

Thank you for purchasing the LANDLOK<sup>®</sup> Turf Reinforcement Mat (TRM) by Propex Operating Company, LLC (Propex). This document provides installation and maintenance guidelines for LANDLOK used as slope armoring to increase earthen slope resiliency. LANDLOK provides permanent erosion protection on either the flood side and/ or protected side of an earthen slope.

Temporary securing pins (pins) are used during installation to hold LANDLOK in place. Pins also promote vegetation establishment keeping LANDLOK in intimate contact with the soil.

LANDLOK is an engineered solution with a unique design for each specific project. While Propex has made every effort to ensure general validity, this information should not be used for a specific application without independent professional examination and verification of its suitability, applicability, and accuracy. The information provided herein is for general information only, and is intended to present installation guidance. Project specific contract documents take precedence when pin placements are different than what is represented in this document. Depending upon the critical nature of the structure to be armored, work restrictions may be in place such as limiting work based on growing seasons, weather patterns, etc. Work should be performed under the provisions set forth for the specific project. Propex Engineering Services is available for support during installation to consult for solving constructability issues encountered in specific applications. Please feel free to call our technical support hotline at (423) 553-2450.

## **BEFORE INSTALLATION BEGINS**

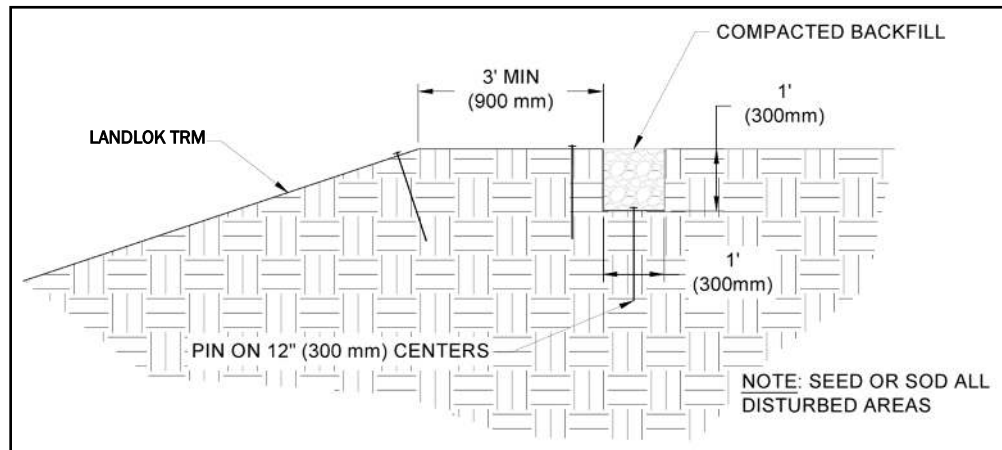
- *Coordinate with a Propex Representative:* A pre-construction meeting is suggested with the construction team and a representative from Propex. This meeting should be scheduled by the contractor with at least a two week notice.
- *Gather the Tools Needed:* Tools that you will need to install LANDLOK include a pair of industrial shears to cut LANDLOK, tape measure, and mallet or hammer.
- *Determine how to Establish Vegetation:* The method of vegetation establishment should be determined prior to the start of installation. Different vegetation establishment methods require different orders of installation. Refer to *Establish Vegetation* for further guidance.

## **INSTALLATION OF LANDLOK ON SLOPES**

### **PREPARE THE SITE**

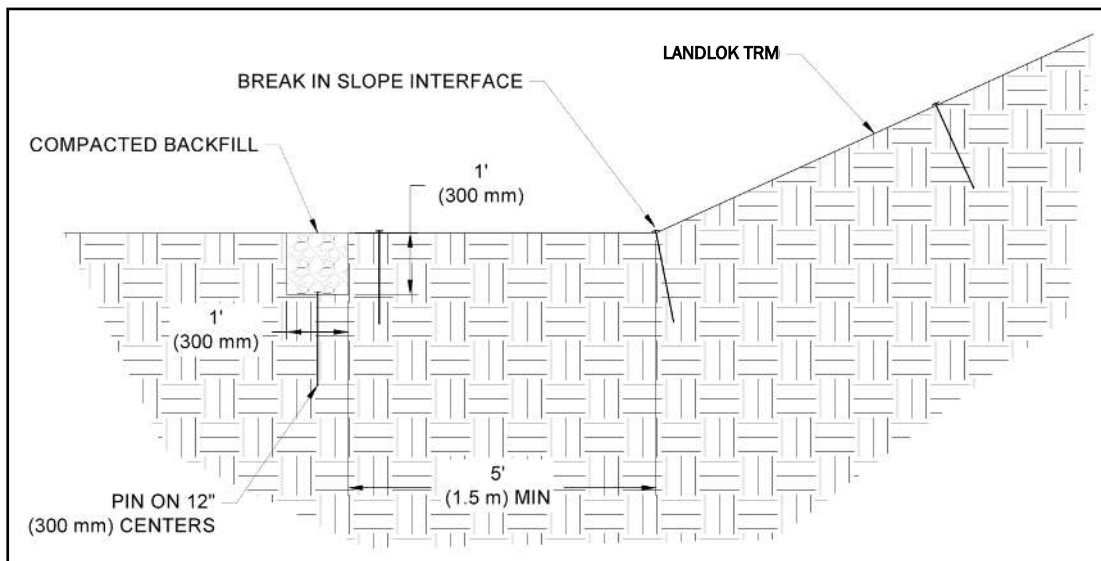
It is recommended during all stages of site preparation that disturbed soils remain unprotected for not more than a single day. Depending on project size this may require progressive site preparation during installation.

