**VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**

**MATERIALS DIVISION**

**MEMORANDUM**

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| **GENERAL SUBJECT:**<br>**Manual of Instructions – Chapter 3** | **NUMBER:**<br>**MD 435-20** |
| **SPECIFIC SUBJECT:**<br>**Clarification to minimum standards for slope stability** | **DATE:**<br>**July 1, 2020** |
| | **SUPERSEDES:**<br>**n/a** |
| **APPROVED:**<br>Charles A Babish Digitally signed by Charles A Babish<br>Date: 2020.07.01 09:55:30 -04'00' | **Charles A. Babish, PE**<br>**State Materials Engineer**<br>**Approved:** _____ |

## EFFECTIVE DATE

- This memorandum is effective July 1, 2020

## PURPOSE/NEED/SCOPE/REQUIREMENTS

Original text limited the requirements only to circular failure surfaces. As written, it now relates to all failure surfaces.

Changes are Shaded

## PROCEDURES

- To establish minimum standards for slope stability determinations, the fourth paragraph of Section 305.03 has been changed. Refer to the following:

~~Circular~~ Failure surfaces shall be analyzed by methods such as the Modified Bishop, Simplified Janbu, Morgenstern-Price, ~~or Spencer methods.~~ Spencer, Infinite Slope, or other methods as pre-approved by VDOT. Both drained and undrained strengths shall be considered. All slope stability analyses shall consider the effects of groundwater, external loads, tension cracks, and other pertinent factors as applicable.

**NOTES**

- n/a

**REFERENCES**

- n/a

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