

# REINFORCED FILL PRODUCT DESIGN DATA SHEET

No. RF 5/2025

For Tensar RE500 Geogrids

Date Issued: 9 October 2025

Valid Until: 8 October 2027

Reinforced Fill Products: Tensar RE520, RE540, RE560, RE570 and RE580 geogrids

Manufacturer: Tensar International Limited, Units 2-4 Cunningham Court,  
Shadsworth Business Park, Blackburn, BB1 2QX, United Kingdom

Product distributor: Tensar Geosynthetics (China) Limited, 289# Checheng Avenue,  
Wuhan Economic & Technical Development Zone, Hanyang  
District, Wuhan, Hubei Province 430056, China

## Important Notice and Disclaimer

This Design Data Sheet is intended for geotechnical professionals designing with Tensar RE500 geogrids for application in Hong Kong only. Users are solely responsible for (1) selecting the appropriate Tensar RE500 geogrids for your application, (2) designing, validating and testing your application, and (3) ensuring your application meets applicable standards, and other safety, regulatory or other requirements. Civil Engineering and Development Department of HKSAR Government makes no representation as to the presence or absence of patent rights subsisting in the product and/or as to the legal right of the manufacturer and product distributor to market, install or maintain the product.

Where the Tensar RE500 geogrids are used in permanent reinforced fill structures and slopes in Hong Kong, the design tensile strengths of the product shall comply with the values specified in Tables 3 to 7 of this Design Data Sheet, and the design shall be in accordance with Geoguide 6 – Guide to Reinforced Fill Structure and Slope Design (GEO, 2022).

This Design Data Sheet shall cease to be valid if the product data or specifications are withdrawn or re-issued in an amended form by the manufacturer. Applications for amendment to this Design Data Sheet shall be made to the Deputy Head of Geotechnical Engineering Office (Island) of the Civil Engineering and Development Department by the manufacturer for all cases of changes in the products, the manufacturing details or the conditions of use, or of changes of the product distributor.

This Design Data Sheet is subject to change without notice. Users of this Design Data Sheet are advised to check the prevailing requirements as stipulated in the latest version of the Design Data Sheet by referring to the Civil Engineering and Development Department's website at <https://www.cedd.gov.hk/eng/public-services-forms/geotechnical/reinforced/index.html>.

## Product Information

### Tensar RE500 geogrids

Tensar RE500 geogrids are intended to be used as reinforcing elements in reinforced fill structures and slopes. The geogrids are made of co-polymer high density polyethylene (HDPE) of class BS3412: 1992, PE, E1, W, 50-003 Condition 5 (BSI, 1992). The carbon black content when determined by ASTM D1603 – 14 (ASTM, 2014) will not be less than 2.0% and not more than 4.0%.

The Tensar RE500 geogrids are manufactured in five grades by punching holes in a sheet of polyethylene, which is then stretched under temperature controlled conditions to the shape and form as shown in Figure 1. The typical dimensions, mass and identification of Tensar RE520, RE540, RE560, RE570 and RE580 geogrids are given in Table 1.