1. Grade and compact the area on the slope where LANDLOK will be installed. The slope surface should be uniform and smooth, having all rocks, clods, vegetation or other objects removed so that during *LANDLOK Laydown*, LANDLOK comes in direct, intimate contact with the slope surface.
2. Prepare the area to be armored with LANDLOK by loosening the topsoil to promote better vegetation establishment. This may be accomplished with a rotary tiller on slopes 3:1 or flatter. For slopes greater than 3:1, prepare topsoil in a safe manner.
3. Excavate a Crest of Slope (COS) trench 12 in x 12 in (300 mm x 300 mm) minimum at a distance of 3 ft (900 mm) from the crest of the slope. (Figure 1).



**Figure 1: Crest of Slope (COS) Trench**

4. Excavate a Toe of Slope (TOS) trench 12 in x 12 in (300 mm x 300 mm) minimum at a minimum distance of 5 ft (1.5 m) from the toe of the slope. (Figure 2)
5. If seeding, refer to *Vegetation Establishment* for additional considerations during site preparation.

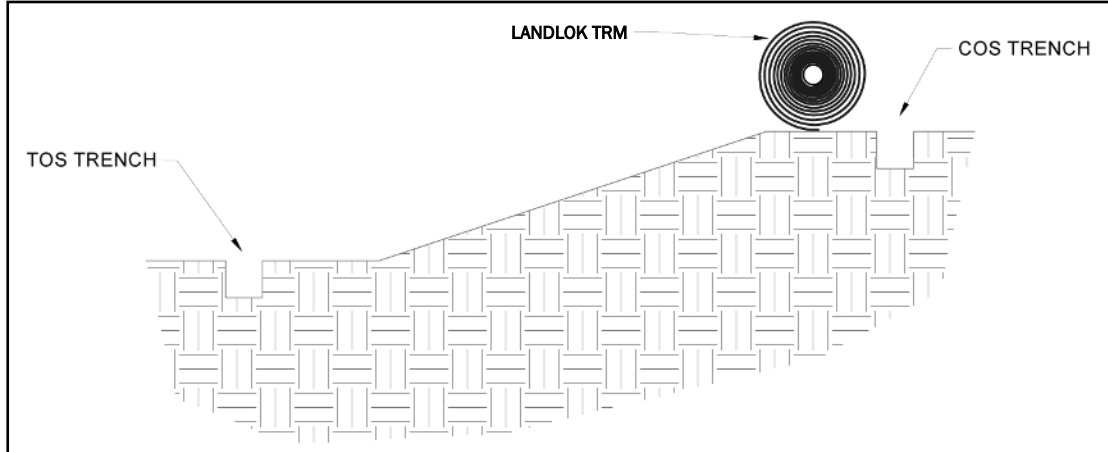


**Figure 2: Toe of Slope (TOS) Trench**

## LANDLOK LAYDOWN

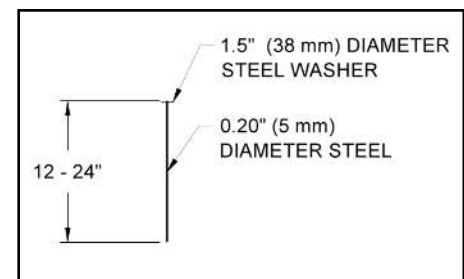
1. Begin the LANDLOK laydown process by starting with the downstream / downwind end of the site. To ensure proper pining of the overlapped areas the proceeding roll width must be laid out before the current roll width can be pinned with exception to the final roll width. For straight sections of a slope, LANDLOK panel lengths should be long enough to construct COS and TOS trenches while also covering the surface of the slope being armored (Figure 12). Panel edges should rest approximately perpendicular to the slope center line. For best results, panels of LANDLOK should be continuous and free from seams or roll end overlaps that are parallel to the centerline of the slope. Panel edge overlapping should follow a pattern of placing each proceeding panel's edge overtop the previous panel edge, shingling the panels in the direction of the water flow or prevailing wind.

- Starting at the COS trench, lay LANDLOK roll so that the roll ends point towards the crest of the slope (Figure 3), with a 3 inch (75 mm) overlap created at adjacent panel edge locations. Ensure that adjacent panel edges maintain a minimum 3 inch overlap during LANDLOK laydown. (Figure 8)



