





ICE Handbook of Geosynthetic Engineering

Geosynthetics and their applications

Third edition

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Cover photo: Green grass in a plastic black honeycomb frame to prevent soil erosion on the slope.

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Preface

Traditional methods of infrastructure development generate enormous amounts of carbon gases that are released into the atmosphere, increasing the global carbon footprint. Construction activities based on such methods have contributed significantly to global warming and associated geoenvironmental instability worldwide, such as soil erosion, hill/riverbank/coastal slope instability, ice/glacier melting, floods and sea level rise. The COVID-19 pandemic has emphasised the need to develop more-innovative and cost-effective solutions with state-of-the-art technologies, mainly based on the utilisation of locally available and reusable materials.

Geosynthetics help conserve energy and promote more-durable and sustainable structures. The use of geosynthetics assists in reducing the carbon footprint contributed by infrastructure development while minimising the use of natural resources and transported materials. Many field examples have been presented that show the benefits to be low cost, enhanced longevity, resilience and the safety of critical infrastructure, all because of the many special features of geosynthetics, including non-corrosiveness, long-term durability under soil cover, high resistance to biological and chemical degradation, lightness, high flexibility, installation simplicity and quick construction. In view of these advantages, over the past 45–50 years, engineers have shown increasing interest in geosynthetics and their field applications.

Geosynthetics support sustainable developments in several areas of our life, including civil engineering (geotechnical, transportation, environmental and hydraulic), mining, agricultural and aquacultural engineering. These materials, which include geonaturals and fibres available locally, contribute significantly to achieving several of the sustainable development goals of the United Nations (UN), recommended by UN member states in 2015 as a way to preserve the Earth's health using sustainable development.

Geosynthetics and Their Applications, the title of the first edition of this book, was published in 2002. This third edition of the *ICE Handbook of Geosynthetic Engineering* includes many new updates throughout, with five new chapters. Some key features and updates are given below

- Chapter 1: Fundamentals of geosynthetics. Photographs of some new geosynthetic samples have been provided. The list of test standards in Section 1.8 has been updated.
- Chapter 2: Soil–geosynthetic interaction. This now covers the effects of cyclic loading on soil–geosynthetic interface behaviour in detail.
- Chapter 3: Filters and drains. New sections dealing with filter evaluation, the hydraulic compatibility of geotextile filters with industrial by-products, and geotextiles in stormwater and embankment ponds have been added, with several new illustrations.
- Chapter 4: Retaining walls limit-equilibrium-based approach. A construction site observation has been added, and a case study from Indonesia has been described.
- Chapter 5 (new): Retaining walls reliability-based approach. This is a new chapter that presents a reliability-based design approach to geosynthetic-reinforced retaining walls with granular backfills by using the first-order reliability method. The steps involved in the reliability-based design are explained through illustrative examples.

- Chapter 7: Shallow foundations. Details of Shukla's wraparound reinforcement technique, recently established for strengthening the shallow foundations, have been provided.
- Chapter 8 (new): Deep foundations. This new chapter has been included to cover the basic concepts and design philosophy of the application of geosynthetics for encasing stone columns/ granular piles. Encased granular anchor piles are also briefly described.
- Chapter 9: Unpaved roads. Two new sections dealing with experimental developments and numerical formulations have been added.
- Chapter 10: Paved roads and runways. Details of the applications of geosynthetics in airport runways are provided in the new Section 10.7.
- Chapter 11: Railway tracks. Section 11.3.3 on confinement/ reinforcement has been updated with mathematical concepts based on the hoop tension theory, in addition to the inclusion of a recent case study on the application of geosynthetics in railway tracks.
- Chapter 12: Slopes erosion control. This includes new illustrations and a field study.
- Chapter 13: Slopes stabilisation. Section 13.4 on the stability analysis of reinforced slopes has been significantly updated with details on the use of software focusing on correct mesh size selection.
- Chapter 14: Landfills and barriers for contaminant migration. New illustrations explain several practical aspects of project sites.
- Chapter 15: Earth and tailing dams. The new Section 15.6 provides details on tailing dams.
- Chapter 16: Containment ponds, reservoirs and canals. The new Section 16.5 covers leak detection and location. Details on an experimental pond have also been provided.
- Chapter 17 (new): Ports, waterways and coastal structures. This new chapter considers applications of geosynthetics for quay walls, breakwaters, river embankments, waterfront retaining walls, coastal dykes and groins.
- Chapter 18: Hydraulic and transport tunnels, and shafts. Transport tunnels and shafts are new additions to this chapter, with several practical illustrations.
- Chapter 20 (new): Basic description of fibre-reinforced soils. This new chapter presents an overview of the essential characteristics of fibre-reinforced soils with an introduction to their possible field applications.
- Chapter 21 (new): Sustainability considerations in geosynthetic applications. This new chapter highlights the concept of sustainability in the context of geotechnical engineering with reference to the reliability and resilience of geo-structures and geo-systems. Examples of sustainable practices along with the methods of sustainability assessment are discussed, with particular emphasis on the use of geosynthetics.
- Chapter 22: Geosynthetic applications general aspects and selected case studies. The new Section 22.3 provides general guidelines for fibre applications. Details on the major codes of practice for geosynthetic applications have been updated.

