting wires, preformed stiffeners, and selvage wire shall be coated with the PVC material after the zinc coating is applied in conformance with the manufacturer’s specifications.

The PVC coating shall be evaluated by infrared spectral scan. The scan must closely match those of tested known acceptable products already on file at the Transportation Laboratory.

The minimum thickness of PVC which covers the wire shall be 0.015-inch, measured radially at any cross-section transverse to the wire length.

The PVC coating shall be complete by visual inspection. There shall be no nicks, cuts, holidays or abraded areas in the PVC coating of the mesh. Minor cuts, nicks, and other minor imperfections due to manufacturing, will be permitted along selvage-wrapped edges of twisted mesh. PVC will not be required to coat the ends of either style of mesh where the PVC has been trimmed along wire or panel edges during the normal manufacturing process.

PVC coating shall be resistant to degradation by ultraviolet (UV) radiation. A suitable, UV-resistant additive shall be blended with the PVC. This additive shall be identified on the Certificate of Compliance.

The color of the PVC shall be _____. The color shall be resistant to fading when exposed to natural sunlight.

Joints

Standard tie wire and standard spiral binder shall conform to the definitions and requirements in ASTM Designation: A 641/A 641M and shall conform to the following provisions:

Characteristic	Test Designation	Requirement
Minimum Tensile Strength	ASTM A 370	60 ksi
Tie Wire		
Wire Size (Minimum)	USA Steel Wire Gage	13.5
Wire Diameter (Minimum)	ASTM A 641/ A641M	0.086 in.
Zinc Coating	ASTM A 641/A 641M	0.082 in.
	ASTM A 641/A 641M, Class 3 and ASTM A 90/A 90M	0.70 oz/ft ²
Spirals		
Wire Size (Maximum)	USA Steel Wire Gage	9
Wire Diameter (Minimum)	ASTM A 641/A 641M	0.148 in.
Zinc Coating	ASTM A 641/A 641M	0.144 in.
	ASTM A 641/A 641M, Class 3 and ASTM A 90/A 90M	0.85 oz/ft ²

Spiral binders shall have a 3-inch separation between continuous, successive loops.

Alternative fasteners shall have the configurations, wire diameters, and other dimensions shown on the plans. Alternative fasteners shall conform to the definitions and requirements in ASTM Designation: A 313/A 313M for "Stainless Steel Spring Wire" and shall be Tensile Type 302, Class 1.

Internal Connecting Wire

Internal connecting wires shall be 13.5-gage minimum. Each wire shall conform to the minimum requirements for standard tie wire in these special provisions and shall be installed in conformance with the provisions in these special provisions and as shown on the plans. Alternatively, at the Contractor's option, preformed stiffeners may be substituted for internal connecting wires. Preformed stiffener wire shall meet the requirements specified for standard tie wire and shall be installed in conformance with these special provisions and the manufacturer's recommendations.

Rock Slope Protection Fabric

Rock slope protection fabric for use with gabions shall conform to the provisions for Class 8 fabric in Section 88-1.06, "Channel and Shore Protection," of the Standard Specifications and these special provisions.

Where gabions are used for downdrains, woven tape fabric shall be used in place of the rock slope protection fabric. The woven tape fabric shall conform to the requirements in ASTM Designation: D 4491, with a maximum permittivity of 7.5 gallons per minute per square foot.

Rock

Rock for filling gabions, which are greater than or equal to 18 inches in height, shall vary in size and shall conform to the following:

Screen Size (inches)	Percentage Passing
12	100
4	0-5

Rock for filling gabions, which are equal to 12 inches in height, shall vary in size and shall conform to the following:

Screen Size (inches)	Percentage Passing
8	100
4	0-5

Rock shall conform to the material provisions for rock slope protection in Section 72-2.02, "Materials," of the Standard Specifications.

The minimum unit weight of a rock-filled gabion shall be 110 pounds per cubic foot. Verification of the 110 pounds per cubic foot shall be performed when ordered by the Engineer. Verification shall be performed on the smallest standard gabion size to be used on the project. The rock supplied for the project shall be used for verification. Filling shall be done using the same method intended for actual construction. The weight of a rock-filled gabion shall be determined using available certified scales. The volume for calculating the unit weight shall be determined on the theoretical volume of the standard gabion which is rock-filled and weighed.

GRADING, EXCAVATION AND BACKFILL

Areas where gabions are to be placed shall be constructed to the lines and grades shown on the plans and as determined by the Engineer. Excavation or backfill for achieving the required grades shall conform to the provisions for structure excavation and backfill in Section 19, "Earthwork," of the Standard Specifications.

ROCK SLOPE PROTECTION FABRIC PLACEMENT

Rock slope protection fabric shall be placed in conformance with the provisions in Section 72-2.025, "Rock Slope Protection Fabric" of the Standard Specifications. Rock slope protection fabric shall be placed on the subgrade, backslope, and sides of excavations. If earth fill is to be placed over the gabions, rock slope protection fabric shall be placed on top of the gabions, before placing the earth fill.