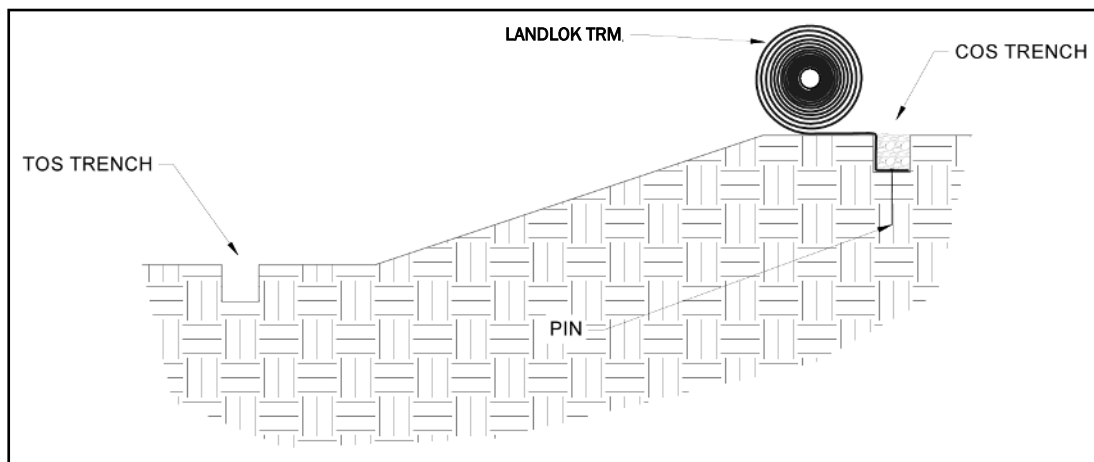
**Figure 3: Crest of Slope (COS) Trench Alignment**

- Secure LANDLOK with pins in the COS trench. Pins should be made of steel with a 0.20 in (5 mm) minimum diameter, having a 1.5 in (38mm) diameter washer at the head, and a length between 12 and 24 in (300-600 mm) with sufficient ground penetration to resist pullout (Figure 4). Longer pins may be required for looser soils. Heavier metal stakes may be required in rocky soils. Suggested placement of pins for the COS trench is along the bottom of the trench with pins on 12 in (300 mm) centers. Pins should also be installed on panel edge overlaps in the COS trench.



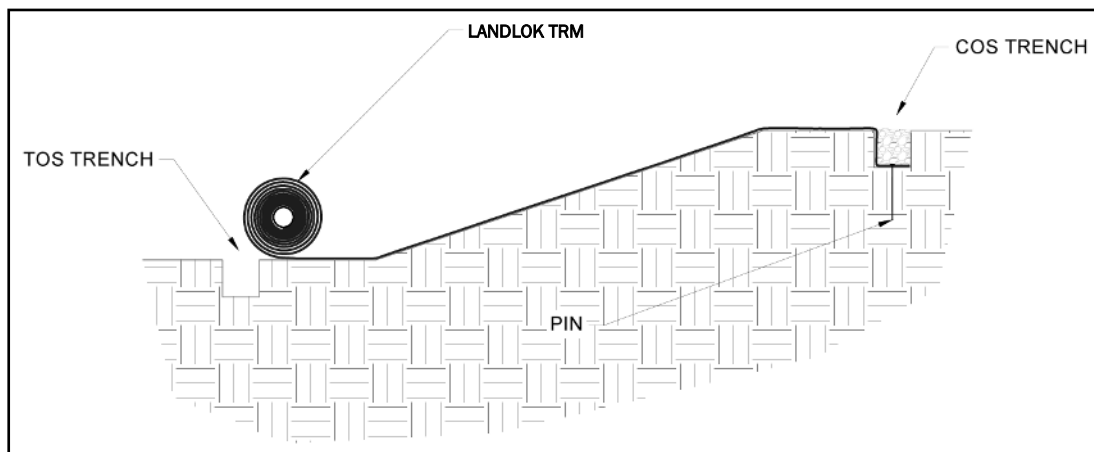
**Figure 4: Securing Pin**

- Backfill and compact the COS trench in the location of the first LANDLOK panel only (Figure 5).



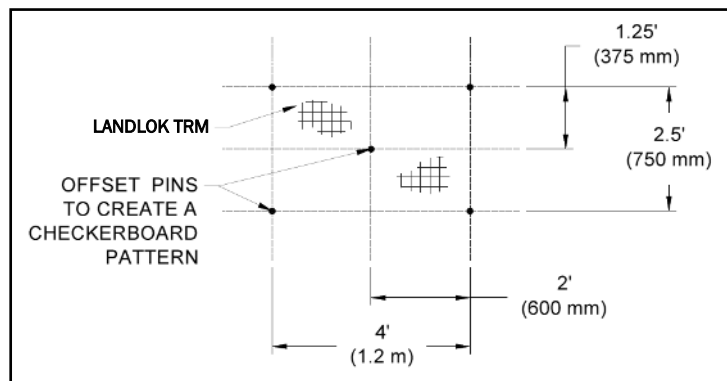
**Figure 5: Crest of Slope (COS) Trench Placement**

5. Unroll the LANDLOK roll on the slope surface in the area to be armored (Figure 6). Ensure that LANDLOK has intimate contact with the ground and all irregular surfaces beneath LANDLOK are removed.



**Figure 6: Placement of LANDLOK across Slope**

6. Secure LANDLOK panels in place using pins across the slope surface according to the project's engineered design. Pin placement should reflect a staggered checkerboard pattern across the slope surface for best results (Figure 7 and Figure 8).
  - The leading edge of the first LANDLOK panel should be secured on the Slope Armoring Edge (SAE) with pins on 12 in (300 mm) centers.
  - Roll edges shall be overlapped a minimum of 3 in (75 mm) with pins placed on 12 in (300 mm) centers (Figure 8).
  - Roll ends shall be overlapped a minimum of 6 in (150 mm) with upstream / upwind panel on top. Secure roll end overlaps with two rows of pins staggered 6 in (150 mm) apart on 12 in (300 mm) centers (Figure 9)
  - For slope lengths greater than 45 ft (13.7 m), install simulated check slots. This method includes placing two rows of pins 12 in (300 mm) apart on 12 in (300 mm) centers at 45 ft (13.7 m) maximum intervals or across the midpoint of the slope for slope lengths less than 60 ft (18.2 m) (Figure 10).
  - At the break in slope interface towards the TOS, it is suggested that pins be installed on 4 ft (1.2 m) centers (Figure 11).



