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## Standard Guide for Direct Push Soil Sampling for Environmental Site Characterizations<sup>1</sup>

This standard is issued under the fixed designation D 6282; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon ( $\epsilon$ ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

## 1. Scope

1.1 This guide addresses direct push soil samplers, which also may be driven into the ground from the surface or through prebored holes. The samplers can be continuous or discrete interval units. Samplers are advanced by a combination of static push, or impacts from hammers, or vibratory methods, or a combination thereof, to the depth of interest. The guide does not cover open chambered samplers operated by hand such as augers, agricultural samplers operated at shallow depths, or side wall samplers. This guide does not address single sampling events in the immediate base of the drill hole using rotary drilling equipment with incremental drill hole excavation. Other sampling standards, such as Test Methods D 1586 and D 1587 and Practice D 3550 apply to rotary drilling activities. This guide does not address advancement of sampler barrel systems with methods that employ cuttings removal as the sampler is advanced. Other drilling and sampling methods may apply for samples needed for engineering and construction applications.

1.2 Guidance on preservation and transport of samples, as given in Guide D 4220, may or may not apply. Samples for chemical analysis often must be subsampled and preserved for chemical analysis using special techniques. Practice D 3694 provides information on some of the special techniques required. Additional information on environmental sample preservation and transportation is available in other references (1, 2).<sup>2</sup> Samples for classification may be preserved using procedures similar to Class A. In most cases, a direct push sample is considered as Class B in Practice D 4220 but is protected, representative, and suitable for chemical analysis. The samples taken with this practice do not usually produce Class C and D (with exception of thin wall samples of standard size) samples for testing for engineering properties, such as shear strength and compressibility. Guide D 4700 has some information on mechanical soil sampling devices similar to direct push techniques, however, it does not address most direct push sampling methods. If sampling is for chemical evaluation in the Vadose Zone, consult Guide D 4700 for any special considerations.

1.3 Field methods described in this guide, include the use of discreet and continuous sampling tools, split and solid barrel samplers and thin walled tubes with or without fixed piston style apparatus.

1.4 Insertion methods described include static push, impact, percussion, other vibratory/sonic driving, and combinations of these methods using direct push equipment adapted to drilling rigs, cone penetrometer units, and specially designed percussion/direct push combination machines. Hammers providing the force for insertion include drop style, hydraulically activated, air activated and mechanical lift devices.

1.5 Direct push soil sampling is limited to soils and unconsolidated materials that can be penetrated with the available equipment. The ability to penetrate strata is based on hammer energy, carrying vehicle weight, compactness of soil, and consistency of soil. Penetration may be limited or damage to samplers and conveying devices can occur in certain subsurface conditions, some of which are discussed in 5.5. Successful sample recovery also may be limited by the ability to retrieve tools from the borehole. Sufficient retract force must be available when attempting difficult or deep investigations.

1.6 This guide does not address the installation of any temporary or permanent soil, ground water, vapor monitoring, or remediation devices.

1.7 The practicing of direct push techniques may be controlled by local regulations governing subsurface penetration. Certification, or licensing requirements, or both, may need to be considered in establishing criteria for field activities.

1.8 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as standard: however, dimensions used in the drilling industry are given in inch-pound units by convention. Inch-pound units are used where necessary in this guide.

1.9 This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

1.10 This guide offers an organized collection of information or a series of options and does not recommend a specific course of action. This document cannot replace education or experience and should be used in conjunction with professional judgment. Not all aspects of this guide may be applicable in all circumstances. This ASTM standard is not intended to represent or replace the standard of care by which the adequacy of

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<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> The boldface numbers in parentheses refer to the list of references at the end of this standard.

a given professional service must be judged, nor should this document be applied without consideration of a projects's many unique aspects. The word "Standard" in the title of this document means only that the document has been approved through the ASTM consensus process.

## 2. Referenced Documents

- 2.1 ASTM Standards:
- D 420 Guide to Site Characterization for Engineering, Design and Construction Purposes<sup>3</sup>
- D 653 Terminology Relating to Soil, Rock and Contained Fluids<sup>3</sup>
- D 1452 Practice for Soil Investigation and Sampling by Auger Boring<sup>3</sup>
- D 1586 Test Method for Penetration Test and Split-Barrel Sampling of Soils<sup>3</sup>
- D 1587 Practice for Thin-Wall Tube Sampling of Soils<sup>3</sup>
- D 2488 Practice for Description and Identification of Soils (Visual-Manual Method)<sup>3</sup>
- D 3550 Practice for Ring-Lined Barrel Sampling of Soils<sup>3</sup>
- D 3694 Practices for Preparation of Sample Containers and for Preservation of Organic Constituents<sup>4</sup>
- D 4220 Practices for Preserving and Transporting Soil Samples<sup>3</sup>
- D 4700 Guide for Soil Sampling from the Vadose Zone<sup>3</sup>
- D 4750 Test Method for Determining Subsurface Liquid Levels in a Borehole or Monitor Well (Observation Well)<sup>3</sup>
- D 5088 Practice for Decontamination of Field Equipment Used at Nonradioactive Waste Sites<sup>5</sup>
- D 5092 Practice for Design and Installation of Ground Water Monitoring Wells in Acquifers<sup>5</sup>
- D 5299 Guide for Decommisioning of Ground Water Wells, Vadose Zone Monitoring Devices, Boreholes, and Other Devices for Environmental Activities<sup>5</sup>
- D 5314 Guide for Soil Gas Sampling in the Vadose Zone<sup>5</sup>
- D 5434 Guide for Field Logging of Subsurface Explorations of Soil and Rock<sup>5</sup>
- D 5730 Guide to Site Characterization for Environmental Purposes with Emphasis on Soil, Rock, the Vadose Zone, and Ground Water<sup>5</sup>
- D 5778 Test Method for Performing Electronic Friction Cone and Piezocone Penetration Testing of Soils<sup>5</sup>
- D 5783 Guide for Use of Direct Rotary Drilling with Water-Based Drilling Fluid for Geoenvironmental Exploration and the Installation of Subsurface Water-Quality Monitoring Devices<sup>5</sup>
- D 5784 Guide for Use of Hollow-stem Augers for Geoenvironmental Exploration and the Installation of Subsurface Water-Quality and Monitoring Devices<sup>5</sup>
- D 6001 Guide for Direct-Push Water Sampling for Geoenvironmental Investigations<sup>5</sup>

## 3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions*—General definitions for terminology used in this guide are in accordance with Terminology D 653. Definitions for terms related to direct push water sampling for geoenvironmental investigations are in accordance with Guide D 6001.

3.1.1 *assembly length*, *n*—length of sampler body and riser pipes.

3.1.2 *borehole*, *n*—a hole of circular cross-section made in soil or rock.

3.1.3 casing, n—pipe furnished in sections with either threaded connections or bevelled edges to be field-welded, which is installed temporarily or permanently to counteract caving, to advance the borehole, or to isolate the interval being monitored, or combination thereof.

3.1.4 *caving/sloughing*, *n*—the inflow of unconsolidated material into an unsupported borehole that occurs when the borehole walls lose their cohesive strength.

3.1.5 *decontamination*, n—the process of removing undesirable physical or chemical constituents, or both, from equipment to reduce the potential for cross-contamination.

3.1.6 *direct push sampling*, *n*—sampling devices that are advanced into the soil to be sampled without drilling or borehole excavation.

