



A granular subbase course is that part of the pavement structure constructed to provide a foundation for the base course, to distribute the superimposed loading to the subgrade and to provide drainage beneath the base and surface courses. It usually consists of natural sand or a mixture of sand with gravel, excavated and constructed with grading equipment as an item under a grading contract.

Before placing the subbase material, the subgrade or foundation must be properly prepared. It should be smooth, shaped to conform to required crown and grade, and be compacted to the required density. Where travel of the placing equipment ruts or disturbs the foundation, means must be employed to correct these conditions ahead of placing the subbase material. If the subbase is constructed on a rutted foundation, the roadbed will not drain properly and areas of weakness may develop in the pavement structure. Placing, shaping, and compacting the subbase material to conform its full width to the required grade, section, and density are necessary for satisfactory construction of the proposed base course. The inspector should frequently check the subbase course for correct depth and spread.

The requirements for fertilizing and seeding granular subbase pits are similar to borrow pits. [CMM 3-35](#) discusses borrow pit excavation.

[CMM 8-60](#) discusses correction in pay weights for aggregates having moisture content in excess of 7% when furnished by the ton.

See [CMM 8-13](#) for required testing and approval of scales used for furnishing granular subbase material by the ton measurement.