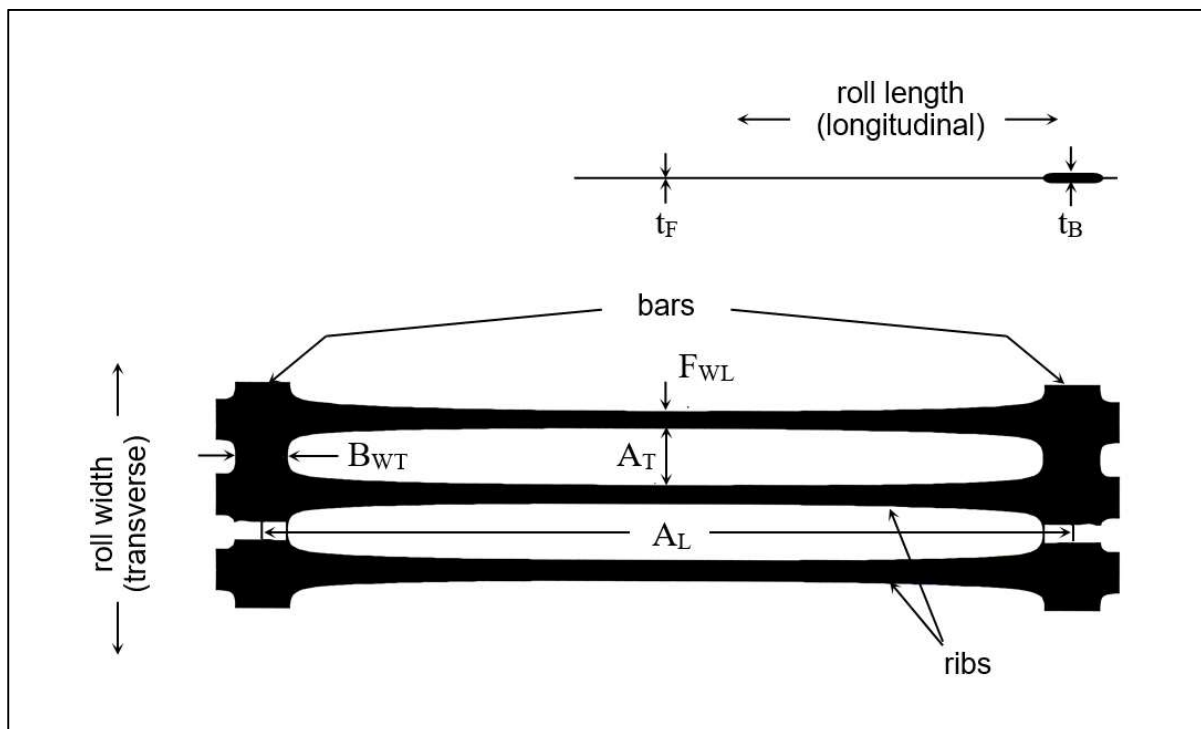


Figure 1 – Tensar RE500 geogrid

Product grade	Grid dimensions						Roll dimensions		Mass per unit area (g/m <sup>2</sup> )	Colour coding
	A <sub>L</sub> (mm)	A <sub>T</sub> (mm)	B <sub>WT</sub> (mm)	F <sub>WL</sub> (mm)	t <sub>B</sub> (mm)	t <sub>F</sub> (mm)	Length (m)	Width (m)		
RE520	235	16	17	6	2.0 – 2.2	0.9	75	1.0 or 1.3	360	Blue
RE540	235	16	17	6	2.5 – 2.7	1.1	50	1.0 or 1.3	450	Yellow
RE560	235	16	17	6	3.6 – 3.9	1.5	50	1.0 or 1.3	650	Orange
RE570	235	16	17	6	4.8 – 5.2	2.0	50	1.0 or 1.3	870	White
RE580	235	16	17	6	5.6 – 6.0	2.3	50	1.0 or 1.3	980	Green

Table 1 – Geogrid dimensions, mass and identification

## Tensile strength and load-strain properties

Quality control tensile tests are performed on specimens in accordance with BS EN ISO 10319: 2015 (BSI, 2015). The characteristic short-term tensile strengths in the longitudinal direction of the geogrids guaranteed by Tensar International Limited are provided in Table 2. The load-strain properties of the geogrids are shown in Figure 2. The actual strain at maximum load is approximately 10%.

Product grade	RE520	RE540	RE560	RE570	RE580
Characteristic short-term tensile strength (kN/m)	52.8	64.5	88.7	118.4	137.3

Table 2 – Characteristic short-term tensile strength (longitudinal direction)