3.1.7 *extension rod*, *n*—hollow steel rod, threaded, in various lengths, used to advance and remove samplers and other devices during direct pushing boring. Also known as *drive rod*. In some applications, small diameter solid extension rods are used through hollow drive rods to activate closed samples at depth.

3.1.8 *incremental drilling and sampling*, *n*—insertion method where rotary drilling and sampling events are alternated for incremental sampling. Incremental drilling often is needed to penetrate harder or deeper formations.

3.1.9 *percussion driving*, *n*—insertion method where rapid hammer impacts are performed to advance the sampling device. The percussion normally is accompanied with the application of a static down-force.

3.1.10 *push depth*, n—the depth below a ground surface datum to which the lower end, or tip, of the direct-push sampling device is inserted.

3.1.11 *sample interval*, *n*—defined zone within a subsurface strata from which a sample is gathered.

3.1.12 *sample recovery*, *n*—the length of material recovered divided by the length of sampler advancement and stated as a percentage.

3.1.13 *soil core*, *n*—cylindrical shaped specimen of sediments or other unconsolidated accumulations of solid particles produced by the physical and chemical disintegration of rocks and which may or may not contain organic matter recovered from a soil sampler.

3.2 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

3.2.1 *closed barrel sampler*, n—a sampling device with a piston or other secured device that is held to block the movement of material into the barrel until the blocking device is removed or released. Liners are required in closed barrel samplers. Also may be referred to as a *protected type sampler*.

3.2.2 *impact heads/drive heads*, *n*—pieces or assemblies that fit to top of the above ground portion of the direct push tool assembly to receive the impact of the hammering device and transfer the impact energy to sampler extensions.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>3</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.08.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>4</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 11.02.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>5</sup> Annual Book of ASTM Standards, Vol 04.09.

3.2.3 *open barrel sampler*, *n*—sampling barrel with open end allowing material to enter at any time or depth. Also may be referred to as an *unprotected type sampler*.

3.2.4 *piston lock*, *n*—device to lock the sampler piston in place to prevent any entry of a foreign substance into the sampler chamber prior to sampling.

3.2.5 single tube system, n—a system whereby single extension/drive rods with samplers attached are advanced into the subsurface strata to collect a soil sample.

3.2.6 solid barrel sampler, *n*—a soil sampling device consisting of a continuous or segmented tube with a wall thickness sufficient to withstand the forces necessary to penetrate the strata desired and gather a sample. A cutting shoe and a connecting head are attached to the barrel.

3.2.7 split barrel sampler, n—a soil sampling device consisting of the two half circle tubes manufactured to matching alignment, held together on one end by a shoe and on the other by a connecting head.

3.2.8 *two tube systems*, n—a system whereby inner and outer tubes are advanced simultaneously into the subsurface strata to collect a soil sample. The outer tube is used for borehole stabilization. The inner tube for sampler recovery and insertion.

#### 4. Summary of Guide

4.1 Direct push soil sampling consists of advancing a sampling device into subsurface soils by applying static pressure, by applying impacts, or by applying vibration, or any combination thereof, to the above ground portion of the sampler extensions until the sampler has been advanced to the desired sampling depth. The sampler is recovered from the borehole and the sample removed from the sampler. The sampler is cleaned and the procedure repeated for the next desired sampling interval. Sampling can be continuous for full depth borehole logging or incremental for specific interval sampling. Samplers used can be protected type for controlled specimen gathering or unprotected for general soil specimen collection.

## 5. Significance and Use

5.1 Direct push methods of soil sampling are used for geologic investigations, soil chemical composition studies, and water quality investigations. Examples of a few types of investigations in which direct push sampling may be used include site assessments, underground storage tank investigations, and hazardous waste site investigations. Continuous sampling is used to provide a lithological detail of the subsurface strata and to gather samples for classification and index or for chemical testing. These investigations frequently are required in the characterization of hazardous waste sites. Samples, gathered by direct push methods, provide specimens necessary to determine the chemical composition of soils, and in most circumstances, contained pore fluids (3).

5.2 Direct push methods can provide accurate information on the characteristics of the soils encountered and of the chemical composition if provisions are made to ensure that discrete samples are collected, that sample recovery is maximized, and that clean decontaminated tools are used in the sample gathering procedure. For purposes of this guide, "soil" shall be defined in accordance with Terminology D 653. Using sealed or protected sampling tools, cased boreholes, and proper advancement techniques can assure good representative samples. Direct push boreholes may be considered as a supplementary part of the overall site investigation or may be used for the full site investigation if site conditions permit. As such, they should be directed by the same procedural review and quality assurance standards that apply to other types of subsurface borings. A general knowledge of subsurface conditions at the site is beneficial.

5.3 Soil strata profiling to shallow depths may be accomplished over large areas in less time than with conventional drilling methods because of the rapid sample gathering potential of the direct push method. More site time is available for actual productive investigation as the time required for ancillary activities, such as decontamination, rig setup, tool handling, borehole backfill, and site clean-up is reduced over conventional drilling techniques. Direct push soil sampling has benefits of smaller size tooling, smaller diameter boreholes, and minimal investigative derived waste.

5.4 The direct push soil sampling method may be used as a site characterization tool for subsurface investigation and for remedial investigation and corrective action. The initial direct push investigation program can provide good soil stratigraphic information depending on the soil density and particle size, determine ground water depth, and provide samples for field screening and for formal laboratory analysis to determine the chemical composition of soil and contained pore fluids. Use of this method, results in minimum site disturbance and no cuttings are generated.

5.5 This guide may not be the correct method for investigations in all cases. As with all drilling methods, subsurface conditions affect the performance of the sample gathering equipment and methods used. Direct push methods are not effective for solid rock and are marginally effective in partially weathered rock or very dense soils. These methods can be utilized to determine the rock surface depth. The presence or absence of ground water can affect the performance of the sampling tools. Compact gravelly tills containing boulders and cobbles, stiff clay, compacted gravel, and cemented soil may cause refusal to penetration. Certain cohesive soils, depending on their water content, can create friction on the sampling tools which can exceed the static delivery force, or the impact energy applied, or both, resulting in penetration refusal. Some or all of these conditions may complicate removal of the sampling tools from the borehole as well. Sufficient retract force should be available to ensure tool recovery. As with all borehole advancement methods, precautions must be taken to prevent cross contamination of aquifers through migration of contaminants up or down the borehole. Regardless of the tool size, the moving of drilling and sampling tools through contaminated strata carries risks. Minimization of this risk should be a controlling factor in selecting sampling methods and drilling procedures. The user should take into account the possible chemical reaction between the sample and the sampling tool itself, sample liners, or other items that may come into contact with the sample (3, 4).

5.6 In some cases this guide may combine water sampling,

or vapor sampling, or both, with soil sampling in the same investigation. Guides D 6001 and D 4700 can provide additional information on procedures to be used in such combined efforts.

