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Developing a standard of practice for GCLs

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A standard of practice presents guidelines for the actual design, specification, shipment, and installation of a material. Standards of practice for geosynthetic materials can be valuable to engineers, due to the current lack of national design standards for such products.

Since its inception in 1984, ASTM Committee D-35 on Geosynthetics has focused on the development of index and performance specifications for geosynthetic applications. The index tests are intended for manufacturer quality control and for limited conformance tests performed by the user. Performance tests produce actual numerical values that can be used to design for specific applications. These index and performance tests have emerged after varying degrees of debate over their detail, but not their form.

ASTM Committee D-35 is beginning to develop standards of practice that may play a more significant role in how designers implement the actual design process for geosynthetics. Thus, a standard of practice will de-