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(iv) Observe the area adjacent to the excavation and the excavation itself for evidence of existing utility and other underground structures, and to identify previously disturbed soil.

(v) Observe the opened side of the excavation to identify layered systems. Examine layered systems to identify if the layers slope toward the excavation. Estimate the degree of slope of the layers.

(vi) Observe the area adjacent to the excavation and the sides of the opened excavation for evidence of surface water, water seeping from the sides of the excavation, or the location of the level of the water table.

(vii) Observe the area adjacent to the excavation and the area within the excavation for sources of vibration that may affect the stability of the excavation face.

**(6) Manual tests.** Manual analysis of soil samples is conducted to determine quantitative as well as qualitative properties of soil and to provide more information in order to classify soil properly.

(i) Plasticity. Mold a moist or wet sample of soil into a ball and attempt to roll it into threads as thin as 1/8-inch in diameter. Cohesive material can be successfully rolled into threads without crumbling. For example, if at least a two inch (50 mm) length of 1/8-inch thread can be held on one end without tearing, the soil is cohesive.

(ii) Dry strength. If the soil is dry and crumbles on its own or with moderate pressure into individual grains or fine powder, it is granular (any combination of gravel, sand, or silt). If the soil is dry and falls into clumps which break up into smaller clumps, but the smaller clumps can only be broken up with difficulty, it may be clay in any combination with gravel, sand or silt. If the dry soil breaks into clumps which do not break up into small clumps and which can only be broken with difficulty, and there is no visual indication the soil is fissured, the soil may be considered un-fissured.

(iii) Thumb penetration. The thumb penetration test can be used to estimate the unconfined compressive strength of cohesive soils. (This test is based on the thumb penetration test described in American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) Standard designation D2488 - "Standard Recommended Practice for Description of Soils (Visual - Manual Procedure).") Type A soils with an unconfined compressive strength of 1.5 tsf can be readily indented by the thumb; however, they can be penetrated by the thumb only with very great effort. Type C soils with an unconfined compressive strength of 0.5 tsf can be easily penetrated several

inches by the thumb and can be molded by light finger pressure. This test should be conducted on an undisturbed soil sample, such as a large clump of spoil, as soon as practicable after excavation to keep to a minimum the effects of exposure to drying influences. If the excavation is later exposed to wetting influences (rain, flooding), the classification of the soil must be changed accordingly. iv) other

portion of the excavation is made. Tables D-1.1 and D-1.2 are for vertical shores in Types A and B soil. Tables D-1.3 and D-1.4 are for horizontal waler systems in Types B and C soil.

(2) Information concerning the basis of the tabular data and the limitations of the data is presented in paragraph (d) of this appendix.

(3) Information explaining the use of the tabular data is presented in paragraph (e) of this appendix.

(4) Information illustrating the use of the tabular data is presented in paragraph (f) of this appendix.

(5) Miscellaneous notations (Footnotes) regarding Table D-1.1 through D-1.4 are presented in paragraph (g) of this appendix.

(6) Figures, illustrating typical installations of hydraulic shoring, are included just prior to the Tables. The illustrations page is entitled "Aluminum Hydraulic Shoring: Typical Installations."

**(d) Basis and limitations of the data.**

(1) Vertical shore rails and horizontal walers are those that meet the Section Modulus requirements in the D-1 Tables. Aluminum material is 6061-T6 or material of equivalent strength and properties.

(2) Hydraulic cylinders specifications. (i) 2-inch cylinders shall be a minimum 2-inch inside diameter with a minimum safe working capacity of no less than 18,000 pounds axial compressive load at maximum extension. Maximum extension is to include full range of cylinder extensions as recommended by product manufacturer.

(ii) 3-inch cylinders shall be a minimum 3-inch inside diameter with a safe working capacity of not less than 30,000 pounds axial compressive load at extensions as recommended by product manufacturer.

(3) Limitation of application.

(i) It is not intended that the aluminum hydraulic specification apply to every situation that may be experienced in the field. These data were developed to apply to the situations that are most commonly experienced in current trenching practice. Shoring systems for use in situations that are

not covered by the data in this appendix must be otherwise designed as specified in 1926.652(c).