## 6. Criteria for Selection

6.1 Important criteria to consider when selecting sampling tools include the following:

6.1.1 Size of sample.

6.1.2 Sample quality (Class A,B,C,D) for physical testing. Refer to Practice D 4220.

6.1.3 Sample handling requirements, such as containers, preservation requirements.

6.1.4 Soil conditions anticipated.

6.1.5 Ground water depth anticipated.

6.1.6 Boring depth required.

6.1.7 Chemical composition of soil and contained pore fluids.

6.1.8 Probability of cross contamination.

6.1.9 Available funds.

6.1.10 Estimated cost.

6.1.11 Time constraints.

6.1.12 History of tool performance under anticipated conditions (consult experienced users and manufacturers).

6.2 Important criteria to consider when selecting direct push equipment include the following:

6.2.1 Site accessibility.

6.2.2 Site visibility.

6.2.3 Soil conditions anticipated.

6.2.4 Boring depth required.

6.2.5 Borehole sealing requirements.

6.2.6 Equipment performance history.

6.2.7 Personnel requirements.

6.2.8 Decontamination requirements.

6.2.9 Equipment grouting capability.

6.2.10 Local regulatory requirements.

## 7. Apparatus

7.1 *General*—A direct push soil sampling system consists of a sample collection tool, hollow extension rods for advancement, retrieval, and transmission of energy to the sampler, and an energy source to force sampler penetration. Auxiliary tools are required to handle, assemble and disassemble, clean, and repair the sample collection tools and impact surfaces. Necessary expendable supplies are sample containers, sample container caps, sample liners, sample retainers, appropriate lubricants, and personal safety gear.

7.2 Direct Push Tool Systems:

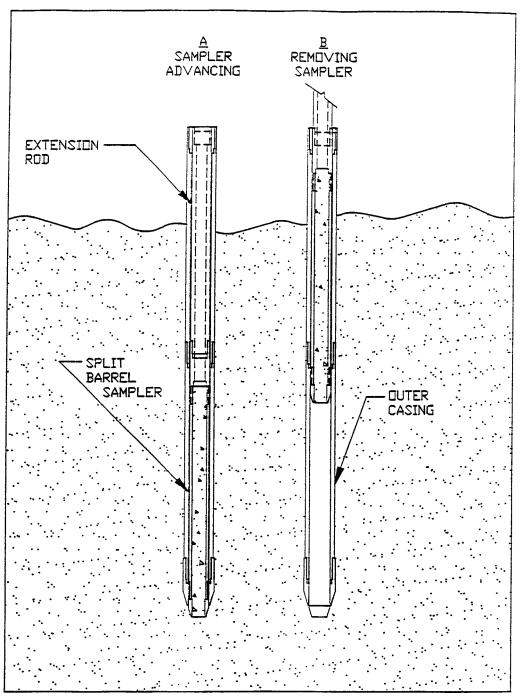
7.2.1 *Two Tube System*—An outer casing and an inner extension rod with a sampler attached (see Fig. 1) are advanced simultaneously into the soil for the length capacity of the sampler. The sampler is removed from the borehole and a new sampler barrel or plug bit is inserted for each increment of depth. Two-tube sampling systems also may incorporate sample gathering chambers that are fitted into the outer casing shoe. These sample barrels are designed to create a minimum of sample disturbance while gathering high quality specimens (see Fig. 2). Samplers are held in the proper position by different methods, such as extension rods, pneumatic or me-

chanical packers, spring activated latches, or other devices (see Figs. 1 and 2). Locking devices must be strong enough to hold the sampler while penetrating the sample strata. The outer casing supports the borehole wall. Sample retrieval is expedited by the cased hole and continuous sampling is simplified. Continuous sampling may be a benefit to lithological logging. A cased borehole can be sealed from the bottom up as the casing is extracted (see Section 10). A cased hole may reduce the risk of contamination migration down the borehole and sample cross contamination. The two-tube system is more susceptible to soil friction because of its larger diameter and may require larger direct push energy than single-tube systems. An oversized drive shoe is sometimes used to reduce friction and buckling but may increase the risk of contamination migration down the borehole.

7.2.2 Single Tube System—The single tube system (see Fig. 3), uses a hollow extension/drive rod to advance and retrieve the sampler. The sampler is attached to the bottom of the extension/drive rod. A drive cap is added to the top of the extension/drive rods generally are smaller in diameter than the sampler. The single tube system minimizes effort for discrete interval sampling under many subsurface conditions. Tool connection time per interval is reduced. Time of removal and reinsertion of samplers into the borehole is affected by soil conditions. Repeated movement of the sampler through contaminated subsurface strata may increase the risk of contamination migration down the borehole. Bottom up borehole sealing may require re-entry in soil formations that collapse (see Section 10).

## 7.3 Samplers:

7.3.1 Split Barrel Samplers-Split barrel samplers (see Fig. 4) are available for use with direct push drilling methods and are available in various sizes up to 3.0 in. (76.2-mm) inside diameter. The inside tolerance should allow for use of liners. Split barrel sampler shoes used in two tube systems must be of sufficient diameter to prevent the intrusion of soil between the outer diameter of the shoe and the inside wall of the outer tube. Split barrel shoes should be replaced when the leading edge is damaged. Damaged shoes can negatively affect sample recovery. Samplers can be used with or without ball check value fitted split barrel heads. The ball check prevents uphole fluids from flowing down through the sample. Where soil sampling will be performed below the water table, the split barrel head, equipped with a ball check, should be used. The open split barrel is best used with the two tube system because the outer casing protects the borehole against cave-in or sloughing, or in soils in which the borehole wall will not collapse. Split barrel sealing systems are available. Split barrel sections can be joined to create a sampler with a nominal sample length capacity of 48 in. (1.22 m). It is understood that samplers with usable lengths beyond 24 in. (0.61 m) are used to advantage in certain soil types; however, the added weight of the soil sample in the chamber and the added friction within the sampler may prevent loose soils from entering the sampler, affecting sample recovery and representativeness. Split barrel samplers can be fitted with a basket to improve recovery in cohesionless soils. Retainers are available in many styles and materials. Retainers



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FIG. 1 Split Spoon Sampling, Two Tube System

should allow the passage of softer soils. Stiff retainers can reduce specimen recovery in soft soils.

### 7.3.2 Solid Barrel Samplers:

7.3.2.1 *Open Solid Barrel Samplers*—Open solid barrel (see Fig. 5) samplers are used with all types of direct push sampling systems. Solid barrels can have inside diameters ranging up to 3 in. (76.2 mm). Barrel lengths range from 6 in. (152.4 mm) to 5 ft (1.53 m). Solid barrel samplers may be one piece or segmented. Sample liners should be used to facilitate removal of the sample from the solid barrel. Without the use of liners, samples are extruded mechanically. Liner lengths should fit sampler barrel lengths. Solid barrel samplers are generally

assembled with a removable cutting shoe and a drive head (see Fig. 6). The head provides a backing to hold the liner stationary while the sampler is advanced and serves as a connector to the extension/drive rods. The shoe is manufactured to hold the liner stationary during the soil collection procedure. The liner should be slightly larger than the inner diameter of the cutting shoe. It may be slipped over the cutting shoe (see Fig. 6) or nested inside of the cutting shoe (see Fig. 7). The shoe is manufactured to cut the sample to a slightly undersized diameter allowing it to pass into the sample liner with a minimum of side friction to reduce sample disturbance. The amount of specimen contact with the inside of the shoe should

