

**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
**STATE OF GEORGIA**  
**SPECIAL PROVISION**

**Section 201—Clearing and Grubbing Right of Way**

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**201.1 General Description**

This work includes clearing, grubbing, removing and disposing of vegetation, buildings and debris within the entire Right-of-Way and easement areas adjacent to the Right-of-Way or as designated by the Engineer. Except, do not remove objects designated to remain or removed according to other sections of these Specifications. This work also includes preserving (from injury and defacement) vegetation and objects designated to remain in place.

**201.1.01 Definitions**

**Clearing:** Removing and disposing trees, brush, stumps, logs, grass, weeds, roots, decayed vegetable matter, poles, stubs, rubbish, refuse dumps, sawdust piles, and loose boulders of 1 yd<sup>3</sup> (1 m<sup>3</sup>) or less existing outside of the construction limits, debris resting on or protruding through the ground surface, or appearing on the Right-of-Way before final acceptance of the work.

Clearing also includes removing and disposing of obstructions, such as fences, bridges, buildings, and other incidental structures within the Right-of-Way unless the work or a portion of the work is:

- Removed as excavation
- Shown in the Proposal as a separate Pay Item
- Performed by others

**Grubbing:** Removal from the Right-of-Way and proper disposal of all objectionable matter defined above under clearing, which is embedded in the underlying soil.

Grubbing also includes removing and properly disposing of parking lots, abandoned pavements, sidewalks, driveways, catch basins, drop inlets, pipes, manholes, curbing, retaining walls, utilities, foundations, paved floors, underground tanks (for removal of underground tanks see Section 217), and other structures within the Right-of-Way unless the work or portions of the work are:

- Obstructions removed as one of the excavation items
- Shown in the Proposal as separate Pay Items
- Removed by others
- To be incorporated in the project.

**Objectionable Roots:** Any of the following types of roots:

- Matted trees and brush roots (regardless of the size of the roots)
  - Individual roots more than 0.75 in (20 mm) diameter
  - Individual roots more than 3 ft (1 m) long regardless of size
  - Large quantities of smaller roots present in the top 1 ft (300 mm) of the finished subgrade or road surface when detrimental to the work as determined by the Engineer.
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**Stumps:** The butt of a tree with a diameter of 4 in (100 mm) or more.

### **201.1.02 Related References**

#### **A. Standard Specifications**

Section 107—Legal Regulations and Responsibility to the Public

Section 109—Measurement and Payment

Section 160—Reclamation of Material Pits and Waste Areas

Section 161—Control of Erosion and Sedimentation

Section 208—Embankments

Section 215 – Removal of Solid Waste

Section 217—Removal of Underground Storage Tanks

#### **B. Referenced Documents**

General Provisions 101 through 150.

### **201.1.03 Submittals**

General Provisions 101 through 150.

## **201.2 Materials**

General Provisions 101 through 150.

### **201.2.01 Delivery, Storage, and Handling**

General Provisions 101 through 150.

## **201.3 Construction Requirements**

### **201.3.01 Personnel**

General Provisions 101 through 150.

### **201.3.02 Equipment**

General Provisions 101 through 150.

### **201.3.03 Preparation**

General Provisions 101 through 150.

### **201.3.04 Fabrication**

General Provisions 101 through 150.

### **201.3.05 Construction**

#### **A. General**

Establish Right-of-Way and construction lines. The Engineer will designate which trees, shrubs, and plants will remain in the ground. Preserve things designated to remain.

Apply the requirements of Subsection 107.22, Subsection 107.23, and Section 161 to clearing and grubbing operations.

Strip grass immediately ahead of grading.

To prevent the spread of “Introduced Invasive Pest Species”, do the following:

1. Adhere to the restrictions of Section 155.3.05.A for moving soil, mulch, sod or plants, stump wood or timber with soil attached.
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2. Adhere to the requirements of Section 155.3.05.B for cleaning of equipment, except that the USDA inspection will not be required for vegetative matter.
3. Dispose of vegetative parts of plants that may reproduce (roots and aboveground parts that bear fruit) by burning on site (where permitted) or bury with a minimum cover of 3 feet (1 meter) at an approved site. Obtain the Engineer's approval for any other methods of disposal.