(ii) When any of the following conditions are present, the members specified in the Tables are not considered adequate. In this case, an alternative

**(2) Example 2:**

A trench is dug in Type B soil that does not require sheeting, 13 feet deep and 5 feet wide. From Table D-1.2: Find vertical shores and 2-inch diameter cylinders spaced 6.5 feet o.c. horizontally and 4 feet o.c. vertically. (See Figures 1 & 3 for typical installations.)

**(3) Example 3:**

A trench is dug in Type B soil that does not require sheeting but does experience some minor raveling of the trench face. the trench is 16 feet deep and 9 feet wide. From Table D-1.2: Find vertical shores and 2-inch diameter cylinder (with special oversleeves as designated by Footnote #2) spaced 5.5 feet o.c. horizontally and 4 feet o.c. vertically. Plywood (per Footnote (g)(7) to the D-1 Table) should be used behind the shores. (See Figures 2 & 3 for typical installations.)

**(4) Example 4:**

A trench is dug in previously disturbed Type B soil, with characteristics of a Type C soil, and will require sheeting. The trench is 18 feet deep, and 12 feet wide 8 foot horizontal spacing between cylinders is desired for working space. From Table D-1.3: Find horizontal wale with a section modulus of 14.0 spaced at 4 feet o.c. vertically and 3 inch diameter cylinder spaced at 9 feet maximum o.c. horizontally, 3 x 12 timber sheeting is required at close spacing vertically. (See Figure 4 for typical installation.)

**(5) Example 5:**

A trench is dug in Type C soil, 9 feet deep and 4 feet wide. Horizontal cylinder spacing in excess of 6 feet is desired for working space. From Table D-1.4: Find horizontal wale with a section modulus of 7.0- and 2-inch diameter cylinders spaced at 6.5 feet o.c. horizontally. Or find horizontal wale with a 14.0 section modulus and 3 inch diameter cylinder spaced at 10 feet o.c. horizontally. Both wales are spaced 4 feet o.c. vertically, 3 x 12 timber sheeting is required at close spacing vertically. (See Figure 4 for typical installation.)

**(F) Footnotes, and general notes, for Tables D-1.1, D-1.2, D-1.3, and D-1.4.**

(1) For applications other than those listed in the tables, refer to 1926.652(c)(2) for use of manufacturer's tabulated data. For trench depths in excess of 20 feet, refer to 1926.652(c)(2) and 1926.652(c)(3).

(2) 2-inch diameter cylinders, at this width, shall have structural steel tube (3.5 x 3.5 x 0.1875) over sleeves or structural over sleeves of manufacturer's specification, extending the full, collapsed length.

(3) Hydraulic cylinders capacities. (i) 2-inch cylinders shall be a minimum 2-inch inside diameter with a safe working capacity of not less than 18,000 pounds axial compressive load at maximum extension. Maximum extension is to include full range of cylinder extensions as recommended by product manufacturer.

