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Attention: Richard Walford

Via ACONEX: Richard.Walford@cpbcon.com.au

09 October 2023

Project: P-0510513
Reference: 1005-0116
Your Ref: CPB-1005-LET-0336

Dear Richard,

**RIO TINTO PROJECTS – IRON ORE
WESTERN RANGE PROJECT
CONTRACT: WR/C/CC/1005 MAIN INFRASTRUCTURE BULK EARTHWORKS
ENGINEER'S RESPONSE TO LET-0336 VAR-0163 NOD 0163 COMPACTION TESTS OF
FILL AT MSE WALL**

The Engineer refers to Contractor's correspondence CPB-1005-LET-0336 dated 04 October 2023 transmitted via Aconex reference CPB Con-PRCO-000334 on 04 October May 2023 (**LET-0336**).

The Contractor asserts, in LET-0336, that in response to TQ WRMI-TQ-CPB-00296 (TQ0296), the Engineer significantly increased the frequency of testing of the fill for the mechanically stabilised earth wall (MSE Wall) as follows:

Description	Specification	TQ296
Hand Compacted Zone:	One NDM test for two layers of 50 m ² area	One NDM test for one layer of 50 m ² area.
Outside the Hand Compaction Zone:	One NDM test for one-layer of 2,500 m ² area.	One NDM test for one layer of 300 m ² area.

The Contractor contends that the requirements of the Technical Specification for Earthworks, Roadworks and Drainage (WR-SPE-Y-0001) apply to the MSE Wall earthworks structure, this includes a requirement for 1 test per 2,500m² in Table 12.7-D Basecourse and Type A – Select Fill.

Engineer's Response

Specification WR-SPE-Y-0001 is not applicable to the MSE Wall, this specification would only require one compaction test for the first layer of fill for the MSE Wall.



Technical Specification for Reinforced Earth Structures with Terramet Facing – WR ROM Ore Load-out (WRY3015-S01-0001) is applicable to the supply and construction of the MSE Wall.

Clause 1.7 of the General Conditions states:

If two or more documents contain, or a Party to the Contract contends that the documents contain, different standards or requirements, then the higher standard or more onerous requirement will apply.

The compaction requirements of specification WRY3015-S01-0001 are more onerous than those of specification WR-SPE-Y-0001.

Specification WRY3015-S01-0001 is explicit in “Section 4.3 Select Fill Placement” stating:

“The Client must ensure that field density tests are conducted at sufficient frequency and location to verify that all select fill has been uniformly compacted to the density specified. As a minimum, the level 2, type 4 testing frequency requirements of AS3798-2007 should apply.”

Level 2, type 4 testing frequency requirements are as follows:

1 test per 2 layers per 50m²

The above testing frequency was the basis for testing of the fill to the MSE Wall in the Contract. There is no differentiation between the hand compaction zone (HCZ) and the balance of the wall earthworks structure.

The response to TQ0296 was an overall relaxation of the level 2, type 4 testing frequency. See calculation below for testing of two layers for the MSE Wall base row of 2,557m²:

As per Specification WRY3015-S01-0001		As per TQ0296	
1 test per 50m ² per 2 layers. 2,557m ² /50m ² X 1	52 tests	HCZ 175m x 1.5m = 263m ² .	263m ² /50m ² x 2 layers = 12 tests.
		Area outside HCZ 2,295M ²	2,295m ² /300m ² x 2 layers = 16 tests
Total	52	Total	28

The testing regime concession in TQ-296 results in a reduction of 46% of the Contract testing frequency.

Conclusion

The Contractor's Claim has no merit and is thus rejected.

The Engineer requests that the Contractor confirm, in writing, the withdrawal of its Claim within 10-Working Days from receipt of this correspondence.

Yours sincerely,

CRAIG RAMM
Engineer's representative

Author: GJM
cc: CDR DDS, MLT, SNA, KDH, KXH
Att: Attachment 1 –WRMI-TQ-CPB-002

