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(As amended 1982)

SOUTH AFRICAN BUREAU OF STANDARDS

STANDARDIZED SPECIFICATION

for

CIVIL ENGINEERING CONSTRUCTION

C : SITE CLEARANCE

Approved by the  
COUNCIL OF THE  
SOUTH AFRICAN  
BUREAU OF STANDARDS  
on 27 February 1980  
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1. SCOPE
- 1.1 This specification covers the removal of vegetation, boulders of size up to  $0,15 \text{ m}^3$ , and surface obstructions, and the demolition and removal of structures (including their basements, if any) not directly associated with or incidental to any excavation.  
NOTE: The standards referred to in the specification are listed in Appendix A.
2. INTERPRETATIONS
- 2.1 SUPPORTING SPECIFICATIONS. Where this specification is required for a project, the following specifications shall, inter alia, form part of the contract document:
  - a) Project specification;
  - b) SABS 1200 A or SABS 1200 AA, as applicable;
  - c) SABS 1200 D or SABS 1200 DA, as applicable.
- 2.2 APPLICATION. This specification contains clauses that are generally applicable to site clearance. Interpretations and variations of this specification are set out in Portion 2 of the project specification which precedes this specification in a contract document.
- 2.3 DEFINITIONS. For the purposes of this specification the definitions and abbreviations given in the applicable of the specifications listed in 2.1(b) and (c) and the following definitions shall apply:  
Cleared surface. The natural surface of the ground after clearing of surface vegetation has been completed.  
Designated site/area. A site or an area the position of which in relation to the work to be carried out is shown on the drawing or is described in the project specification and is therefore known to the Contractor at the time of tendering.  
Finished level. The level of the finished earthworks as shown on the drawings or stated in the project specification.  
Grubbing. The operation of digging out the roots of vegetation.  
Original ground level. The level of the surface of an area before the commencement of clearing.
3. MATERIALS
- 3.1 DISPOSAL OF MATERIAL. Material obtained from clearing and grubbing and from the demolition of structures shall be disposed of in borrow pits or other suitable places indicated by the Engineer and shall be covered with soil or gravel. Where no such place for the disposal of material is indicated by the Engineer, the Contractor shall make his own arrangements for the provision of a suitable place. The disposal, or burning if specifically permitted, of combustible material on site may be done only with the prior written approval of the Engineer. Care shall be taken to observe the provisions of the Atmospheric Pollution Prevention Act, 1965 (Act 45 of 1965), and any regulations published in terms of the Act.  
All tree trunks and branches of girth exceeding 0,5 m shall be stripped of secondary branches, sawn into transportable lengths and stacked at designated sites. Such timber shall not be used by the Contractor for any purpose, and shall remain the property of the Employer.  
Fencing wire shall be neatly wound into rolls or coils and all such wire, together with all fence posts and other re-usable material from structures, etc., shall be stacked at designated sites.
4. PLANT
- 4.1 The Contractor shall provide saws for cutting trees and branches as ordered, and plant that is suitable for grubbing roots and for digging out and removing other obstructions on the Site.
5. CONSTRUCTION
- 5.1 AREAS TO BE CLEARED AND GRUBBED. Both borrow areas and the portions of the Site on which excavations are to be carried out and embankments and structures constructed, shall be cleared or grubbed, or both, but the Contractor shall not commence clearing or grubbing until the Engineer has designated, in writing and in detail, the exact areas to be cleared or grubbed and the time at which the work is to be started. The Contractor shall ensure that the general shape, profile, and levels of the area are not materially altered during clearing and grubbing operations. (See the requirements for computation of quantities given in Subclause 8.2 of SABS 1200 D or SABS 1200 DA, as relevant.)  
In order to avoid re-clearing or to control dust or erosion the Contractor may have to clear and grub at the latest practicable stage of construction.
- 5.2 CUTTING OF TREES
- 5.2.1 Protection of Persons, Animals, and Structures. The Contractor shall take the necessary precautions to prevent injury to persons and animals and damage to structures and other private and public property. Where necessary, trees shall be cut in sections from the top downwards.
- 5.2.2 Branches overhanging Boundaries. The branches of trees to be left standing shall be so trimmed as not to encroach upon the space (of height at least 7 m) vertically above any carriageway, railway formation, or other designated area.
- 5.2.3 Preservation of Trees
- 5.2.3.1 General. No tree shall be cut down until the Engineer has given written authorization for such work to commence.
- 5.2.3.2 Individual trees. Individual trees indicated and marked by the Engineer as trees to be preserved shall be left standing and uninjured. The amount stated in the project specification shall be deducted from monies due to the Contractor as a penalty in respect of every such tree that is damaged or removed unnecessarily.