## Figure Examples

FIGURE 1 - PRELIMINARY DECISIONS

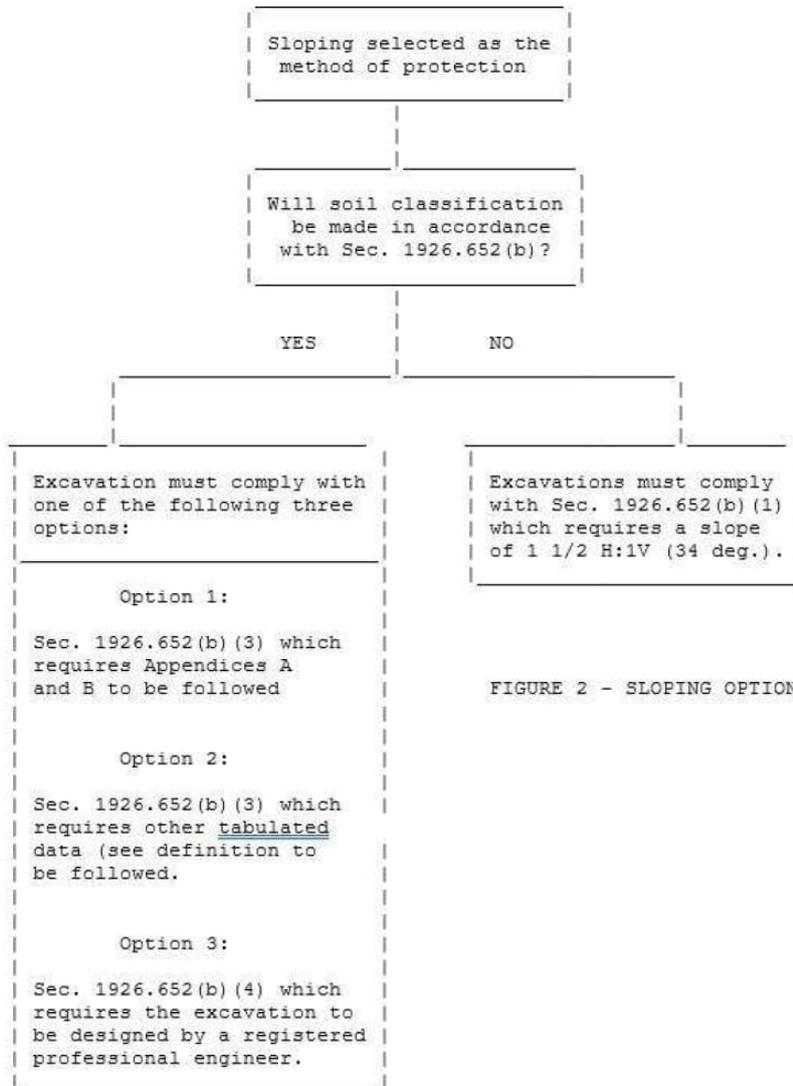


FIGURE 2 - SLOPING OPTIONS

ALUMINUM HYDRAULIC SHORING  
TYPICAL INSTALLATIONS

Figure No. 1 - Vertical aluminum hydraulic shoring (spot bracing)

FIGURE NO. 1

VERTICAL ALUMINUM  
HYDRAULIC SHORING  
(SPOT BRACING)

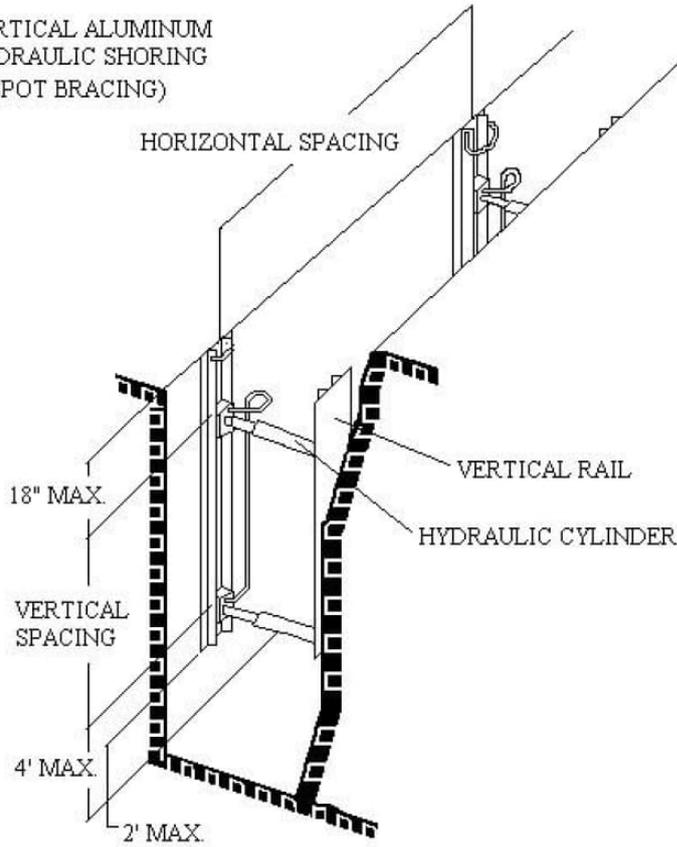


Figure No. 2 - Vertical aluminum hydraulic shoring (with plywood)

