

PLASTIC FINES OF ROAD CONSTRUCTION MATERIALS TESTED USING THE METHYLENE BLUE METHOD

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ABSTRACT

In order to identify the nature of the fines in natural soils, various methods can be employed. Using laboratory procedures, soil samples from Xanthi Prefecture have been examined and characterised. The results were correlated in order to check the soils' suitability as foundation materials for pavements of roadways passing through areas where such soil types are abundant. For the soils tested, no good correlation has been found between the MBV and the other properties determined through the laboratory testing. The main reason for such behaviour is the lack of adequate swelling clay minerals content. The methylene blue test could supplement the sand equivalent and Atterberg limits tests, since with these the existence of clay-size grains is determined, but not the existence of active clayey minerals as well.