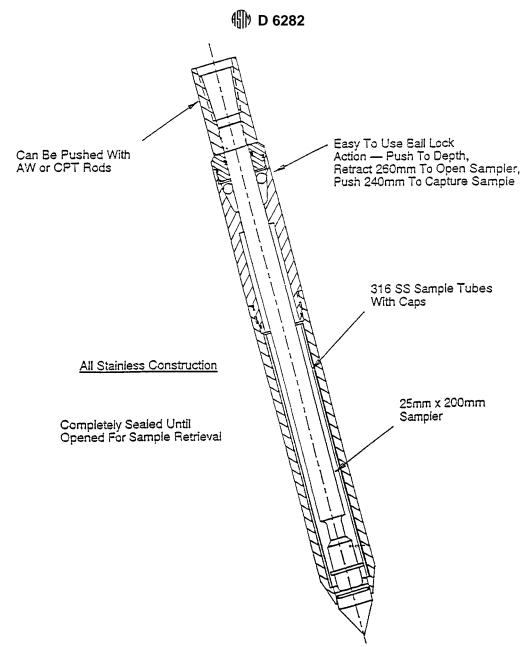
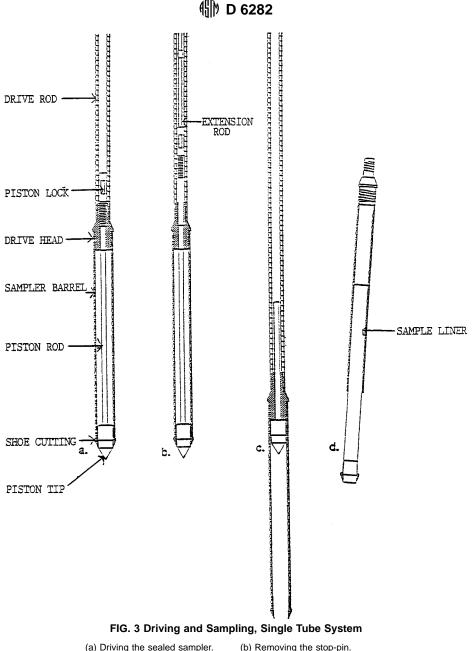


FIG. 2 Sealed Sample Barrel, Single Tube System

be held to the minimum distance possible to aid in achieving the maximum amount of recovery.

7.3.3 *Closed Barrel Sampler*—Closed barrel samplers (see Figs. 2 and 3, Figs. 5-8) are devices, which remain sealed shut until an action is taken to open the sample receiving chamber. These samplers are used most often for single events (discrete point sampling) where a sealed sampler is required to avoid cross contamination or in circumstances where borehole wall stability cannot be assured. The shoe sealing device generally is a point designed to allow the continuous flow of soil around and past the sampler until such time as it is removed or released. The piston point can be fitted with seals, such as "O" rings at top and bottom to hold fluid out until sampling the desired interval. The piston rod extends through the sample retaining liner and must be released or removed for the soil to enter (see Fig. 3, Fig. 5, Fig. 7). The piston can be removed manually before sampling or be displaced by the soil entering

the sampler chamber. Using the displacement method can result in reduced recovery if sampled soils do not have sufficient strength to displace the piston. Pistons are locked in place by several methods, such as a spring loaded latch. The latch holds several balls (see Fig. 2, Fig. 7, Fig. 8) into a groove in the latch coupling. When the latch is released by lifting up on the latch stem, the balls slip back into the latch chamber allowing the piston to be removed. Another method uses a locking screw. A reverse thread pin (Fig. 3, Fig. 6) is positioned in the sampler head to prevent the piston from being displaced by the soil when advancing the sampler. At the sampling interval, small diameter extension rods are inserted through the sampler extension/drive rods and rotated clockwise to unscrew the locking pin. A third method uses an inflated packer. An inflated packer (see Fig. 9) is attached to the top of the sampler barrel. The sample barrel is lowered into position in the drive casing and the packer inflated. The packer is deflated to release



(c) Collecting a sample

(d) Recovering sample in liner.

and the sample barrel is recovered after being advanced the sampling interval.

7.3.4 *Thin Wall Tube*—A 1.0-in. (25.4-mm) diameter thin wall tube (see Fig. 10) is available for use with direct push equipment and is manufactured according to Practice D 1587. Thin wall tubes can be effective when used with dual tube direct push systems as the borehole must be kept clear of disturbed soil prior to gathering a sample. Thin wall tubes may be effective in cohesive soils with single tube systems when the borehole can be kept clear of disturbed soil. Thin wall tubes must have an outside diameter that will allow passage through the outer casing. The thin wall tube can be operated in accordance with Practice D 1587, or it can be advanced using the percussion hammer of the direct push equipment. The primary use of the thin wall tube is to gather relatively undisturbed samples in cohesive soils. Sealing of thin wall tube

ends should be completed in accordance with Practice D 4220. Fixed piston apparatus (see Fig. 10) also is available for use with thin walled tubes. The fixed piston action allows the sampling of very soft formations, which may not be retained in conventional samplers. In certain soil formations, the thin wall tube provides the best method to collect an undisturbed sample.

7.3.5 Sampler Extension/Drive Rods—Sampler extension/ drive rods are lengths of rod or tube generally constructed of steel to withstand the pushing or percussion forces applied. Extension drive rods are available in various lengths. Rod lengths should be mated with casing and sampling equipment used. Thread types and classes vary between equipment manufacturers. Rod joints can be sealed to prevent fluid intrusion with "O" rings. Teflon<sup>®</sup> washers or Teflon<sup>®</sup> tape. Because of the percussive effort, joint seals should be checked for each sampling effort. Extension/drive rods should have

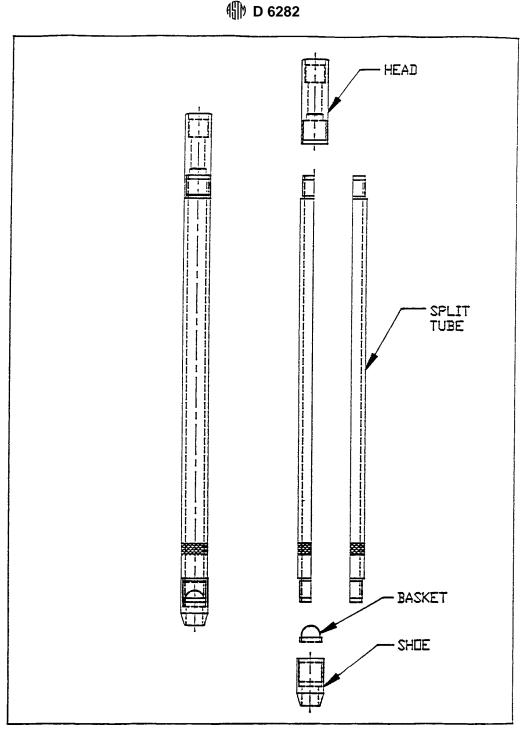


FIG. 4 Split Barrel Sampler, Two Tube System

sufficient inside diameter to accommodate the equipment necessary to perform the desired action.