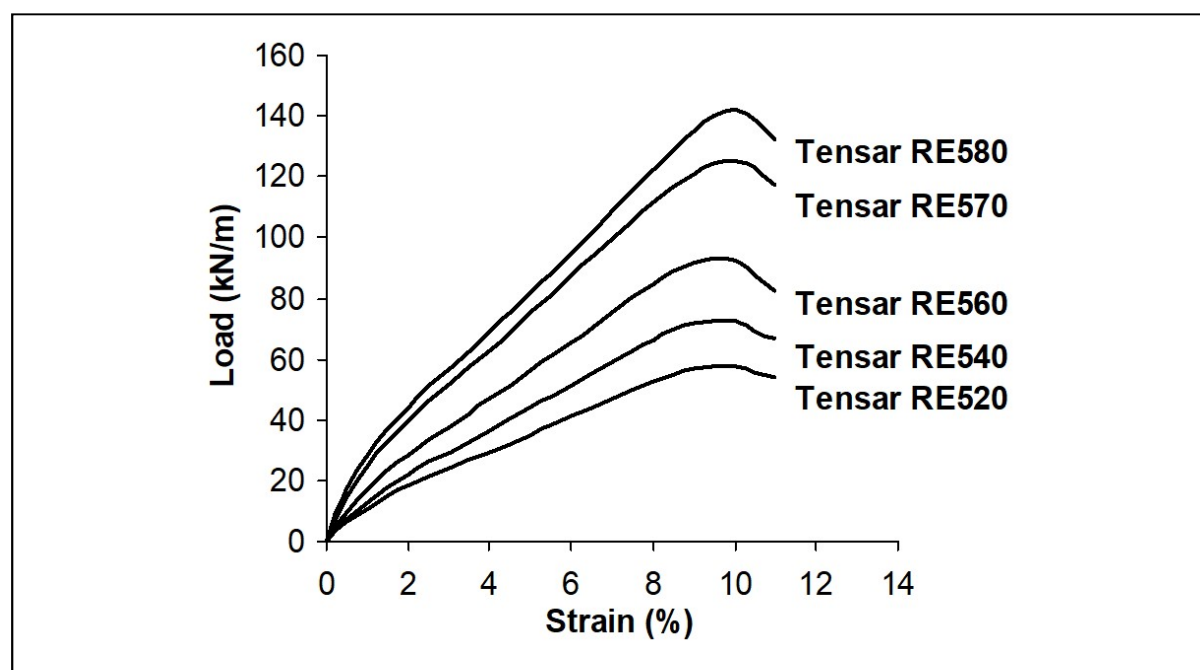


Figure 2 – Typical short-term load-strain properties (longitudinal direction)

## Quality assurance

Tensar RE500 geogrids supplied to Hong Kong are manufactured by Tensar International Limited at Shadsworth, Blackburn, UK (by Tensar Manufacturing Limited), and Wuhan, China (by Tensar Geosynthetics (China) Ltd) under ISO 9001 Quality Assurance Certificates. Independent audits are carried out periodically by BSI in UK and China Certification Centre, Inc. in China.

## Identification

Tensar RE500 geogrids are imported into Hong Kong from UK or China. Each roll of Tensar RE500 geogrid has adhesive tape fixing bands identifying the particular product grade and the ends of the rolls are sprayed with colour coded paint (Table 1). A copy of the manufacturer's test certificate will accompany each shipment of delivery. This certificate is available from the product distributor.

## Design Aspects

### Design tensile strength

According to Geoguide 6 – Guide to Reinforced Fill Structure and Slope Design (GEO, 2022), the design tensile strength,  $T_D$ , per unit width of reinforcement is:

$$T_D = \frac{T_{ult}}{\gamma_m \gamma_n}$$

where  $T_{ult}$  = characteristic short-term tensile strength guaranteed by Tensar International Limited (see Table 2)

$\gamma_m$  = partial material factor on tensile strength of geogrid (see Note (c))

$\gamma_n$  = partial consequence factor to account for consequence of failure

The design tensile strengths of the Tensar RE500 geogrids in the longitudinal direction given in Tables 3 to 7, which have been agreed with Tensar International Limited, shall be used.

Particle size of fill material (mm)	$\gamma_m$	Design tensile strength (kN/m)	
		$\gamma_n = 1.0$	$\gamma_n = 1.1$
$D_{85} \leq 10$	2.48	21.3	19.4
$10 < D_{85} \leq 50$	2.88	18.3	16.6
$50 < D_{85} \leq 100$	3.46	15.3	13.9
$100 < D_{85} \leq 125$	3.72	14.2	12.9

Table 3 – Design tensile strengths of Tensar RE520 geogrid

Particle size of fill material (mm)	$\gamma_m$	Design tensile strength (kN/m)	
		$\gamma_n = 1.0$	$\gamma_n = 1.1$
$D_{85} \leq 10$	2.46	26.3	23.9
$10 < D_{85} \leq 50$	2.76	23.3	21.2
$50 < D_{85} \leq 100$	3.22	20.0	18.2
$100 < D_{85} \leq 125$	3.41	18.9	17.2

Table 4 – Design tensile strengths of Tensar RE540 geogrid

Particle size of fill material (mm)	$\gamma_m$	Design tensile strength (kN/m)	
		$\gamma_n = 1.0$	$\gamma_n = 1.1$
$D_{85} \leq 10$	2.43	36.5	33.2
$10 < D_{85} \leq 50$	2.62	33.8	30.7
$50 < D_{85} \leq 100$	2.93	30.2	27.5
$100 < D_{85} \leq 125$	3.10	28.6	26.0

