



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

BDE PROCEDURE MEMORANDUM

NUMBER: 25-10

SUBJECT: BDE Manual Revision – Chapters 41 and 59

DATE: August 30, 2025

Chapters 41 and 59 of the BDE Manual have been revised to incorporate revisions related to the BDE Special Provision Erosion Control Blanket (ECB), dated August 1, 2025. Please see the BDE Manual on-line to view the revisions.

Background

Due to environmental and maintenance concerns regarding the polypropylene netting used in ECBs (single net) and Heavy-Duty ECBs (double net), BDE initiated a study with the Illinois Center for Transportation (ICT) to research the performance and cost of ECBs utilizing both single- and double-sided natural fiber netting. This study is available on the ICT website.

The research determined that all natural fiber net ECBs performed as well as traditional ECBs. From this research, a Special Provision was crafted and released August 1, 2025.

In addition to requiring that all ECBs utilize natural fiber net, the Special Provision removed Heavy Duty ECBs (double-sided) as a pay item. The ECB pay item has changed from being a single sided polypropylene net to a double-sided fiber net blanket. Furthermore, the Special Provision discusses a wildlife friendly ECB that uses a moveable net joint called a leno or gauze weave.

The specific sections revised are as follows:

Section 41-2.02

Figure 41-2.A was revised to remove Heavy-Duty ECBs. Language was added to inform manual users that only natural fiber net ECBs are allowed. In addition, language was also added to discuss the use of wildlife-friendly ECBs.

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Section 59-6.03

This section was revised to incorporate commitment guidance for designers on threatened or endangered species and the utilization of wildlife friendly ECBs.



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