7.3.6 Sampler Liners—Sampler liners are used to collect and store samples for shipment to laboratories, for field index testing of samples and for removing samples from solid barrel type samplers. Liners are available in plastics, Teflon<sup>®</sup>, brass, and stainless steel. Other materials can be used as testing needs dictate. Liners are available in lengths from 6 in. (152.4 mm) to 5.0 ft (1.53 m). Liner material selection often is based on the chemical composition of liner/soil to minimize sample reaction with liner. Most liner use is short term as samples are subsampled and preserved immediately on site. A general rule for liner selection is stainless steel for organic compounds and plastic for metals. Teflon<sup>(1)</sup> may be required for mixed wastes and for long time storage. Liners should be sealed in accordance with Practice D 4220 when samples are collected for physical testing. Other appropriate procedures must be used when samples are collected for environmental analysis (see Practices D 3694) (**1**, **2**). Liners generally are split in the field for subsampling. Individually split liners are available in some sizes for field use. The liner should have a slightly larger inside diameter than the soil specimen to reduce soil friction and

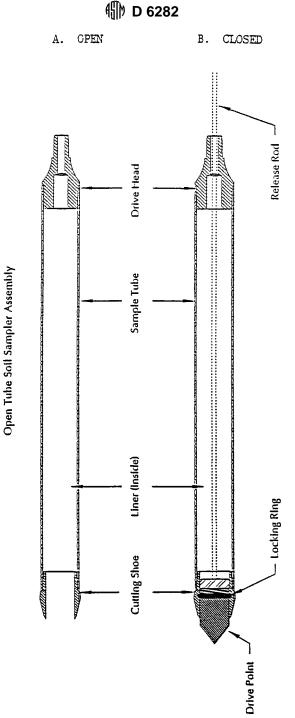


FIG. 5 (A) Open and (B) Closed Piston Sampler Assembly, Single Tube System

enhance recovery. When a slightly oversized liner is used, the potential for air space exists around the sample. Certain chemical samples may be affected by the enclosed air. Liners having less tolerance may be required and a shortened sampled interval used to reduce friction in the liner. Metal liners can be reused after proper cleaning and decontamination. Plastic liners should be disposed of properly after use.

7.3.7 *Sample Containers*—Sample containers should be prescribed according to the anticipated use of the sample specimen. Samples taken for chemical testing may require decontaminated containers with specific preservatives. Practice D 3694 provides information on some of the special containers

and preservation techniques required (1, 2). These containers generally will be decontaminated to specific criteria. Samples for geotechnical testing require certain minimum volumes and specific handling techniques. Practice D 4220 offers guidance for sample handling of samples submitted for physical testing.

7.4 Direct Push Power Sources—Soil probing percussion driving systems, penetrometer drive systems, and rotary drilling equipment may be used to drive casings and direct push soil sampling devices. The equipment should be capable of applying sufficient static force, or dynamic force, or both, to advance the sampler to the required depth to gather the desired sample. The system must have adequate retraction force to

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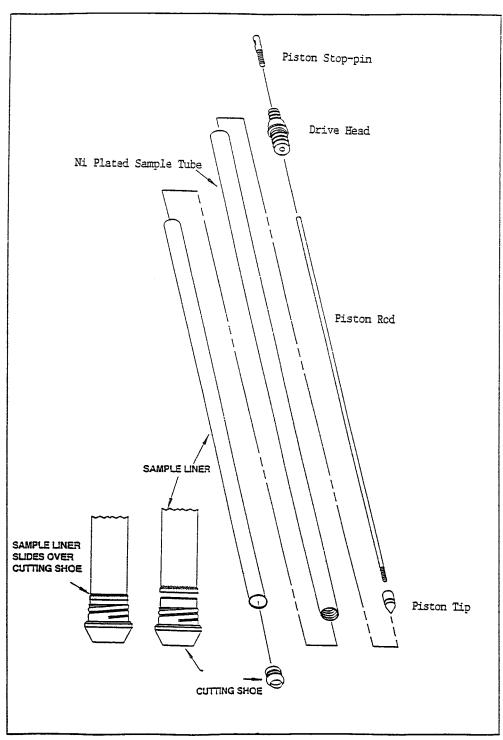


FIG. 6 Sampler Parts, Single Tube System

remove the sampler and extension/drive rods once the selected strata has been penetrated. Rotation of the drill string can be added during insertion, as well as during retraction if the drive system can impart rotation.

7.4.1 *Retraction Force*—The retraction force can be applied by direct mechanical pull back using the hydraulic system of the power source; line pull methods using mechanical or hydraulic powered winches, or cathead and rope windlass type devices. Winches used with direct push technology should have a minimum of 2000 lb (907 kg) top layer rating capacity and a line speed of 400 ft (121.96 m)/min to provide effective tool handling. Direct push sampling tools can be retracted by back pounding using weights similar to those of standard penetration testing practices. Backpounding to recover samples can affect recovery and cause disturbances to the sample. Other forms of extraction, such as jacking, that do not cause undue disturbance to the sample, are preferable.

7.4.2 Percussion Devices-Percussion devices for use with

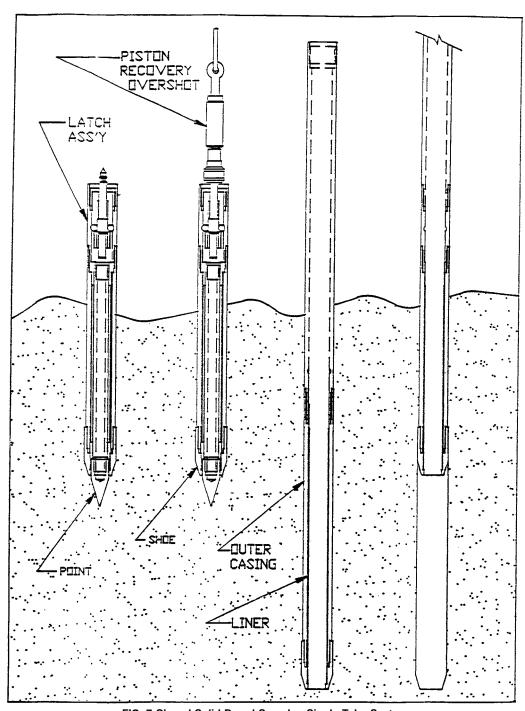


FIG. 7 Closed Solid Barrel Sampler, Single Tube System

direct push methods are hydraulically-operated hammers, airoperated hammers, and mechanically-operated hammers. Hydraulically-operated hammers should have sufficient energy to be effective in moving the samplers through the subsurface strata. The maximum energy application is dependent on the tools used. Hammer energy that exceeds tool tolerance will result in tool damage or loss and will not achieve the goal of collecting high quality samples. Air-operated hammers should be capable of delivering sufficient energy, as well. Hammer systems utilizing hydraulic oil or air should be operated in the range specified by the manufacturer. Manually-operated hammers can be used to advance direct push tools. These hammers can be operated mechanically or manually using cathead and rope. These systems generally involve using 140 lb, standard penetration (see Test Method D 1586) hammers, which can work well for direct push sampling. In operation, these hammers tend to be slower than hydraulic hammers and can cause tool damage if direct push tools are not designed to take the heavy blows associated with these hammers. The hydraulic- and air-operated hammers strike up to 2000 blows/ min. In addition to the energy transferred, the rapid hammer action sets up a vibratory effect, which also aids in penetration.

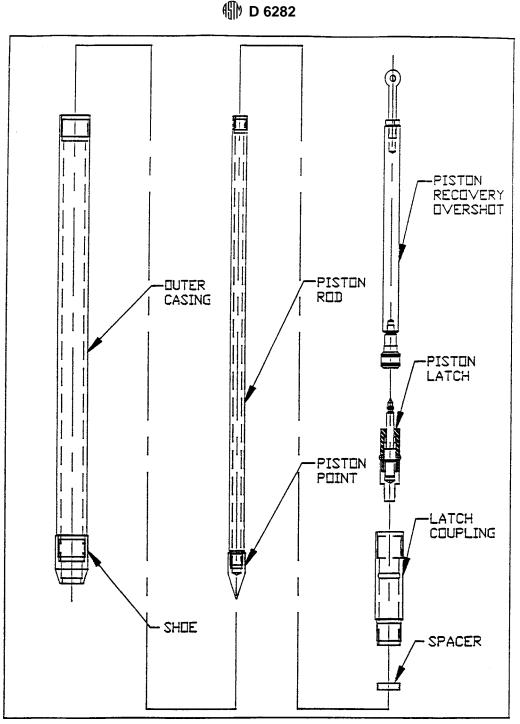


FIG. 8 Closed Solid Barrel Sampler, Single Tube System

This vibratory effect, along with the percussive effort, may disturb some soil samples.