FIGURE NO. 2

Figure No. 3 - Vertical aluminum hydraulic shoring (stacked)

**FIGURE NO. 3**  
VERTICAL ALUMINUM  
HYDRAULIC SHORING  
(STACKED)

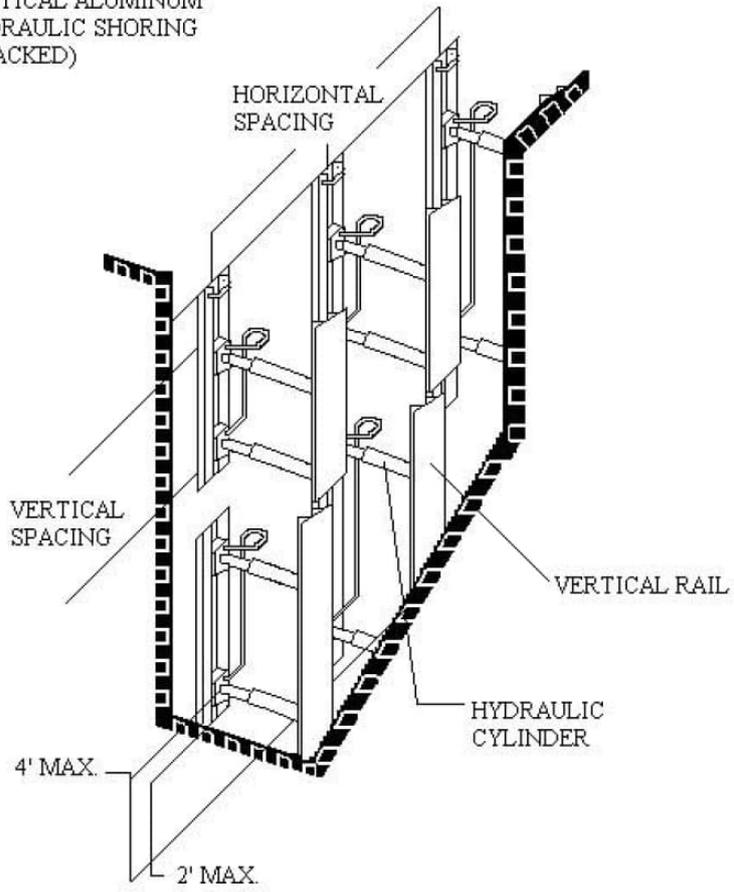


Figure No. 4 - Aluminum hydraulic shoring - Waler System (typical)

**FIGURE NO. 4**

UPRIGHT  
SHEETING

**Tables**

TABLE D - 1.1  
ALUMINUM HYDRAULIC SHORING  
VERTICAL SHORES  
FOR SOIL TYPE A

DEPTH OF TRENCH (FEET)	HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS				
	MAXIMUM HORIZONTAL SPACING (FEET)	MAXIMUM VERTICAL SPACING (FEET)	WIDTH OF TRENCH (FEET)		
			UP TO 8	OVER 8 UP TO 12	OVER 12 UP TO 15
OVER 5 UP TO 10	8				
OVER 10 UP TO 15	8	4	2 INCH DIAMETER	2 INCH DIAMETER NOTE (2)	3 INCH DIAMETER
OVER 15 UP TO 20	7				
OVER 20	NOTE (1)				

Footnotes to tables, and general notes on hydraulic shoring, are found in Appendix D, Item (g)

Note (1): See Appendix D, Item (g) (1)

Note (2): See Appendix D, Item (g) (2)