Table 5 – Design tensile strengths of Tensar RE560 geogrid

Particle size of fill material (mm)	$\gamma_m$	Design tensile strength (kN/m)	
		$\gamma_n = 1.0$	$\gamma_n = 1.1$
$D_{85} \leq 10$	2.43	48.7	44.3
$10 < D_{85} \leq 50$	2.55	46.4	42.2
$50 < D_{85} \leq 100$	2.77	42.8	38.9
$100 < D_{85} \leq 125$	2.91	40.7	37.0

Table 6 – Design tensile strengths of Tensar RE570 geogrid

Particle size of fill material (mm)	$\gamma_m$	Design tensile strength (kN/m)	
		$\gamma_n = 1.0$	$\gamma_n = 1.1$
$D_{85} \leq 10$	2.41	57.0	51.8
$10 < D_{85} \leq 50$	2.48	55.4	50.3
$50 < D_{85} \leq 100$	2.62	52.4	47.6
$100 < D_{85} \leq 125$	2.74	50.1	45.5

Table 7 – Design tensile strengths of Tensar RE580 geogrid

The following notes apply to Tables 3 to 7:

- The design tensile strengths given in Tables 3 to 7 are in kN per metre width of the geogrids (not per metre run of the structure or slope).
- $D_{85}$  is the particle size corresponding to 85% by weight of particles passing in a grading test.
- The partial material factor,  $\gamma_m$ , applies to the tensile strength of the individual grades of Tensar RE500 geogrid. It has taken into account the environmental effects on material durability, construction damage and other special factors including hydrolysis, creep and stress rupture for a 120-year design life at a design temperature of 30°C.
- The fill material used within the reinforced fill block shall comply with the requirements specified for either the Type I or the Type II materials given in Geoguide 6 (GEO, 2022). In addition, the maximum particle size and the  $D_{85}$  value of the fill material shall not exceed 150mm and 125mm respectively.

## Fill-to-reinforcement interaction

According to Geoguide 6 (GEO, 2022), the design coefficients of fill-to-reinforcement interaction  $\mu_{dsD}$  and  $\mu_{pD}$  relating to direct sliding resistance and pullout resistance respectively are:

$$\mu_{dsD} = \frac{\alpha_{ds} \tan \phi'}{\gamma_m \gamma_n}$$
$$\mu_{pD} = \frac{\alpha_p \tan \phi'}{\gamma_m \gamma_n}$$

where

$\mu_{dsD}$	=	design coefficient of interaction against direct sliding
$\mu_{pD}$	=	design coefficient of interaction against pullout
$\gamma_m$	=	partial material factor for fill-to-reinforcement interaction
$\gamma_n$	=	partial consequence factor to account for consequence of failure
$\alpha_{ds}$	=	direct sliding coefficient
$\alpha_p$	=	pullout coefficient

In preliminary design, the direct sliding coefficient,  $\alpha_{ds}$  and the pullout coefficient,  $\alpha_p$  given in Table 8, which have been agreed with Tensar International Limited, may be used. The partial material factor,  $\gamma_m$ , for fill-to-reinforcement interaction shall be taken as 1.2.

Interaction coefficient	Fill material	
	Type I fill	Type II fill
Direct sliding coefficient $\alpha_{ds}$	0.9	0.8
Pullout coefficient $\alpha_p$	0.8	0.6

Table 8 – Direct sliding and pullout coefficients

The design coefficients of fill-to-reinforcement interaction should be verified by tests in accordance with the requirements of Clause A.61 and Clause A.62 given in the Appendix A of Geoguide 6 (GEO, 2022).

## Facings

The typical facing types recommended by Tensar International Limited for the construction of reinforced fill structures and slopes using Tensar RE500 geogrids are presented in Appendix A. The suitability of these facing types should be carefully assessed by the designer and suitably modified to suit the individual design situations and contract requirements. The various design situations that need to be considered in the design of reinforced fill structures and slopes are discussed in Geoguide 6 (GEO, 2022).

## Compliance Testing

The materials used for the construction of the reinforced fill structures and slopes should be inspected and tested on a regular basis during construction. Testing is required to ensure that the materials conform to the specification. Particular attention should be given to materials which can change properties; these include reinforcing elements and fill. Fill from different sources may have different material parameters and should be checked for compliance with specification. Each batch of reinforcement delivered to site should be sampled, tested and properly labelled and should be accompanied by relevant documentation from the manufacturer.

