



Technologies to manage risk for infrastructure

Boston
Atlanta
New York

www.geocomp.com

September 10, 2010

Town of Acton, MA

To Whom It May Concern,

Geocomp Corporation is relocating to 125 Nagog Park in Acton. Our company (established in 1982) is a technology-based geotechnical firm with three divisions – consulting, products and testing – all focused at helping our clients identify, manage and mitigate risk. Since we use several chemicals (in small amounts) and test some soils with low levels of contamination, we wanted to provide the Town of Acton with an overview of what we do. These chemicals are confined in a controlled manner to a limited area less than 500 ft² which is less than 1% of the total building area.

The consulting division (which does not utilize any special chemicals) provides:

- Development of risk assessment reports
- Performance monitoring
- Underground engineering
- Ground improvement engineering
- Advanced numerical analysis
- Forensic engineering

The products division of our firm has been manufacturing automated laboratory and field products for geotechnical engineers since 1985. We produce fully automated laboratory testing equipment designed to measure strength & compressibility. This equipment is used in some of the most sophisticated testing laboratories in the world. Part of the production process requires us to use some small quantities of chemicals which include the following (with the typical amounts stored):

- Water soluble soldering flux (2 gallons)
- Vacuum pump oil (1 gallon)
- Adhesives (1 pint)
- Lubricants (1 pint)

Geocomp's laboratory testing division, GeoTesting Express (GTX), has been providing mechanical and physical properties testing services on soils, rocks, geosynthetics, concrete & aggregate since 1989. The types of parameters we test for include strength, compressibility, hydraulic conductivity, classification, durability, size and shape. The services we offer are typically performed for engineers, designers & contractors in support of transportation, utility, development, mining, tunneling, dam, foundation and other heavy civil projects. There are small quantities of some chemicals required in order for us to conduct these types of tests. They include the following (with the typical amounts stored):

- Sodium Sulfate (2.5 kg)
- Denatured Alcohol (1 gallon)
- Calcium Chloride (1 kg)
- Acetic Acid (2 liters)

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Town of Acton
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- Sulfuric Acid (3 liters)
- Hydrochloric Acid (2 liters)
- Sodium Hydroxide (500 g)
- Sodium Thiosulfate (50 mL)
- Alkaline Potassium (25 mL)
- Manganous Sulfate (25 mL)
- Sulfamic Acid Powder (50 g)
- Zinc Chloride (1 gallon)
- Glycerine (1 pint)
- Mercury (500 g)
- Magnesium Sulfate (80 lbs)
- O-Peel (55 gallon drum)
- Sodium Hexametaphosphate (100 lb)
- Rubbing Alcohol (1 liter)
- pH Buffer Solutions (50 mL each)
- Various lubricants & hydraulic oil of less than 1 gallon each

Occasionally we are requested to perform tests on soil samples that may contain low levels of heavy metals or petroleum related compounds. When we encounter these types of soils, we handle them in a well ventilated hood room with the proper personal protective equipment. Once we are finished testing these types of soils, we return them and waste materials used to test them to the project site of origin for proper disposal.

Our lab is validated by the United States Army Corps of Engineers and accredited by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), the American Association for Laboratory Accreditation (A2LA) and the Geosynthetics Accreditation Institute – Laboratory Accreditation Program (GAI-LAP). GTX maintains a rigorous quality program which ensures the highest quality in our test equipment, processes and results. The centerpiece of this program is our quality manual which is designed to meet the requirements set forth in ANSI/ASQC Q9001-2000 and ISO/IEC Guide 17025-2005.

In summary we utilize low levels of chemicals that are standard laboratory items for our work. We store these items in a safe manner, including a spill proof container. We occasionally receive soils with low levels of contamination in tightly sealed containers, usually 5-gallon buckets. These are handled with procedures that prevent contamination of our laboratory or our people. We have had no issues on these items during our 8 year stay in Boxborough. Prior to that, we operated the same business on Craig Road in Acton for 4 years without any issues related to these items.

We look forward to moving into our new location at 125 Nagog Park and cooperating with you in whatever way necessary to ensure a smooth transition. Please contact me if you have any questions or require further information from us.

Thank you,

W. Allen Marr
President & CEO