TABLE D - 1.2  
ALUMINUM HYDRAULIC SHORING  
VERTICAL SHORES  
FOR SOIL TYPE B

TABLE D - 1.3  
ALUMINUM HYDRAULIC SHORING  
WALER SYSTEMS  
FOR SOIL TYPE B

DEPTH OF TRENCH  (FEET)	WALES		HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS			
	VERTICAL SPACING  (FEET)	* SECTION MODULUS  (IN(3))	WIDTH OF TRENCH (FEET)			
			UP TO 8		OVER 8 UP TO 12	
			HORIZ SPACING	CYLINDER DIAMETER	HORIZ SPACING	CYLINDER DIAMETER
OVER 5 UP TO 10	4	3.5	8.0	2 IN	8.0	2 IN NOTE (2)
		7.0	9.0	2 IN	9.0	2 IN NOTE (2)
		14.0	12.0	3 IN	12.0	3 IN
OVER 10 UP TO 15	4	3.5	6.0	2 IN	6.0	2 IN NOTE (2)
		7.0	8.0	3 IN	8.0	3 IN
		14.0	10.0	3 IN	10.0	3 IN
OVER 15 UP TO 20	4	3.5	5.5	2 IN	5.5	2 IN NOTE (2)
		7.0	6.0	3 IN	6.0	3 IN
		14.0	9.0	3 IN	9.0	3 IN
OVER 20	NOTE (1)					

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TABLE D - 1.3  
ALUMINUM HYDRAULIC SHORING - WALER SYSTEMS  
FOR SOIL TYPE B  
[Continued]

DEPTH OF TRENCH  (FEET)	WALES	HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS	TIMBER UPRIGHTS
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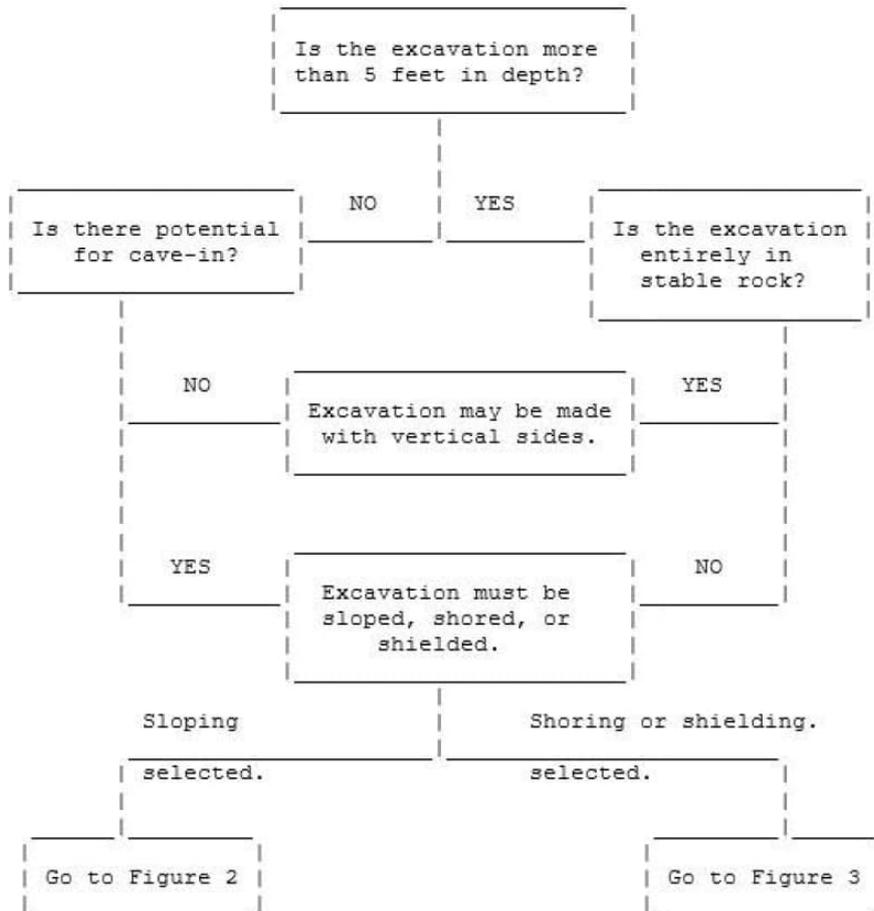
Footnotes to tables, and general notes on hydraulic shoring, are found in Appendix D, Item (g) Note(1): See Appendix D, Item (g) (1) Note(2): See Appendix D, Item (g) (2) \*Consult product manufacturer and/or qualified engineer for Section Modulus of available wales.