### B. Clearing

Clear objects within the Right-of-Way and easement areas as follows:

1. Choose a method of clearing that prevents damage to property, trees, or retained shrubbery in or outside of the Right-of-Way.
2. Remove stumps that are part of the clearing operations as specified under Subsection 201.3.05.C, "Grubbing".
3. Cut the stumps not grubbed as specified in this section.
4. Dispose of cleared materials as specified in Subsection 201.3.05.E.

### C. Grubbing

Grubbing consists of removing and disposing objectionable matter embedded in the underlying soil (defined in Subsection 201.3.05.B, "Clearing") from the Right-of-Way and easement areas.

#### 1. Grubbing Operations

When grubbing, remove abandoned obstructions referenced in Subsection 201.1.01 "Definitions" to the following depths:

- a. Under Pavements: Remove to a depth of at least 3 ft (1 m) below the finished subgrade.
- b. Underneath Other Structures: Remove to at least 3 ft (1 m) below the foundations of any proposed structure, including installations such as guard rail posts and utility poles.
- c. Elsewhere in the Right-of-Way and easement areas: Remove as follows:
  - 1) Remove to at least 3 ft (1 m) below the finished surface of slopes and shoulders and 1 ft (300 mm) below natural ground outside construction lines.
  - 2) Thoroughly crack or break abandoned structures that may impound water. These structures include concrete floors, basements, and catch basins within 10 ft (3 m) of finished grade.
  - 3) Break floors so that no section greater than 10 ft<sup>2</sup> (1 m<sup>2</sup>) remains intact.
2. Except as modified under Subsection 201.3.05.D, use the following procedure to perform grubbing:
  - a. Remove stumps and other matter that cannot be removed by a root rake. Remove stumps to a minimum depth of 2 ft (600 mm) below the ground line.
  - b. Rake areas containing objectionable roots to a depth of at least 6 in (150 mm) below the surface.
  - c. Remove remaining objectionable matter by hand or other suitable means. When necessary, remove small roots (see Subsection 201.1.01 "Objectionable Roots") detrimental to the work.
  - d. Backfill stump holes and compact backfill to the approximate density of the surrounding soil.
  - e. Harrow the area with a heavy-duty disc harrow that penetrates and turns the ground to at least 6 in (150 mm) deep.
  - f. Remove objectionable matter exposed by the harrowing.
  - g. Level the harrowed areas with blading equipment. Leave the grubbed areas smooth enough for a power mower.

### D. Modifications of Clearing and Grubbing

Modify clearing and grubbing as follows:

#### 1. In Excavation Areas

Modify clearing and grubbing in excavation areas as follows:

