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Standard Practice for Installation of Chain-Link Fence¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F567; 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 (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This practice covers the installation procedure for chain-link fence.

1.2 This practice is intended primarily to guide those responsible for or concerned with the installation of chain-link fence.

1.3 This practice does not intend to preclude any practice that has proven equal to or given better performance under varying conditions, that is, location, weather, intended use, materials, etc.

1.4 The values stated in inch-pound units are to be regarded as standard. The values given in parentheses are mathematical conversions to SI units that are provided for information only and are not considered standard.

1.5 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety problems, 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.* For specific precautionary statements, see Section 13.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards:*²

F626 [Specification for Fence Fittings](#)

F654 [Specification for Residential Chain Link Fence Gates](#)

F900 [Specification for Industrial and Commercial Swing Gates](#)

F1184 [Specification for Industrial and Commercial Horizontal Slide Gates](#)

3. Site Preparation

3.1 The purchaser shall indicate the location of fence lines, gates, and terminal posts with suitable stakes. Stake intervals shall not exceed 500 ft (152.5 m) or line of sight.

3.2 All underground utility locations, USC&G benchmarks, property monuments, and other underground structures shall be indicated by the purchaser.

3.3 Before installing chain-link fence, all necessary site clearing and grading shall be performed by the purchaser. Adequate clearance on both sides of the fence line is required.

4. Post Location

4.1 Space line posts equidistant at intervals not exceeding 10 ft (3.05 m). Measure the interval parallel to the grade of the proposed fence and in the line of fence from center to center of the post.

4.2 Set terminal posts (end, corner, and gate) at the beginning and end of each continuous length of fence and at abrupt changes in vertical and horizontal alignments.

5. Post Setting

5.1 Set posts in concrete in holes of diameter and depth as follows. Intended use and local conditions shall determine post footing dimensions; that is, under normal conditions the diameter shall be four times the largest cross section of the post up to a 4 in. (101.5 mm) outside diameter and three times for larger outside diameters. The depth shall be a minimum of 24 in. (609.6 mm) plus an additional 3 in. (76.2 mm) for each 1-ft (305-mm) increase in the fence height over 4 ft (1.22 m) to a maximum total of 60 in. (1525 mm) for a fence height up to 20 ft. (6.10 m).

5.2 Dig or drill holes in the line of the fence in accordance with 5.1. Forms are not necessary.

5.3 Set posts in a vertical position, plumb and in line. Backfill concrete (2500 psi) (17.2 MPa) into the excavation and extend

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

2 in. (50 mm) above grade. An alternative method is to stop footing 6 in. (152.4 mm) below grade to allow for cover with sod, black top, or other materials if the footings are not in an area subject to cathodic protection. In either case, crown the concrete at its top to shed water and slope a minimum of 2 in. (50.8 mm) away from the post.

5.4 The use of mechanical devices for the setting of fence posts is acceptable under this practice, provided the mechanical strength in the ground is equal or superior to the strength developed by the concrete footing as recommended.

5.5 When solid rock or concrete is encountered, without an overburden of soil, set posts in the solid rock or concrete. The depth of the hole shall be three times the largest cross section of the posts. The diameter of the hole shall be ½ in. (13 mm) greater than the largest cross section of the post.

5.6 The use of sleeves in order to leave voids in new concrete construction is recommended.

5.7 Half-fill the void with nonshrinkable hydraulic cement and force post to the bottom of the hole and plumb. Thoroughly work additional grout into the hole so as to leave no voids. Crown the grout to shed water.

5.8 Drive posts are to be driven by mechanical means to a minimum depth of 36 in. (914.4 mm) or 6 in. (152.4 mm) greater than that called for in 5.1, for the height of fence.

5.9 Where soil conditions are unstable or rock is encountered, the drive post embedment must be altered to maintain stability. The depth should be in keeping with standard fence construction practices for the local area or refer to 5.5.

5.10 The post tops must be protected to prevent distortion of the exposed end. The use of a drive cap is recommended.

5.11 *Residential Swing Gate Posts:*

5.11.1 See Table 1.

5.12 *Industrial and Commercial Swing Gate Posts:*

5.12.1 See Table 2.

5.13 *Cantilever Slide Gate Posts (Specification F1184, Type II)*—Refer to Specification F1184, Type II Cantilever Slide Gates, for post setting requirements.

5.14 *Overhead Slide Gate Posts (Specification F1184, Type I)*—Refer to Specification F1184, Type I Overhead Slide Gates, for post setting requirements.

6. Terminal Post Bracing

~~6.1 No braces are required on fabric 6 ft (1.83 m) high or less where the top rail is specified. On all fabric over 6 ft, braces are required. On fabric over 12 ft (3.66 m) in height, a center rail is required; regardless of height, all fences installed without a top rail shall have braces on all terminals. Bracing and Middle Rail~~

6.1 No braces are required on fabric 6 ft (1.83 m) high or less where the top rail is specified. On all fabric over 6 ft, braces are required. With fabric equal to or greater than 12 ft (3.66 m) in height, a middle rail is recommended and required when specified. Braces are required on all terminals regardless of height, on fences installed without a top rail.

6.2 Securely fasten diagonal braces to the terminal post and the adjacent line post or its footing or a footing of equal size. There shall be no more than a 50° angle between the brace and the ground. Securely fasten horizontal braces with truss rods to the adjacent line post and terminal posts.

6.3 When the top rail is used, attach the brace at the halfway point of the terminal post above grade and, when the top rail is omitted, at the two-thirds point above grade.

7. Top Rail and Tension Wire

7.1 Support the top rail at each post so that a continuous brace from end to end of each stretch of fence is formed. Securely fasten the top rail to the terminal posts and join with sleeves or coupling to allow for expansion and contraction.

7.2 When the top rail is omitted, stretch a tension wire from end to end of each stretch of fence at a height that will enable it to be fastened to the fabric within the top 1 ft (305 mm) of the chain-link fabric. If specified, fasten the bottom tension wire within the bottom 6 in. (150 mm) of fabric. Securely fasten the tension wire to the terminal posts. The tension wire shall be taut and free of sag.

8. Tie Wires and Clips

8.1 Tie wires, or clips, or both, for attaching chain link fabric to round tubular or rectangular roll-formed rails and intermediate posts shall be as specified in Specification F626.

8.2 Irrespective of the type of tie or clip utilized, it is critical to the integrity of the fence system to assure that they are installed properly.

TABLE 1 Minimum Requirements for Setting Residential Gate Posts

Gate Leaf Width	Height	Post Size Specification	Size of Hole			
			Diameter		Depth	
			Dirt	Solid Rock or Concrete	Dirt	Solid Rock or Concrete
4 ft (1.2 m) or less	6 ft (1.8 m) or less	Table 2	8 in. (203 mm)	Post O.D. + ½ in.	30 in. (762 mm)	Post O.D. × 3
Over 4 ft (1.2 m)	6 ft (1.8 m) or less	Table 3	10 in. (254 mm)	Post O.D. + ½ in.	30 in. (762 mm)	Post O.D. × 3
Up to 6 ft (1.8 m)						