**Figure 7: Example Pin Pattern**

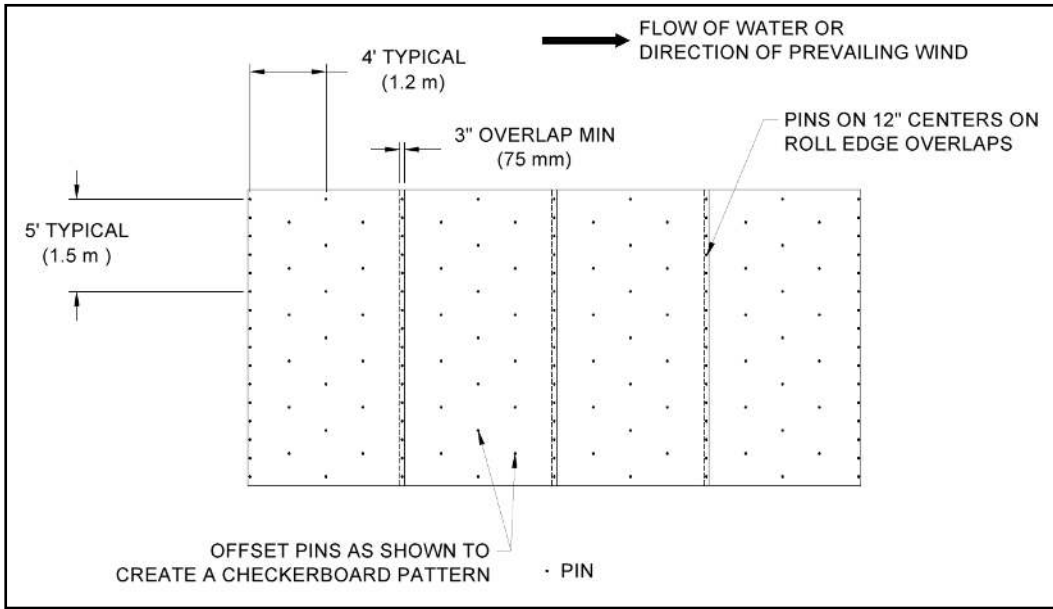


Figure 8: Example of Panel Overlap

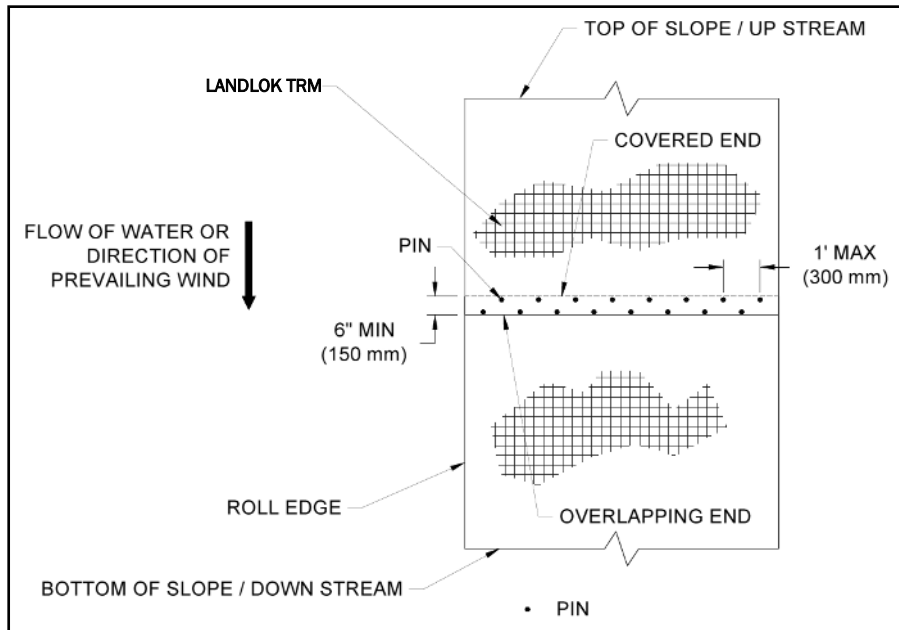
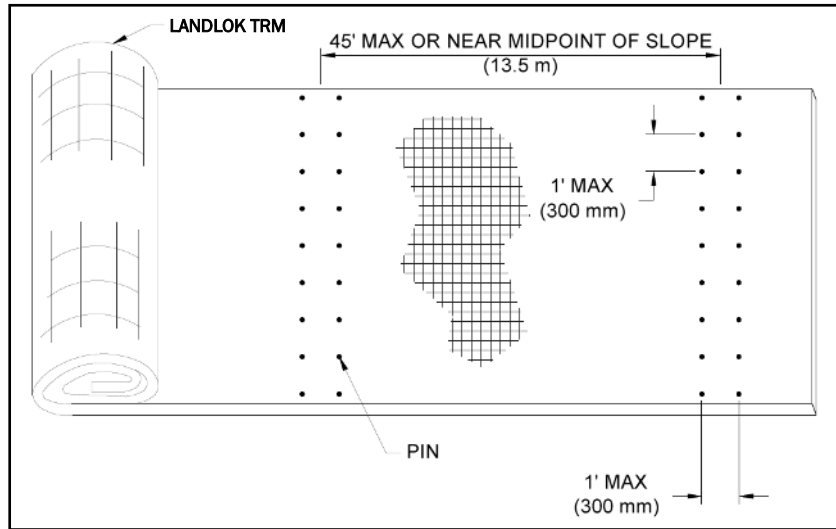
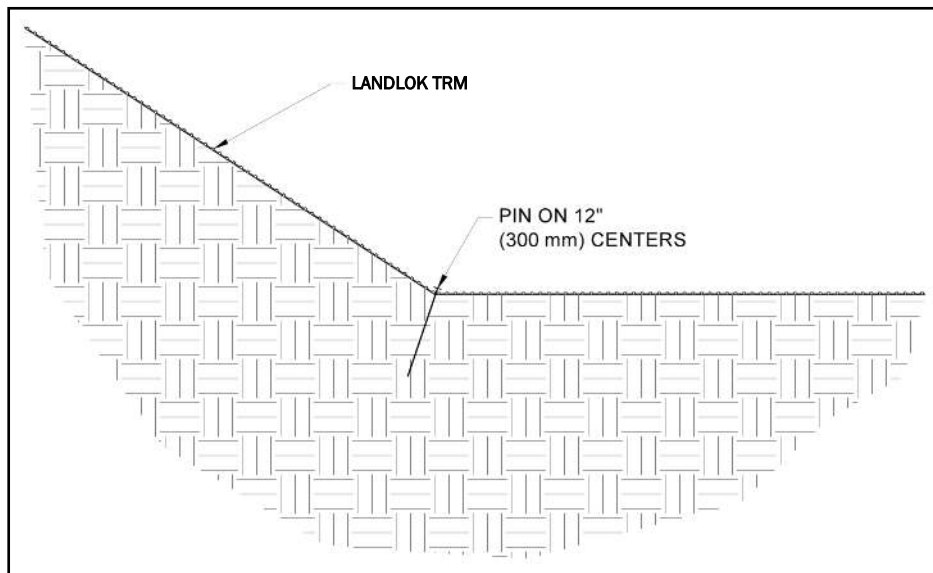