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- a. Harrowing and leveling may be omitted.
  - b. Do not fill stump holes except when the bottom of any stump hole extends below the elevation of the finished subgrade. In this case, fill the portion of each hole below subgrade elevation with suitable material compacted to at least the density of the surrounding soil.
2. In Embankment Areas
- Modify clearing and grubbing in embankment areas as follows:
- a. Under 4.5 ft (1.4 m)  
Clear and grub areas without modification where the original ground and finished grade differ in elevation 4.5 ft (1.4 m) or less.
  - b. Over 4.5 ft (1.4 m)  
Clear, but do not grub areas covered by embankments exceeding the 4.5 ft (1.4 m) elevation difference specified in step (a) above. Except the removal of unsound or decayed stumps.  
Remove and backfill stumps according to Subsection 201.3.05.C.2. When leaving sound stumps in place, cut them off to no more than 6 in (150 mm) above the original ground line.
  - c. Embankment Areas Over Old Roads  
Clear and grub without modification ditches and slopes of old roads to a depth that removes all objectionable matter to provide a firm foundation.
3. Areas Outside of Roadway
- Except as specified in this section, clear and grub the entire Right-of-Way and easement areas outside construction limits and leave it smooth and free from loose boulders and debris that would interfere with power mowers. Exceptions to the above requirements are as follows:
- a. Selective Clearing  
When the Engineer directs to preserve certain trees and plants, protect them from injury. Trees to be removed shall be felled to prevent injury to standing trees, plants, and improvements to be preserved.  
Cut off tree branches overhanging the roadway within 20 ft (6 m) of the finished grade close to the boles. Also, remove other branches to create a balanced appearance. Grub areas adjacent to selected trees and shrubs without damage to living roots of the selected trees or shrubs.
  - b. Special Treatment Areas  
Clear special treatment areas according to the Plan notes.
  - c. Steep Slopes  
Clear or selectively clear slopes that are too steep for power mowers (slopes steeper than 3 horizontal to 1 vertical) and clear or selectively clear slopes that are subject to excessive erosion. Do not grub in these areas.
  - d. Grassed Areas  
Do not grub (if the Engineer approves) reasonably large areas outside construction limits covered with grasses and smooth enough for power mowers. Remove stumps, trees, and other objectionable matter.
4. Bridge Sites
- Modify clearing and grubbing at bridge sites as follows:
- a. Stream Bridges  
Clear the Right-of-Way for stream bridges for the full length of the proposed structure. Cut stumps and brush flush with the ground line.  
The Engineer will require a second cutting if high water prevents cutting stumps flush with the ground. If the Engineer requires more than two cuttings, see Subsection 201.5 for payment.  
Remove drift and stumps where necessary to permit installation of rip rap, piling, piers, abutments, wing walls, and bents. Properly backfill the holes.
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Preserve stump and brush root systems at river and stream banks when they have been cut flush with the ground line.

b. Other Bridges

Clear and grub bridges (other than stream bridges) as specified within this specification for roadway areas and areas outside of the roadway.

### E. Removal and Disposal of Materials

1. Merchantable Timber and Buildings

The Department may dispose of merchantable timber and buildings, or may allow a property owner to remove them from the land granted for Right-of-Way before the Contractor begins operation. Therefore, the Department does not guarantee that merchantable timber or buildings will be on the Right-of-Way when the work begins.

Material salvaged from removing timber or buildings becomes the property of the Contractor.

Demolish, remove, and dispose of all building structures within the right of way and easement areas including concrete slabs, footings, foundations, etc. except building structures designated to remain in place. Grade to drain all disturbed ground to a reasonably smooth and pleasing appearance, free from loose boulders and other debris that would interfere with the use of power mowers. Grass all disturbed areas.

Prior to demolition or removal:

- a. Inspect all building structures for the presence of asbestos. The inspection shall be done by an EPA Asbestos Hazard Emergency Response Act (AHERA) accredited inspector whose certification is current.
- b. Provide a copy of all inspection reports including the inspector's credentials to the Engineer.
- c. Provide written notice of intent to demolish to the Georgia Environmental Protection Division (EPD) of the Georgia Department of Natural Resources in accordance with EPD regulations with a copy to the engineer. This notice is required even if there is no asbestos present.

If there is asbestos present, its removal shall be done by a contractor licensed with the EPD in accordance with the Rules of Georgia Department of Natural Resource Environmental Protection Division chapter 391-3-14-04. All asbestos removal and disposal shall be done in accordance with EPD regulations. All asbestos removal shall be considered as Extra Work and payment will be made in accordance with Subsection 109.05.

2. Combustible Material

Abide by Federal, State, and local codes when the Right-of-Way (or any portion of the Right-of-Way) lies within an area where burning is restricted. All combustible material except sawdust piles may be burned on the Right-of-Way except where prohibited by Federal, State, or local air pollution control regulations.

- a. Prevent fire from spreading to adjacent areas and damaging living trees and shrubs designated to remain on the Right-of-Way and easement areas.
- b. Prevent damage to public and private installations either within or adjacent to the Right-of-Way and prevent damage to traveling public.
- c. Obtain suitable areas for burning the combustible material when necessary (at the Contractor's expense). Burning area are subject to the approval of the Engineer.
- d. Dispose of unburned combustible material according to Subsection 201.3.05.E.3. If the disposal area is located on private property, present written authority to the Engineer (signed by the property owner) granting the Contractor and the Department permission to use the area for the purpose intended. Reclaim the disposal area according to Section 160 except that the reclamation is at the Contractor's expense.
- e. Completely remove sawdust within the construction limits. Haul the sawdust to approved disposal areas, or deposit it on the Right-of-Way in a layer less than 3 in (75 mm) deep. Immediately mix the sawdust with the underlying soil by discing and harrowing. Leave the harrowed surface smooth.