TABLE D - 1.4  
ALUMINUM HYDRAULIC SHORING - WALER SYSTEMS FOR SOIL TYPE C

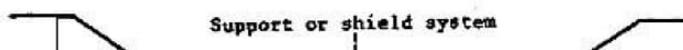
DEPTH OF TRENCH (FEET)	WALES		HYDRAULIC CYLINDERS			
	VERTICAL SPACING (FEET)	* SECTION MODULUS (IN(3))	WIDTH OF TRENCH (FEET)			
			UP TO 8		OVER 8 UP TO 12	
			HORIZ SPACING	CYLINDER DIAMETER	HORIZ SPACING	CYLINDER DIAMETER
OVER 5 UP TO 10	4	3.5	6.0	2 IN	6.0	2 IN NOTE (2)
		7.0	6.5	2 IN	6.5	2 IN NOTE (2)
		14.0	10.0	3 IN	10.0	3 IN
OVER 10 UP TO 15	4	3.5	4.0	2 IN	4.0	2 IN NOTE (2)
		7.0	5.5	3 IN	5.5	3 IN
		14.0	8.0	3 IN	8.0	3 IN
OVER 15 UP TO 20	4	3.5	3.5	2 IN	3.5	2 IN NOTE (2)
		7.0	5.0	3 IN	5.0	3 IN
		14.0	6.0	3 IN	6.0	3 IN
OVER 20		NOTE (1)				

Footnotes to tables, and general notes on hydraulic shoring, are found in Appendix D, Item (g)  
 Note(1): See Appendix D, Item (g) (1)  
 Note(2): See Appendix D, Item (g) (2)  
 \* Consult product manufacturer and/or qualified engineer for Section Modulus of available wales.

The following figures are a graphic summary of the requirements contained in subpart P for excavations 20 feet or less in depth. Protective systems for use in excavations more than 20 feet in depth must be designed by a registered professional engineer in accordance with 1926.652(b) and (c).



## Sloping and Benching



## Sloping and Benching

(a) **Scope and application.** This appendix contains specifications for sloping and benching when used as methods of protecting employees working in excavations from cave-ins. The requirements of this appendix apply when the design of sloping and benching protective systems is to be performed in accordance with the requirements set forth in § 1926.652(b)(2).

(b) **Definitions.**

**Actual slope** means the slope to which an excavation face is excavated.

**Distress** means that the soil is in a condition where a cave-in is imminent or is likely to occur. Distress is evidenced by such phenomena as the development of fissures in the face of or adjacent to an open excavation; the subsidence of the edge of an excavation; the slumping of material from the face or the bulging or heaving of material from the bottom of an excavation; the spalling of material from the face of an excavation; and raveling, i.e., small amounts of material such as pebbles or little clumps of material suddenly separating from the face of an excavation and trickling or rolling down into the excavation.

**Maximum allowable slope** means the steepest incline of an excavation face that is acceptable for the most favorable site conditions as protection against cave-ins, and is expressed as the ratio of horizontal distance to vertical rise (H:V).

**Short term exposure** means a period of time less than or equal to 24 hours that an excavation is open.

(c) **Requirements –**

(1) **Soil classification.** Soil and rock deposits shall be classified in accordance with appendix A to subpart P of part 1926.

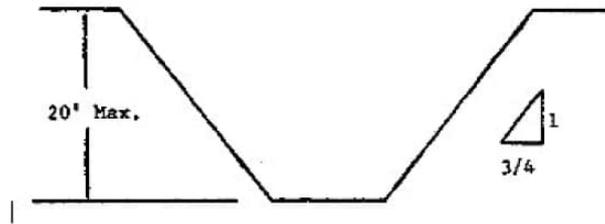
(2) **Maximum allowable slope.** The maximum allowable slope for a soil or rock deposit shall be determined from Table B-1 of this appendix.