Figure 9: Roll End Overlap

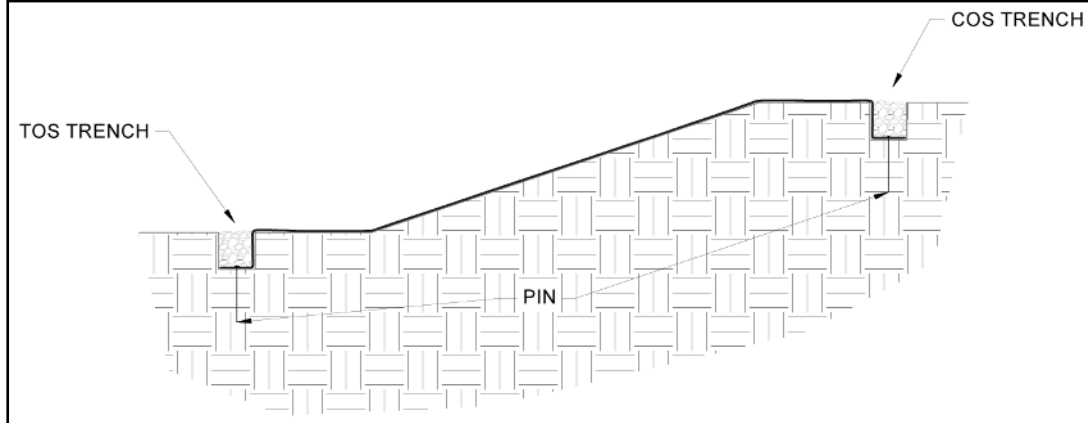


**Figure 10: Simulated Check Slot**



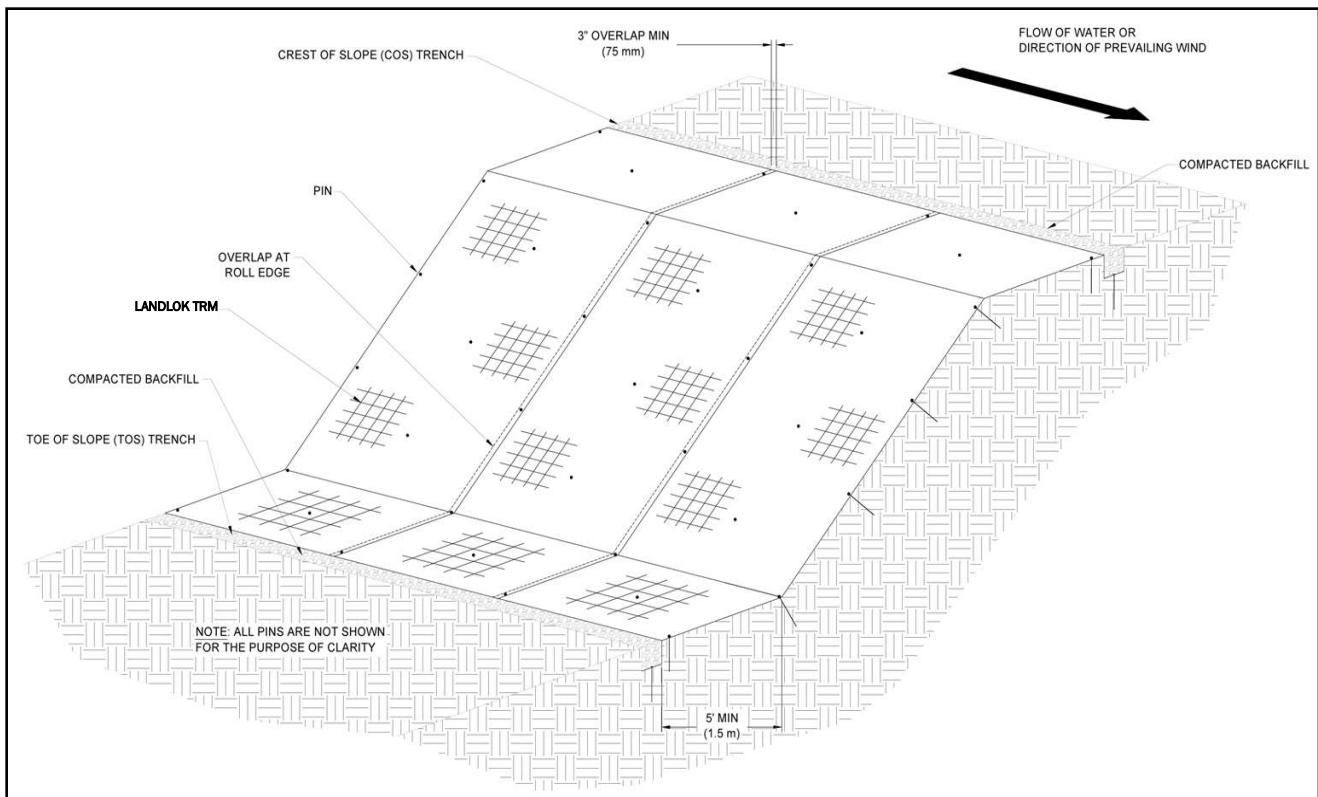
**Figure 11: Break in Slope Interface**

7. Secure LANDLOK with pins in the TOS trench. Suggested placement of pins for the TOS trench is along the bottom of the trench with pins on 12 in (300 mm) centers (Figure 12).



**Figure 12: Crest of Slope (COS) Trench and Toe of Slope (TOS) Trench Complete**

8. Backfill and compact the TOS trench. (Figure 12)
9. Continue to work down the length of the slope by repeating steps 1 through 8 overlapping each adjacent LANDLOK panel by 3 inches (75 mm) (Figure 8). The last LANDLOK panel should terminate on the Slope Armoring Edge (SAE) with pins on 12 in (300 mm) centers. At a minimum, LANDLOK panels should be pinned entirely across the slope surface, pins should be installed in the trenches, and the trenches should be backfilled and compacted at the end of each day to minimize rework in the case of a major rain event. Specific project conditions may warrant further evaluation of installation order for ease. An example isometric view (Figure 13) of a slope armored with LANDLOK can be seen below for overall reference. Consult Propex Engineering Services at (423) 553-2450 with any questions that you may have.



**Figure 13: Completed Slope Isometric View**



## ESTABLISH VEGETATION

Vegetation can be established with LANDLOK by broadcast seeding, hydraulic seed application (hydroseeding), or sodding. Seed application rate, seed type, sod type, and irrigation rate should be selected based on local or site specific knowledge and time of year. For best results, consider having a site specific soil test performed to help determine what soil amendments, such as lime and fertilizer, need to be incorporated into the soil to promote healthy vegetation.