3. Solid Waste Material

- a. Nonregulated Material
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- (1) Common fill is defined as soil, rock, brick, concrete without reinforcement, concrete with reinforcement where the reinforcement has been removed flush with the surface of the concrete and cured asphalt, provided that such material does not contain hazardous waste constituents above background levels and the material results from Department funded construction contracts. Such fill is not subject to the Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990 and the Solid Waste Management Rules when used as fill material on Department funded construction contracts or Department property or when used as fill material on property not owned by the Department when all requirements of this specification are fully met. Common fill meeting this definition may be placed as follows:
    - (a) At a permitted municipal, construction and demolition materials or inert landfill fully meeting all requirements of the Solid Waste Rules and Act and any other applicable laws or ordinances.
    - (b) At an off-site engineered fill location in accordance with the following requirements;
      - Place the material in uniform layers 3 ft thick or less and distributed to avoid the formation of large voids or pockets.
      - Fill voids with finer material.
      - Cover the last layer of fill with at least 2 ft of soil.
      - Construct the fill according to Section 208, except compact it to at least 90 percent of the maximum laboratory dry density.
      - A Georgia registered professional engineer shall document, certify and submit the following information on behalf of the Contractor to the Department; compaction rates, waste description including average particle size, and the depth of clean earthen fill lying above the engineered fill.
    - (c) On site as compacted fill if prior written approval has been granted by the Engineer and in accordance with the following requirements:
      - As compacted fill incorporated into embankment only. No area shall be excavated for the sole purpose of disposing of common fill.
      - Place the material in uniform layers 3 ft thick or less and distributed to avoid the formation of large voids or pockets.
      - Fill voids with finer material.
      - Cover the last layer of fill with at least 2 ft of soil.
      - Construct the fill according to Section 208, except compact it to at least 90 percent of the maximum laboratory dry density.
      - Records of the exact location by station and offsets, amount disposed per location in cubic yards, waste description including average particle size, compaction rates and depth of clean earthen fill lying above the composite materials shall be kept by the Engineer.
    - (d) Materials that may be recycled or reused such as asphaltic concrete, Portland cement concrete, plastic, metal and materials that qualify under EPD regulations for sale or use may be reclaimed by the Contractor.
- b. Regulated Material
- (1) Inert waste is defined as organic debris such as stumps, limbs and leaves, and any of the aforementioned common fill items that do not meet the compaction requirements when placed in an excess materials pit. An inert waste landfill permit shall be obtained in accordance with GDNR/EPD Rules to properly record the disposal of inert waste when compaction requirements are not met at an excess materials pit. If disposed of at a landfill, inert waste may only be disposed at a permitted municipal, construction and demolition materials or inert landfill fully meeting all requirements of the Solid Waste Rules and Act and any other applicable laws or ordinances.
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- (2) Construction and demolition waste is defined as construction forms, barrels, scrap metal, and other such by-products of construction not specifically listed above as either common fill or inert waste. Construction and or demolition waste must be disposed of at a permitted municipal, construction and demolition materials, or inert landfill fully meeting all requirements of the Solid Waste Rules and Act and any other applicable laws or ordinances.
  - (3) Dispose of oils, solvents, fuels, untreated lead paint residue, and other solid hazardous waste through a properly licensed hazardous waste disposal facility.
  - (4) Remove municipal solid waste discovered during construction or shown on the Plans according to Section 215.
- c. Solid Waste Handling and Disposal Documentation Requirements:
- (1) Waste disposed at a permitted municipal or construction and demolition landfill – all tipping receipts generated by the receiving landfill shall be provided to the Engineer.
  - (2) Waste disposed at inert landfill – a copy of the landfill’s Permit By Rule notification, and for landfills exceeding one acre, a copy of the landfill’s NPDES General Storm water Permit Notice of Intent (NOI) and any local jurisdiction Land Disturbing Activity Permit, if applicable, shall be provided to the Engineer.
  - (3) Any necessary documentation regarding a disposal site’s permit status must be obtained by the Contractor and verified by the Department before any common fill, inert waste, or other solid waste is allowed to leave the site.
  - (4) The documentation listed herein shall be maintained on-site in the project files and at any other location the Department deems necessary until a valid NPDES Notice of Termination is filed.