The requirements for the testing of materials are recommended in the Appendix A of Geoguide 6 (GEO, 2022).

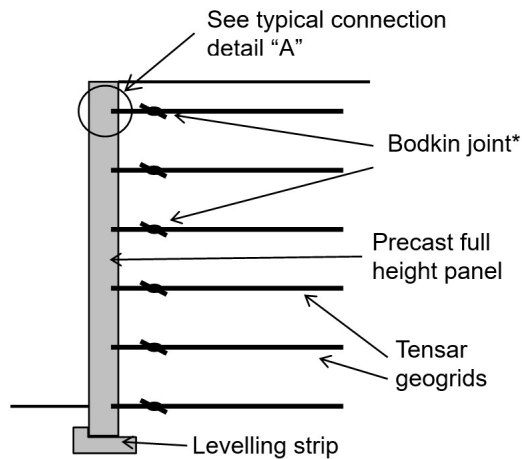
## References

- ASTM (2014). Standard Test Method for Carbon Black Content in Olefin Plastics (ASTM D1603 – 14). ASTM International, United States.
- BSI (1992). Methods of specifying general purpose polyethylene materials for moulding and extrusion (BS 3412: 1992). British Standards Institution, London.
- BSI (2015). Geosynthetics – Wide width tensile test (BS EN ISO 10319: 2015). British Standards Institution, London.
- GEO (2022). Guide to Reinforced Fill Structure and Slope Design (Geoguide 6) (Continuously Updated E-Version released on 27 October 2022). Geotechnical Engineering Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department, HKSAR Government, 218p.

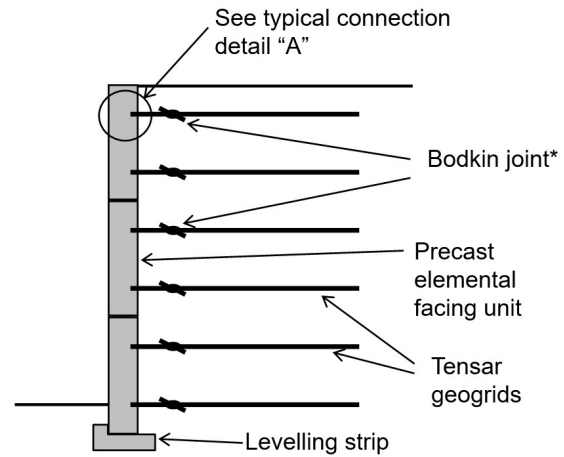
**Geotechnical Engineering Office  
Civil Engineering and Development Department  
October 2025**