### WITH SEED

1. Determine the seed location. Seed can be placed entirely on top of soil filled LANDLOK, or alternatively 50% below LANDLOK prior to pinning, with the remainder placed on top of soil filled LANDLOK. If a rain event occurs prior to vegetation establishment, having 50% of the seed below LANDLOK ensures that some seed remains in place. Seed placed entirely on top of soil filled LANDLOK will allow for faster vegetation establishment.
2. If seeding below LANDLOK, ensure 50% of the seed is placed prior to the installation of LANDLOK.
3. Once LANDLOK is in place, distribute soil on top by filling the pyramid like projections of LANDLOK. The proper amount can be visually measured by making the top ridges of the pyramid projections barely visible, or is approximately 1 inch thick when measured. Soil filling can be accomplished manually or by using a small piece of equipment. Do not place excessive soil above LANDLOK. See *Consider Project Specific Needs* for guidance on driving equipment across LANDLOK.
4. After seed has been placed, for added protection, install a Landlok Erosion Control Blanket (ECB) above the soil-filled LANDLOK.
5. Irrigate as necessary to establish and maintain vegetation until 75% of vegetation has established and has reached a height of 2 inches. Frequent, light irrigation will need to be applied to seeded areas if natural rain events have not occurred within two weeks of seeding. When watering seeded areas, use a fine spray to prevent erosion of seeds or soil. Do not over irrigate. Proper irrigation guidance is provided under the Maintenance portion of this document.