(3) **Actual slope.** (i) The actual slope shall not be steeper than the maximum allowable slope.

(ii) The actual slope shall be less steep than the maximum allowable slope, when there are signs of distress. If that situation occurs, the slope shall be cut back to an actual slope which is at least ½ horizontal to one vertical (½H:1V) less steep than the maximum allowable slope.

(iii) When surcharge loads from stored material or equipment, operating equipment, or traffic are present, a competent person shall determine the degree to which the actual slope must be reduced below the maximum allowable slope, and shall assure that such reduction is achieved. Surcharge loads from adjacent

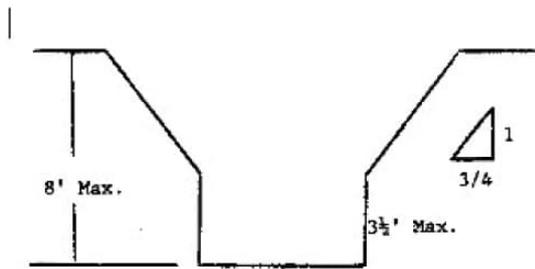
1. All simple slope excavation 20 feet or less in depth shall have a maximum allowable slope of  $\frac{3}{4}:1$ .



SIMPLE SLOPE -- GENERAL

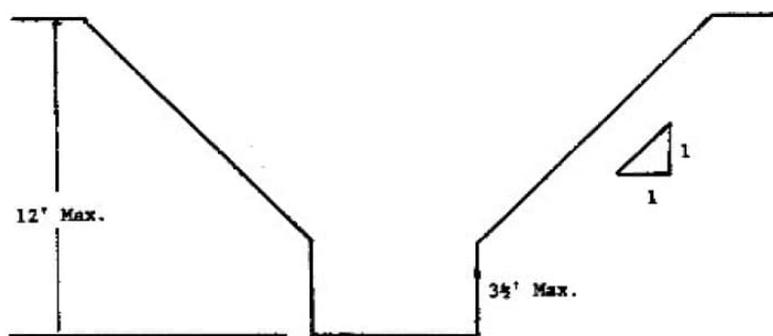
Exception: Simple slope excavations which are open 24 hours or less (short term) and which are 12 feet or less in depth shall have a maximum allowable slope of  $\frac{1}{2}:1$ .





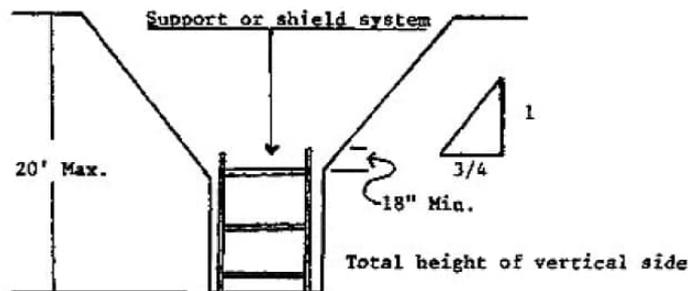
UNSUPPORTED VERTICALLY SIDED LOWER PORTION -- MAXIMUM 8 FEET IN DEPTH)

All excavations more than 8 feet but not more than 12 feet in depth with unsupported vertically sided lower portions shall have a maximum allowable slope of 1:1 and a maximum vertical side of 3½ feet.



UNSUPPORTED VERTICALLY SIDED LOWER PORTION -- MAXIMUM 12 FEET IN DEPTH)

All excavations 20 feet or less in depth which have vertically sided lower portions that are supported or shielded shall have a maximum allowable slope of ¾:1. The support or shield system must extend at least 18 inches above the top of the vertical side.



SUPPORTED OR SHIELDED VERTICALLY SIDED LOWER PORTION

4. All other simple slope, compound slope, and vertically sided lower portion excavations shall be in accordance with the other options permitted under § 1926.652(b).

**B-1.2 Excavations Made in Type B Soil**

1. All simple slope excavations 20 feet or less in depth shall have a maximum allowable slope of 1:1.

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