7.4.3 *Static Push Systems*—Cone penetrometer systems are an example of static push systems. They impart energy to the sampler and extension rods by using hydraulic rams to apply pressure. The pressure applied is limited to the reactive weight of the drive vehicle. Retraction of the sampler and extension rods is by static pull from the hydraulic rams.

7.4.4 *Vibratory/Sonic Systems*—These systems utilize a vibratory device, which is attached to the top of the sampler extension rods. Reactive pressure and vibratory action are applied to the sampler extensions moving the sampler into the

formation. In certain formations, sample recovery and formation penetration is expedited; however, all formations do not react the same to vibratory penetration methods.

7.4.4.1 *Sonic or Resonance Drilling Systems*—These are high powered vibratory systems that can be effective in advancing large diameter single or dual tube systems. They generally have depth capabilities beyond the smaller direct push systems.

7.4.5 *Rotary Drilling Equipment*—Direct push systems are readily adaptable to rotary drill units. The drill units offer a ready hydraulic system to operate percussion hammers, as well as reactive weight for static push. Because most drills are

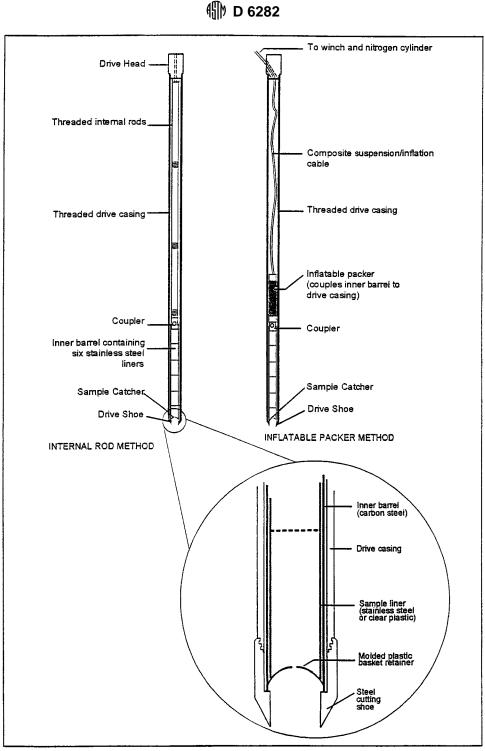
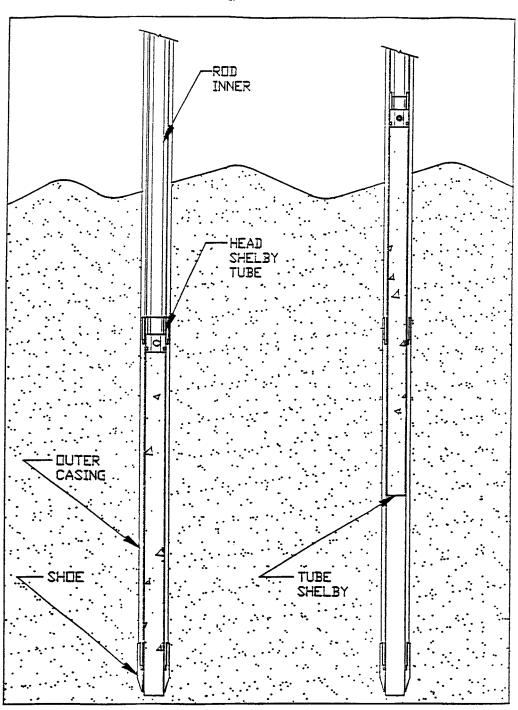


FIG. 9 Sampler Holding Methods, Two Tube System

equipped with leveling jacks, better weight application is achieved. Vertical pushing is improved because of the ability to level the machine. Tool handling is facilitated by high speed winches common to drilling rigs, extended masts for long tool pulls, and longer feed stroke length. Drill units with direct push adaptations also offer drilling techniques should obstacles be encountered while using direct push technology. Large drill units may have reactive weights that can exceed the tool capacity, thereby resulting in damaged tools.

#### 8. Conditioning

8.1 *Decontamination*—Sampling equipment that will contact the soil to be sampled should be cleaned and decontaminated before and after the sampling event. Extension rods should be cleaned prior to each boring to avoid the transfer of contaminants and to ease the connecting of joints. Thread maintenance is necessary to ensure long service life of the tools. Sample liners should be kept in a sealed or clean



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FIG. 10 Thin Wall Tube Sampler, Two Tube System

environment prior to use. Reusable liners should be decontaminated between each use. All ancillary tools used in the sampling process should be cleaned thoroughly, and if contaminants are encountered, decontaminated before leaving the site. It should not be assumed that new tools are clean. They should be cleaned and decontaminated before use. Decontamination should be performed following procedures outlined in Practice D 5088 along with any site safety plans, sampling protocols, or regulatory requirements.

8.2 *Tool Selection*—Prior to dispatch to the project site an inventory of the necessary sampling tools should be made.

Sample liners, containers, sampling tools, and ancillary equipment should be checked to ensure its proper operation for the work program prescribed. Sampling is expedited by having two or more samplers on site. Since samples can be recovered quite fast, a supply of samplers will allow a boring to be completed so other functions can be performed while samples are being processed. A backup tool system adaptable to and within the capabilities of the power source should be available should the original planned method prove unworkable. Materials for proper sealing of boreholes should always be available at the site (5-7).

## 9. Procedure

9.1 While procedures for direct push soil sampling with two common direct push methods are outlined here, other systems may be available. As long as the basic principles of practice relating to sampler construction and use are followed, other systems may be acceptable.

9.2 General Set-Up—Select the boring location and check for underground and overhead utilities and other site obstructions. Establish a reference point on the site for datum measurements, and set the direct push unit over the boring location. Stabilize and level the unit, raise the drill mast or frame into the drilling position, and attach the hammer assembly to the drill head if not permanently attached. Attach the anvil assembly in the prescribed manner, slide the direct push unit into position over the borehole, save a portion of the sliding distance for alignment during tool advancement, and ready the tools for insertion.

9.2.1 *Tool Preparation*—Inspect the direct push tools before using, and clean and decontaminate as necessary. Inspect drive shoes for damaged cutting edges, dents, or thread failures as these conditions can cause loss of sample recovery and slow the advancement rate. Where permissible, lubricate rod joints with appropriate safe products, and check impact surfaces for cracks or other damage that could result in failure during operations. Assemble samples and install where required, install sample retainers where needed, and install and secure sampler pistons to ensure proper operation where needed.

9.2.2 Sample Processing-Sample processing should follow a standard procedure to ensure quality control procedures are completed. View sample in the original sampling device, if possible. Open the sampling device with care to keep disturbance to a minimum. When using liners or thin wall tubes, protect ends to prevent samples from falling out or being disturbed by movement within the liner. Measure recovery accurately, containerize as specified in the work plan or applicable ASTM procedures, and label recovered samples with sufficient information for proper identification. When collecting samples for volatile chemical analysis, sample specimens must be contained and preserved as soon as possible to prevent loss of these components. Follow work plan instructions or other appropriate documents (see Practice D 3694) when processing samples collected for chemical analysis.