Recyclable materials must be separated from all waste materials and shall be properly stored in containers.

Excluding the above allowances, all types of waste shall be handled in full compliance with the following:

- The Georgia Solid Waste Management Rules, as amended (391-3-4)
- Georgia Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Act of 1990, as amended (O.C.G.A. 12-8-20)
- The Georgia Erosion & Sedimentation Act as amended (O.C.G.A. 12-7-1) and any applicable Local and State requirements as well as the General Permits of the Georgia Water Quality Control Act
- Any other applicable Federal, State, or Local rules or laws

### F. Removal of Drift Material from Drainage Structures

Drift material is defined as organic debris, primarily large tree limbs, that are carried by a stream and accumulate at the upstream side of bridges and culverts, impeding navigation and threatening the integrity of the drainage structure. If removal of drift material is required on the project, the following conditions are intended as a minimum to protect aquatic resources during drift removal activities executed by GDOT personnel or contractors.

1. All Project personnel shall be advised of the potential presence of federally and state protected species. These species are protected under the Endangered Species Act of 1973, the Georgia Endangered Wildlife Act of 1973 and the Georgia Wildflower Preservation Act of 1973. There are civil and criminal penalties for harming, harassing, or killing these species.
  2. Drift removal shall be accomplished by attaching lift cables or ropes to the drift and hoisting the materials out of the stream from the top of the bridge deck or road surface. Any modifications to this method or any other methods for removal shall be submitted to, and will require prior written approval from, the State Environmental Administrator within the GDOT Office of Environmental Services (Ecology\_submittals@dot.ga.gov). Accumulated drift material shall not be dragged across the streambed.
  3. Mechanized equipment shall not be allowed to rest upon or contact the streambed. Boats shall be allowed into the stream for the purpose of accessing accumulated drift, provided that water depth is adequate to ensure the watercraft would not contact the streambed.
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4. If vegetation clearing is required to accomplish drift removal (e.g. to provide access for boats), mechanized clearing shall not be used within 200 feet of stream banks. Vegetation clearing by hand is permissible.
5. Drift material shall be disposed of outside the project right of way and placed in either a permitted solid waste facility or a permitted inert waste landfill. Refer to Subsection 201.3.05.E.3.b of the Standard Specification and Supplements thereto for additional information.
6. In the event any incident occurs that may cause, or has caused, harm to an aquatic species, the State Environmental Administrator shall immediately be notified by providing a description of the incident and photos of the harmed aquatic species to Ecology\_submittals@dot.ga.gov. All activities on or near the structure shall cease, except traffic control and erosion control activities, pending consultation by the Department with the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, National Marine Fisheries Service, Georgia Department of Natural Resources, and, if applicable, the lead federal agency.

### 201.3.06 Quality Acceptance

General Provisions 101 through 150.

### 201.3.07 Contractor Warranty and Maintenance

General Provisions 101 through 150.

## 201.4 Measurement

The Department does not measure clearing and grubbing separately for payment. The area is considered the full Right-of-Way width for the length of the Project including slope and construction easement areas shown on the Plans.

### 201.4.01 Limits

General Provisions 101 through 150.

## 201.5 Payment

Payment for this Item, completed and accepted, will be made at the lump sum price bid. The payment will be full compensation for all work specified in this Section including final cleanup as required.

If the Engineer requires more than two cuttings to clear the Right-of-Way for stream bridges (according to Subsection 201.3.05.D.4.a), the additional cuttings will be paid for as a Force Account according to Subsection 109.05.

No separate payment will be made for the disposal of solid waste materials.

Payment will be made under:

Item No. 201	Clearing and grubbing	Per lump sum
Item No. 201	Removal of Drift Material	Per lump sum

### 201.5.01 Adjustments

General Provisions 101 through 150.

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