Although the subject of geosynthetics is an expanding field, it is generally not taught, especially at the undergraduate level, in engineering and technical colleges as a full subject. Therefore, students, researchers and practising engineers need the basic concepts of geosynthetics and their applications in a simple, presentable form. Current details of geosynthetic applications with a description of case studies and practical aspects are required for quick reference in connection with studying and obtaining solutions to specific field and research problems. Keeping these pressing needs in view as key features, the new edition of the *ICE Handbook of Geosynthetic Engineering* has been written as a single volume with several new chapters, retaining all the features of its previous two editions published in 2002 and 2012. I sincerely hope that this ICE handbook will be a useful tool for engineering professionals, including engineering students, researchers and practising engineers.

I would like to extend special thanks and recognition to the authors of all the chapters for their valuable contributions to meet the needs of users of geosynthetics. I am truly grateful to them.

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I wish to extend sincere appreciation to my wife, Sharmila, for her encouragement and support throughout the preparation of the typescript. Thanks also to my daughter, Sakshi, and my son, Sarthak, for their patience during my work on this book at home.

Finally, I welcome suggestions from the readers and users of this book for improving its content in future editions.

Sanjay Kumar Shukla Perth, August 2021



About the editor



Dr Sanjay Kumar Shukla is the Founding Editor-in-Chief of the *International Journal of Geosynthetics and Ground Engineering*, Springer Nature, Switzerland. He is the Founding Research Group Leader (Geotechnical and Geoenvironmental Engineering) at the School of Engineering, Edith Cowan University, Joondalup, Perth, Australia.

He has over 25 years of experience in teaching, research and consultancy in the field of civil (geotechnical) engineering. He holds the Distinguished Professorship in Civil Engineering at Delhi Technological University, Delhi; VIT University, Vellore; Chitkara University, Solan; VR Siddhartha Engineering College, Vijayawada; Amity University, Noida; Amrita University, Coimbatore; and Nirma University, Ahmedabad, India. He collaborates with several world-class universities, research institutions, industries and individuals on academic and field projects. As a consulting geotechnical engineer, he has successfully provided solutions to the challenging field problems faced by many engineering organisations.

He has authored more than 275 research papers and technical articles, including over 170 refereed journal publications, and serves on the editorial boards of several international journals. He is also the author/editor of 21 books, including seven textbooks, and 12 book chapters. In 2020/2021, his ICE textbooks, namely *Core Principles of Soil Mechanics* and *Core Concepts of Geotechnical Engineering*, were ranked No. 1 by Amazon. His research and academic works are frequently cited. His generalised expressions for seismic active thrust (2015) and seismic passive resistance (2013) are routinely used by practising engineers worldwide for designing retaining structures. His wraparound reinforcement technique, developed during 2007–2008, is a well-established ground improvement technique.

He has been honoured with several awards, including the prestigious IGS Award 2018 from the International Geosynthetics Society, USA, in recognition of his outstanding contribution to the development and use of geosynthetics. He is a fellow of Engineers Australia, a Life Fellow of the Institution of Engineers (India) and the Indian Geotechnical Society, a member of the American Society of Civil Engineers, the International Geosynthetics Society and several other professional bodies.



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