## 9.3 Two Tube System:

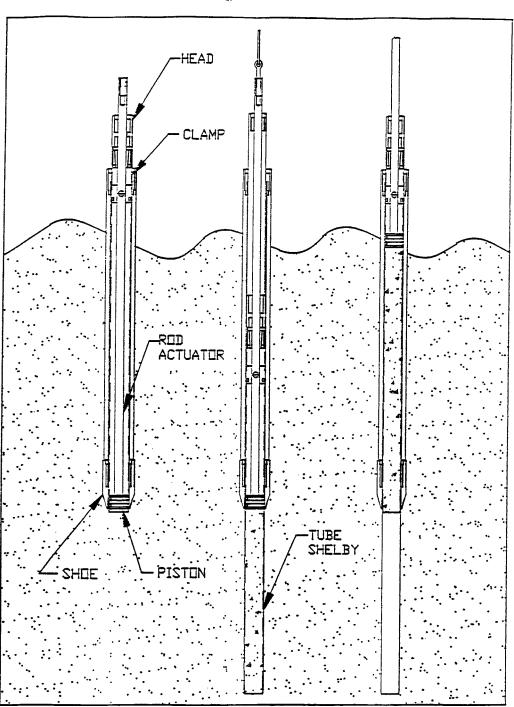
9.3.1 Split Barrel Sampling (see Fig. 1)—Assemble the outer casing with the drive shoe on the bottom, attach the drive head to the top of the outer casing, and attach the sampler to the extension rods. Connect the drive head to the top of the sampler extension rods, and insert the sampler assembly into the outer casing. The sampler cutting shoe should contact the soil ahead of the outer casing to prevent unnecessary sample disturbance. The split spoon cutting shoe should extend a minimum of 0.25 in. (6.25 mm) ahead of the outer casing. Greater extensions may improve recovery in soft formations. Mark the outer casing and sampler assembly under the drill head, and move the drill head downward to bring pressure on the tool string. If soil conditions allow, advance the sampler/

casing assembly into the soil at a steady rate slow enough to allow the soil to be cut by the shoe and move up inside the sample barrel. If advancement is too rapid, it can result in loss of recovery because of soil friction in the shoe. Occasional hammer action during the push may help recovery by agitating the sample surface. If soil conditions prevent smooth static push advancement, activate the hammer to advance the sampler. Apply a continuous pressure while hammering to expedite soil penetration. The pressure required is controlled by subsurface conditions. Applications of excessive down pressure may result in the direct push unit being shifted off the borehole causing misalignment with possible tool damage. Stop the hammer at completion of advancement of the measured sampling barrel length. Release the pressure and move the drill head off the drive head. Attach a pulling device to the extension rods or position the hammer bail and retrieve the sampler from the borehole. At the surface remove the sampler from the extension rods and process. Soil classification is accomplished easily using split barrel samplers as the specimen is available readily for viewing, physical inspection and subsampling when the barrel is opened. Clean, decontaminate, and reassemble the sampler. Reattach the sampler to the extension rod, add the necessary extension rod and outer casing to reach the next sampling interval, and sound the borehole for free water before each sample interval. If water is present, it may be necessary to change sampling tools. Unequal pressure inside the casing may result in blow-in of material disturbing the soil immediately below the casing. Lower the sampler to its proper position, add the drive heads, and repeat the procedure. If it is desired that the pass through certain strata without sampling, install an extension rod point in lieu of the sampler. When the sampling interval is reached, remove the point and install the sampler. Advance the sampler as described. Upon completion of the borehole, remove the outer casing after instrumentation has been set or as the borehole is sealed as described in Section 10 (6).

## 9.3.2 Two Tube System—Other Samplers:

9.3.2.1 Thin Wall Tubes-Thin wall tubes (see Fig. 10) can be used with the dual tube system. Attach the tube to the tube head using removable screws. Attach the tube assembly to the extension rods and position at the base of the outer casing shoe protruding a minimum of 0.25 in. (6.25 mm) to contact the soil ahead of the outer casing. Advance the tube, with or without the outer casing, at a steady rate similar to the requirements of Practice D 1587. At completion of the advancement interval, let the tube remain stationary for 1 min. Rotate the tube slowly two revolutions to shear off the sample. Remove the tube from the borehole, measure recovery, and classify soil. The thin wall tube can be field extruded for on-site analysis or sealed in accordance with Practice D 4220 and sent to the laboratory for processing. Samples for environmental testing generally require the subsampling and preservation of samples in controlled containers. Soil samples generally are removed from the sampling device for storage and shipping. Thin wall tubes should be cleaned and decontaminated before and after use.

9.3.2.2 *Thin Wall Tube Piston Sampler (see Fig. 11)*— Check the fixed piston sampling equipment for proper operation of the cone clamping assembly and the condition of the



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FIG. 11 Fixed Piston Sampler, Two Tube System

sealing "O" rings. Slide the thin wall tube over the piston, and attach it to the tube head. Position the piston at the sharpened end of the thin wall tube just above the sample relief bend. Attach the sampler assembly to the extension rods, and lower the sampler into position through the outer casing. Install the actuator rods through the extension rod, and attach to the actuator rod in the sampler assembly. Attach a holding ring to the top of the actuator rod string, and hook the winch cable or other hook to the holding ring to hold the actuator rods in a fixed position. Attach the pushing fork to the drill head/probe hammer, and slowly apply downward pressure to the extension rods advancing the thin wall tube over the fixed piston into the soil for the sample increment. Rest sampler 1 min to allow sample to conform to tube. Rotate tube one revolution to shear off sample. Remove sampler assembly from borehole and process sample (6).

9.3.2.3 *Open Solid Barrel Samplers*—Use solid barrel samplers in advance of the outer casing where the soil conditions could cause swelling of split barrel samplers, or where friction against the outer casing precludes its advancement and sampling must still be accomplished. The solid, single, or segmented barrel sampler requires the use of liners for removal of

the sample. The sampler must be cleaned and decontaminated before use. Use of the sampler follows the procedure described in 9.3.1.

#### 9.4 Single Tube System:

9.4.1 Open Solid Barrel Sampler (see Figs. 5 and 6)-Attached the required liner to the cutting shoe by insertion into the machined receptacle area or by sliding over the machined tube. Insert the liner and shoe into the solid barrel, and attach the shoe (6, 8-11). Attach the sampler head to the sampler barrel providing a backing plate for the liner. Attach the sampler assembly to the drive rod and the drive head to the drive rod. Position the assembly under the hammer anvil and advanced as described in 9.3.1. At completion of the sampling increment, remove the sampler from the borehole. Remove the filled sample liner from the barrel by unscrewing the shoe, cap the liner for laboratory testing or spit open for field processing, and advance the borehole by repeating the procedure. Because the solid barrel cannot be opened for cleaning, it may require more effort for cleaning and decontamination. The open solid barrel sampler is used in soil formations that have sufficient wall strength to maintain a borehole wall without sloughing or cave-in. In soil formations not affording such structure, other sampling methods may be required or the opening sealed. To enhance recovery in some soil strata, it may be necessary to vary the length of the sampling increment. Shorter increments generally improve recovery because of lower sample friction and compression inside the sampler chamber. Sample recovery can be enhanced in some formations by intermittent use of the percussion hammer (6, 8, 10, 11).