### WITH SOD

1. Sod will be always placed on top of LANDLOK.
2. Sod staples should be used to secure the sod against LANDLOK. During the placement of the sod, ensure that LANDLOK is 100% covered by tightly adjoining rolls or squares of sod along edges. Any voids in between sod pieces should be filled with clean loose soil.
3. Irrigate as necessary. Proper irrigation guidance is provided under the Maintenance portion of this document.
4. Monitor to identify areas where browned/dead sod emerges. These areas may need to be addressed to ensure proper sod establishment.

## CONSIDER PROJECT SPECIFIC NEEDS

1. A deeper terminal trench and/or hard armoring may be required when slopes have severe scour potential at the toe location.
2. For installing LANDLOK panels around curved sections of a slope, trim panels at an angle so that no more than two layers of LANDLOK overlap at any point in time. Additional pins may be needed to secure panel edges towards the toe of the slope depending upon the radius of the curved slope. Install pins as necessary to securely fasten LANDLOK to the ground.
3. Vehicular traffic should not be allowed on LANDLOK at any time.



4. Disturbed areas should be reseeded. If ruts or depressions develop for any reason, rework soil until smooth and reseed such areas.

## SHORT-TERM AND LONG-TERM MAINTENANCE OF LANDLOK

The purpose of this section is to provide some general guidelines for performing short-term and long-term maintenance of LANDLOK with respect to maintaining vegetation reinforced with LANDLOK, and patching of LANDLOK (in the event it needs to be removed or replaced). These procedures are to be considered minimum guidelines for proper maintenance, and further maintenance techniques may be appropriate considering local practices and procedures.

### LANDLOK PROTECTED SLOPES

For LANDLOK to be most effective, it is important to ensure that it is properly maintained both during construction and after construction. Identifying trouble areas is easy with LANDLOK, and it can make identifying potential threats much simpler and manageable. Look for areas with sparse, dying, or no vegetation as these are obvious signs that LANDLOK is losing intimate contact with the slope surface. If loss of ground surface occurs, LANDLOK will need to be removed and reinstalled as described in *Patching and Repairs* Section after the eroded area is backfilled with compacted soil that is similar to material of the slope. After LANDLOK is reinstalled, re-establish vegetation on the newly installed LANDLOK and disturbed areas. Monitor the sites to determine if frequent watering may be required to establish vegetation.

To minimize exposure to unwanted maintenance and repair, LANDLOK armored slopes should be free of vehicular traffic. Routine maintenance and slope inspections should be performed by foot traffic only. Tracked equipment such as skid steers, excavators, or dozers should only be allowed to traffic over LANDLOK in times of emergency after vegetation establishment is complete. Failure to control unauthorized traffic can result in LANDLOK being damaged resulting in erosion below LANDLOK during storm events.

### MAINTAINING VEGETATION

Good vegetative cover will ensure maximum performance of LANDLOK. Vegetative cover care starts before a project is complete and is ongoing until all LANDLOK is installed. Vegetative cover should be given every opportunity to grow and establish well. This will require that a contractor periodically fertilize and water the grasses as needed until a project is complete in the short-term, with the owner of the slope fulfilling the maintenance of the slope in a similar fashion for the long-term. For the entire lifecycle of LANDLOK, every effort must be made to prevent unauthorized encroachments, grazing, vehicle traffic, the misuse of chemicals, or burning during inappropriate seasons.

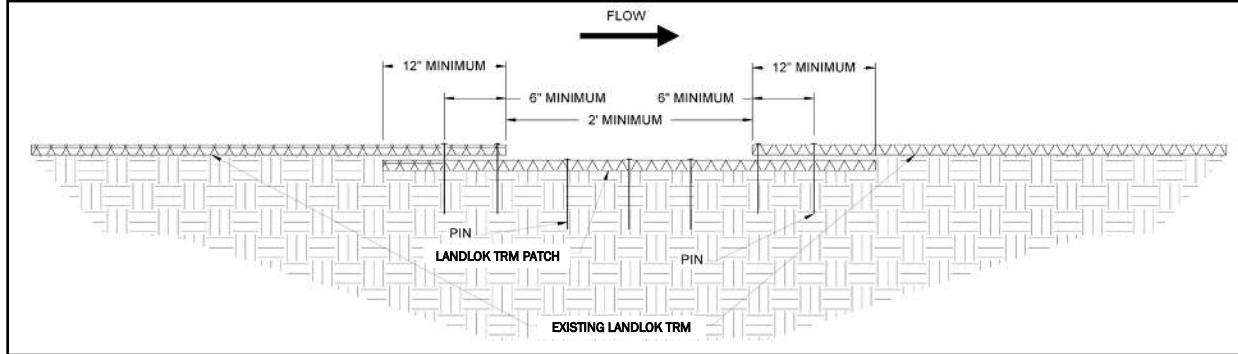
1. After the installation of vegetation is complete, immediately water and soak the entire area using a fine spray to prevent erosion and loss of seeds. A suggested amount of water is identified below. Prior to installation if using sod, the sod pads in storage should be kept moist at all times and not stored for more than 24 hours from site arrival to installation. Warmer weather will necessitate more frequent applications than listed below.
  - A. For each reach/segment of installed vegetation, watering shall be conducted immediately after each installation or the day's work.
  - B. First 30 days, completed segments shall be watered daily with a minimum of 0.75 and a maximum of 1.0 inches per square foot per day (20,364 gallons minimum, 27,152 gallons maximum per acre per day).
  - C. Second 30 days, the watering may be reduced to 0.50 inches per square foot per day (13,576 gallons maximum per acre per day) or as required based upon the condition of the sod.
  - D. Avoid excessive application of water, so that surface runoff does not occur. Runoff should be prohibited. However, additional watering may be required for repaired or damaged areas.