## Appendix A

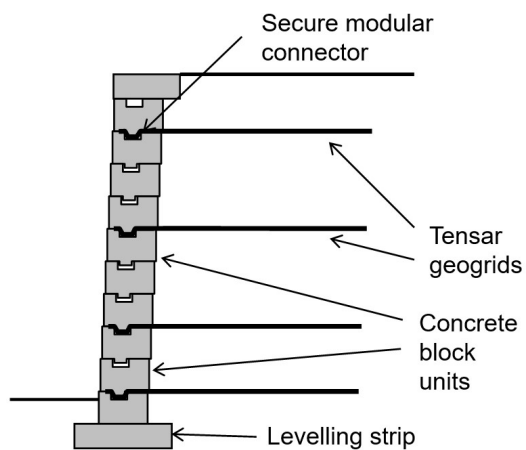
### Reinforced fill structures



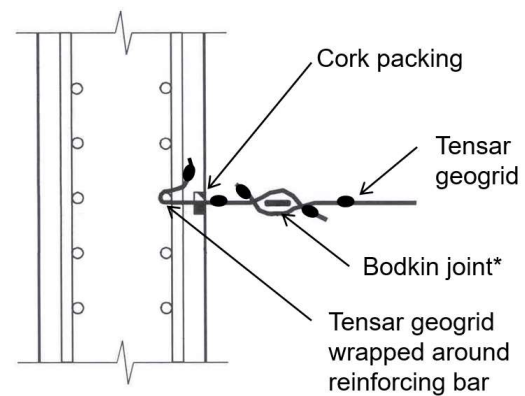
**Full height facing**



**Elemental facing**



**Segmental block facing**



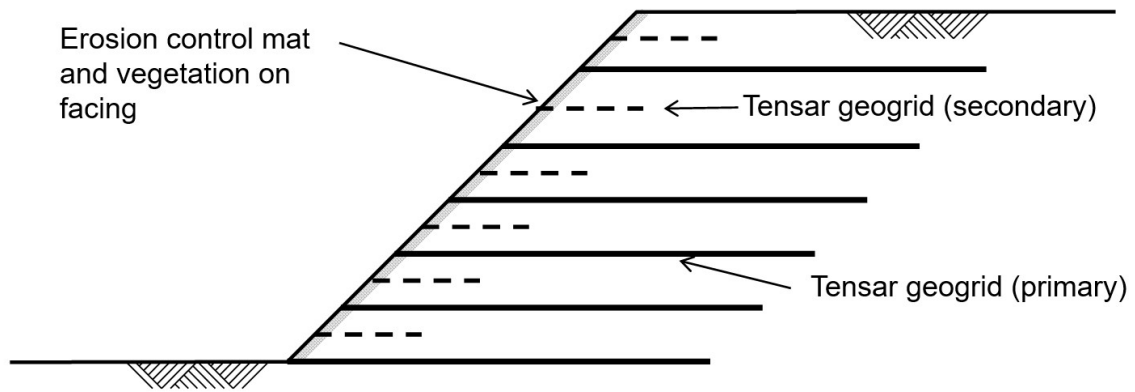
**Typical connection detail "A"**

\* 80mm x 8mm bodkin should be used for all grades of Tensar RE500 geogrids

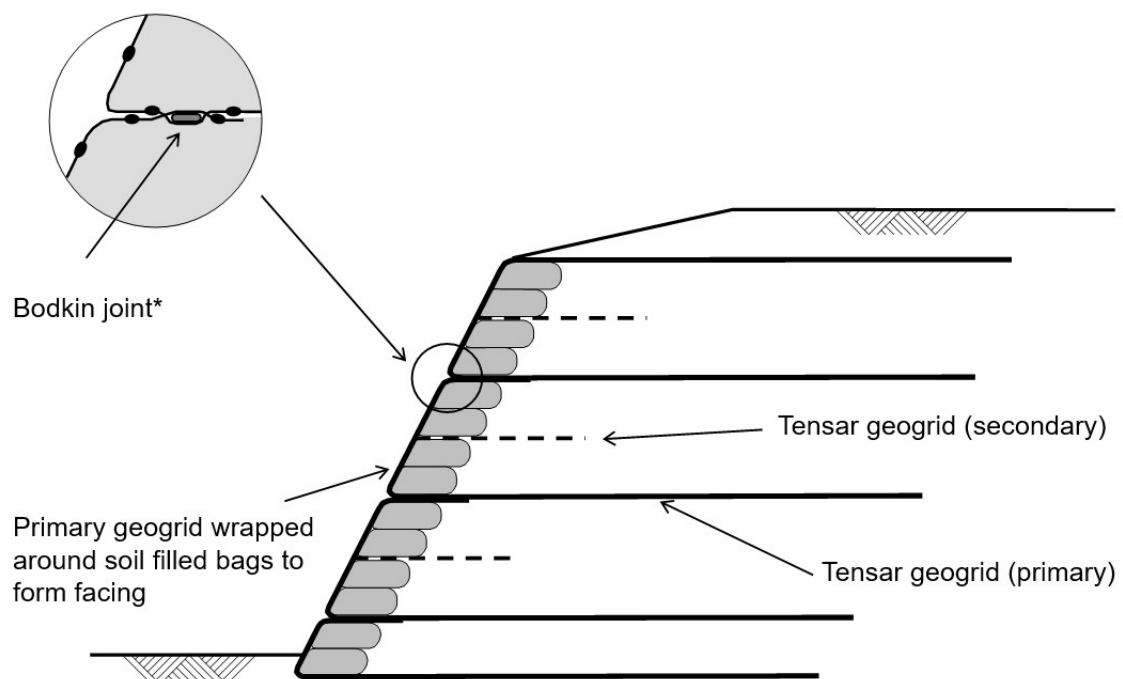


## Appendix A

### Reinforced fill slopes



**Erosion control mat protection (slope angle to 45°)**



**Wrap-around facing (slope angle to 70°)**

\* 80mm x 8mm bodkin should be used for all grades of Tensar RE500 geogrids