9.4.2 Closed Solid Barrel Sampler (see Figs. 5-7, Fig. 11)—Insert or attach the sample liner to the shoe, and insert the assembly into the solid barrel sampler. Install sample retaining basket if desired. Attach the latch coupling or sampler head to the sampler barrel, and attach the piston assembly with point and" O<sup>"</sup> rings if free water is present, to the latching mechanism or holder. Insert the piston or packer into the liner to its proper position so the point leads the sampler shoe. Set latch, charge packer, or install locking pin, and attach assembled sampler to drive rod. Add drive head and position under the hammer anvil. Apply down pressure, hammer if needed, to penetrate soil strata above the sampling zone. When the sampling zone is reached, insert the piston latch release and recovery tool, removing the piston, or insert the locking pin removal/extension rods through the drive rods, turn counterclockwise, and remove the piston locking pin so the piston can float on top of the sample, or release any other piston holding device. Direct push or activate the hammer to advance the sampler the desired increment. Retrieve the sampler from the borehole by withdrawing the extension/drive rods. Remove the shoe, and withdraw the sample liner with sample for processing. Clean and decontaminate the sampler, reload as described, and repeat the procedure. Extreme stress is applied to the piston when driving through dense soils. If the piston releases prematurely, the sample will not be recovered from the correct interval, and a resample attempt must be made. The piston sampler can be used as a re-entry grouting tool for sealing boreholes on completion if it is equipped with a removable piston (5, 6, 7, 10, 11).

9.4.3 Standard Split Barrel Sampler—Attach the split spoon to an extension rod or drill rod. Using a mechanical or hydraulic hammer drive the sampler into the soil the desired increment, as long as that increment does not exceed the sampler chamber length. Remove the sampler from the borehole, disassemble, and process sample. Standard split barrel samplers can be used, as long as borehole wall integrity can be maintained and the additional friction can be overcome. If caving or sloughing occurs, the sampler tip should be sealed or other sampling tools used (9).

9.5 *Quality Control*:

9.5.1 *Quality Control*—Quality control measures are necessary to ensure that sample integrity is maintained and that project data quality objectives are accomplished. By following good engineering principles and applying common sense, reliable site characterizations can be accomplished.

9.5.2 *Water Checks*—Water seeping into the direct push casing or connecting rods from contaminated zones may influence testing results. Periodically check for ground water before inserting samplers into borehole or into outer casings in the two tube system. If water is encountered, it may be necessary to switch to the sealed piston type samplers to protect sample integrity. Sealed piston type samples may not always be water tight. Sealing of rod or casing joints can prevent ground water from entering through the joints.

9.5.3 *Datum Points*—Establishment of a good datum reference is essential to providing reliable sample interval depths and elevators. Select datum reference points that are sufficiently protected from the work effort, and that can be located for future reference. Field measurements should be to 0.1 ft (3.05 mm). Measure extension rods as the bore advances to locate sample depth. Mark rods before driving each sample interval to determine accurate measurement of sample recovery and to accurately log borehole depth.

9.5.4 *Sample Recovery*—Sample recovery should be monitored closely and results documented. Poor recovery could indicate a change in sampling method is needed, that improper sampling practices are being conducted, or that sampling tools are incorrect. Sample recovery involves both volume and condition. Poor sample recovery should cause an immediate review of the sampling program.

9.5.5 *Decontamination*—Follow established decontamination procedures. Taking shortcuts may result in erroneous or suspect data.

#### **10.** Completion and Sealing

10.1 *Completion*—For boreholes receiving permanent monitoring devices, completion should be in accordance with Practice D 5092, site work plan, or regulatory requirements.

10.2 *Borehole Sealing*—Seal direct push boreholes to minimize preferential pathways for containment migration. Additional information and guidance on borehole sealing can be found in Guide D 6001 and in Guide D 5299. State or local regulations may control both the method and the materials for borehole sealing. Regulations generally direct bottom up borehole sealing as it is the surest and most permanent method for complete sealing. High pressure grouting is available for use with direct push technology for bottom up borehole sealing.

10.2.1 Sealing by Slurry, Two Tube System-Sound the

borehole for free water. If water exists in the casing, place the extension rods, open-ended, to the bottom of the outer casing, as a tremie. Mix the slurry to standard specifications prescribed by regulation or work plan. Pump slurry through the extension/ drive rod until it appears at the surface of the outer casing. Remove the extension rods. If no free water exists in the borehole, the slurry can be placed by gravity. Top off the outer casing as it is removed from the borehole.

10.2.1.1 *Slurry Mixes*—Slurry mixes used for slurry grouting of direct push boreholes generally are of lower viscosity because of the small diameter tremie pipes required. Usable mixes are 6 to 8 gal (22.7 to 30.28 L) of water/94-lb (42.64-kg) bag of cement with 5 lb (2.27 kg) of bentonite or 24 to 36 gal (90.84 to 136.28 L) of water to 50 lb (22.68 kg) of bentonite.

10.2.2 Sealing by Gravity—Two Tube System—Measure the cased hole to ensure it is open to depth. Slowly add bentonite chips or granular bentonite to fill the casing approximately 2 ft. Withdraw the casing 2 ft and recheck depth. Hydrate the bentonite by adding water. Repeat this procedure as the outer casing is withdrawn. The bentonite must be below the bottom of the casing during hydration. Wetness inside the rods may affect the flow of granular bentonite to the bottom of the casing. Fill the top foot of the borehole with material that is the same as exists in that zone.

10.2.3 Borehole Sealing Single Tube System:

10.2.3.1 *Gravity Sealing from Surface*—If the soil strata penetrated has sufficient wall strength to maintain an open hole, then it may be possible to add sealing materials from the surface. Dry bentonite chips or granular bentonite can be placed by gravity. The borehole volume should be determined and the borehole sounded every 10 ft (3 m) to ensure bridging has not occurred. The bentonite should be hydrated by adding approximately 1 pt (0.57 L) of water for each 5 ft of filled borehole. Seal the surface with native material.

10.2.3.2 Wet Grout Mix Tremie Sealing—Tremie sealing methods can be used with single tube systems when borehole wall strength is sufficient to maintain an open hole or when extension rods with an expendable point are used to reenter the borehole. The grout pipe should be inserted immediately after the direct push tools are withdrawn or through the annulus of the extension rods that have been reinserted down the borehole for grouting. Care must be taken to not plug the end of the grout pipe. Side discharge grout pipes also can be used to prevent plugging.

10.2.4 *Re-Entry Grouting*—If the borehole walls are not stable, the borehole can be re-entered by static pushing grouting tools, such as an expendable point attached to the extension/drive rods to the bottom of the original borehole. Pump a slurry through the rods as they are withdrawn. High pressure grouting equipment may be beneficial in pumping standard slurry mixes through small diameter gravity pipes. Care must be taken to ensure the original borehole is being sealed.

## 11. Record Keeping

11.1 *Field Report*—The field report may consist of boring log or a report of the sampling event and a description of the sample. Soil samples can be classified in accordance with Practice D 2488 or other methods as required for the investigation (12). Prepare the log in accordance with standards set in Guide D 5434 listing the parameters required for the field investigation program. List all contaminants identified, instrument readings taken, and comments on sampler advancement. Record any special field tests performed and sample processing procedures beyond those normally used in the defined investigation. Record borehole sealing procedures, materials used, and mix formulas on the boring log. Survey or otherwise locate the boring site to provide a permanent record of its replacement.

11.2 *Backfilling Record*—Record the method of sealing, materials used, and volume of materials placed in each borehole. This information can be added to the field boring log or recorded on a separate abandonment form.

#### 12. Keywords

12.1 decontamination; direct push; ground water; sealing; soil sampling

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