2. Initial fertilizing should be applied 14 days after vegetation is placed, using 25-lbs per acre ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate. Post-fertilization should be conducted 30 to 45 days after installation, using an application rate of 25-lbs per acre (ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate). Application example: in order to apply ammonium nitrate or ammonium sulfate at a rate of 25-lbs per acre, 75 lbs of 33-0-0 is required.
3. Mowing over LANDLOK is not permitted at any time.

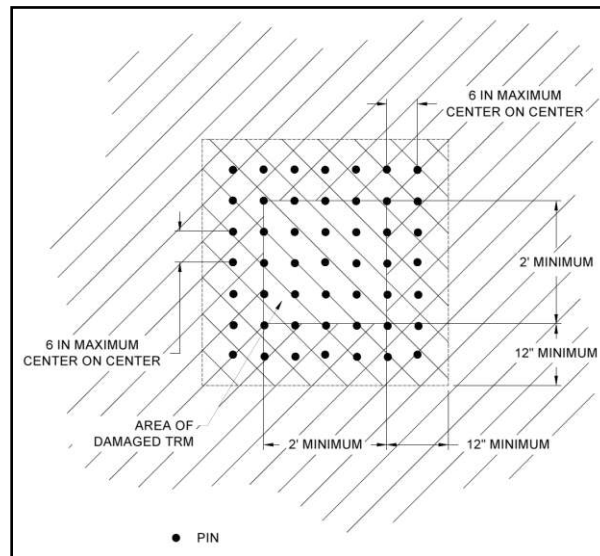
## PATCHING AND REPAIRS

LANDLOK may require localized repair at times. For emergency repairs, an adequate supply of LANDLOK should be maintained in inventory with the necessary tools to install. This will allow for a timely, initial repair of the system.

1. In order to identify areas in need of repair, the site should be patrolled immediately after rain events of 2 inches or more. When patrolling look for areas of sparse vegetation, exposed edges of LANDLOK, and areas where direct contact between LANDLOK and the slope surface is compromised. LANDLOK should be rated as *Acceptable*, *Minimally Acceptable*, or *Unacceptable* during inspection.
  - A. *Acceptable (A)* - The rated area is in satisfactory, acceptable condition, and will function as designed and intended during the rain event. LANDLOK has no exposed edges, is installed tightly by maintaining direct contact to the slope surface with no rilling beneath, and has over 90% vegetation cover. There is no noticeable damage present.
  - B. *Minimally Acceptable (M)* - The rated area has a minor deficiency that needs to be corrected. The minor deficiency will not seriously impair the functioning of the area during the next rain event; however, the overall reliability of the project will be lowered because of the minor deficiency. LANDLOK has 75% vegetation cover with un-vegetated patches as large as one square yard. Edges of LANDLOK are exposed with noticeable damage. Minimal erosion has occurred underneath LANDLOK.
  - C. *Unacceptable (U)* - The rated area is unsatisfactory. The deficiency is so serious that the area will not adequately function in the next rain event. LANDLOK has been physically torn, ripped, or lifted from the slope surface. Less than 75% vegetation cover is present with un-vegetated patches being greater than 1 square yard, and there is evidence that erosion is occurring beneath LANDLOK.
2. Repair any raised or exposed edges of LANDLOK by driving existing and additional pins along the edges as necessary to securely fasten to the ground. Inspect areas where the vegetation is not growing on top of LANDLOK. Many times this is an indicator that LANDLOK has lost contact with the ground beneath. Check for voids beneath LANDLOK and fill any holes, gullies, etc. with compacted fill material if possible. Replace LANDLOK as described below.
3. To repair LANDLOK, cut out and remove damaged areas in a square configuration a minimum size of 2 ft by 2 ft. Remove all vegetation and debris atop of LANDLOK. Loosen the top 1 to 2 in of soil in the patch area then seed. The subgrade of area to be patched shall be prepared to be smooth and uniform and transition smoothly into the in-situ area. Cut a square LANDLOK patch a minimum of 12 in greater than the damaged area for all four sides of the patch. Overlap the patch area in all directions a minimum of 12 in. The patch overlaps shall be tucked under the existing damaged LANDLOK material (Figure 14 and Figure 15)



**Figure 14: LANDLOK Patch Cross Section**



**Figure 15: LANDLOK Patch Plan View**

4. Install pins on 6 in (150 mm) (max) centers. For larger areas of damage, pins should be installed to match existing pin pattern. Once LANDLOK is in place, vegetate per project specifications.

## SUMMARY

Maintenance should consist of watering and weeding, repair of all erosion, and any re-seeding as necessary to establish a uniform stand of vegetation during construction and beyond. A minimum of 70% of the armored area should be covered with no bare or dead spots greater than 10 ft<sup>2</sup> (1 m<sup>2</sup>). Throughout the duration of the project, the Contractor should water all grassed areas as often as necessary to establish satisfactory growth and to maintain its growth throughout the duration of the project. After the project is complete, it is the responsibility of the Owner to maintain and upkeep all LANDLOK installed areas for long term performance and best results as described herein for superior slope armoring.