CONSTRUCTION

Gabions shall be assembled individually as empty units. Each gabion shall be manufactured with the necessary panels, properly spaced and secured, so that the panels can be rotated into position at the construction site with no additional tying of the rotation joint. The panels and diaphragms shall be rotated into position and joined along the vertical edges.

For twisted mesh, the joint shall be constructed using alternating double and single half hitches (locked loops) of 13.5-gage standard tie wire at 4-inch nominal spacing. Joints shall not be constructed with simple spiraling (looping without locking) of the standard tie wires.

When standard tie wire is used as a joint connector for welded mesh, the joint shall be constructed using alternating double and single half hitches (locked loops) in every mesh opening along the joint. When 9 gage spiral binders are used, the spiral shall be placed so that the spiral binder passes through each mesh opening along the joint. Both ends of all 9 gage spiral binders shall be crimped to secure the spiral in place.

Temporary fasteners may be used to hold panels wherever gabion-to-gabion joints will be constructed. Temporary fasteners may remain in place.

At the Contractor's option, interlocking fasteners or overlapping fasteners may be used for assembly of either the twisted-mesh or welded-mesh gabions. A fastener shall be placed in each mesh opening along the joint (a minimum of 10 fasteners per 36 inches).

ASSEMBLY OF SUCCESSIVE GABION BASKETS (GABION-TO-GABION JOINTS)

Gabion baskets shall be set in place. Individually constructed gabion baskets shall then be joined successively to the next gabion baskets with 13.5-gage tie wire or 9 gage standard spiral binder before filling the basket with rock. The 13.5-gage standard tie wire or 9 gage standard spiral binder shall secure, in one pass, all selvage or end wires of the panels of all adjacent baskets along the joint.

When forming successive gabion-to-gabion joints with alternative fasteners, there shall be one alternative fastener in each mesh opening. The alternative fastener shall contain and secure all the wires along the joint.

Gabion baskets shall be joined along the front, back, and ends, including the tops and bottoms of the adjacent gabions.

ASSEMBLY OF MULTIPLE LAYERED GABIONS

Multi-layered gabion configurations shall be stepped and staggered as shown on the plans or as designated by the Engineer.

When constructing multi-layered gabion configurations, each layer of gabions shall be joined to the underlying layer along the front, back, and ends.

ASSEMBLY OF SHEAR KEY GABIONS

Shear key gabions, or counterforts, shall be spaced as shown on the plans. Shear key gabions shall be tied to adjacent gabions in the manner specified for "Assembly of Successive Gabion Baskets (Gabion-to-Gabion Joints)" of these special provisions.

ASSEMBLY OF TRANSITIONAL GABIONS

To match the geometry of the planned gabion configuration, or to meet specific conditions, panels shall be folded, cut and fastened as shown on the plans or as directed by the Engineer.

FILLING WITH ROCK

Before filling each gabion basket with rock, all kinks and folds in the wire fabric shall be straightened and all successive gabions shall be properly aligned.

Rock shall be placed in the baskets to provide proper alignment, avoid bulges in the wire mesh, and provide a minimum of voids. All exposed rock surfaces shall have a smooth and neat appearance. Sharp rock edges shall not project through the wire mesh.

Internal connecting wires or preformed stiffeners shall be used to produce a flat, smooth external surface, when constructing with 18-inch or 36-inch high gabions. If the Engineer determines that there is excessive bulging or dimpling of the outside panels, the unit shall be reconstructed at the Contractor's expense.

When filling 36-inch high gabions, rock shall be placed in 2 nominal 12-inch layers to allow placement of the 13.5-gage internal connecting wires. The wires shall be fastened as shown on the plans. Alternatively, preformed stiffeners may be installed at the one-third points in

conformance with the recommendations of the manufacturer, to produce a smooth external surface.

When filling 18-inch high gabions, one nominal 9-inch layer of rock shall be placed to allow placement of a set of internal connecting wires or preformed stiffeners. The configuration of wires shall be similar to those used on the 36-inch high gabions, except there shall be only one set of internal connecting wires instead of the 2 sets of internal connecting wires or preformed stiffeners.

The last layer of rock shall slightly overfill the gabion baskets so that the lid will rest on rock when the lid is closed.

CLOSURE OF LIDS

Lids shall be tied along the front, ends, and diaphragms in conformance with the provisions in "Assembly of Successive Gabion Baskets (Gabion-to-Gabion Joints)" of these special provisions.

MEASUREMENT

Gabions will be measured by the cubic yard as determined from the dimensions shown on the plans or the dimensions directed by the Engineer and gabions placed in excess of these dimensions will not be paid for.

PAYMENT

The contract price paid per cubic yard for gabion shall include full compensation for furnishing all labor, materials (including gabion baskets, rock and rock slope protection fabric), tools, equipment, and incidentals, and for doing all the work involved in constructing gabions, complete, in place, including excavation and backfill, as shown on the plans, as specified in the Standard Specifications and these special provisions, and as directed by the Engineer.