

# VERSOS'12

## Vertederos y Sostenibilidad



Palacio Euskalduna, Bilbao  
21 y 22 de noviembre de 2012

### Landfill Covers with Steep Slopes using Geosynthetics



**Katja Werth, Dipl. Ing.**

BBG Bauberatung Geokunststoffe GmbH & Co. KG  
Germany



**Burkard Lenze, Dipl. Geoök.**

NAUE GmbH & Co. KG  
Germany

## Landfill Covers with Steep Slopes: Requirements on Long-Term Internal Shear Strength of Geosynthetic Clay Liners

...based on laboratory testing  
and project experiences

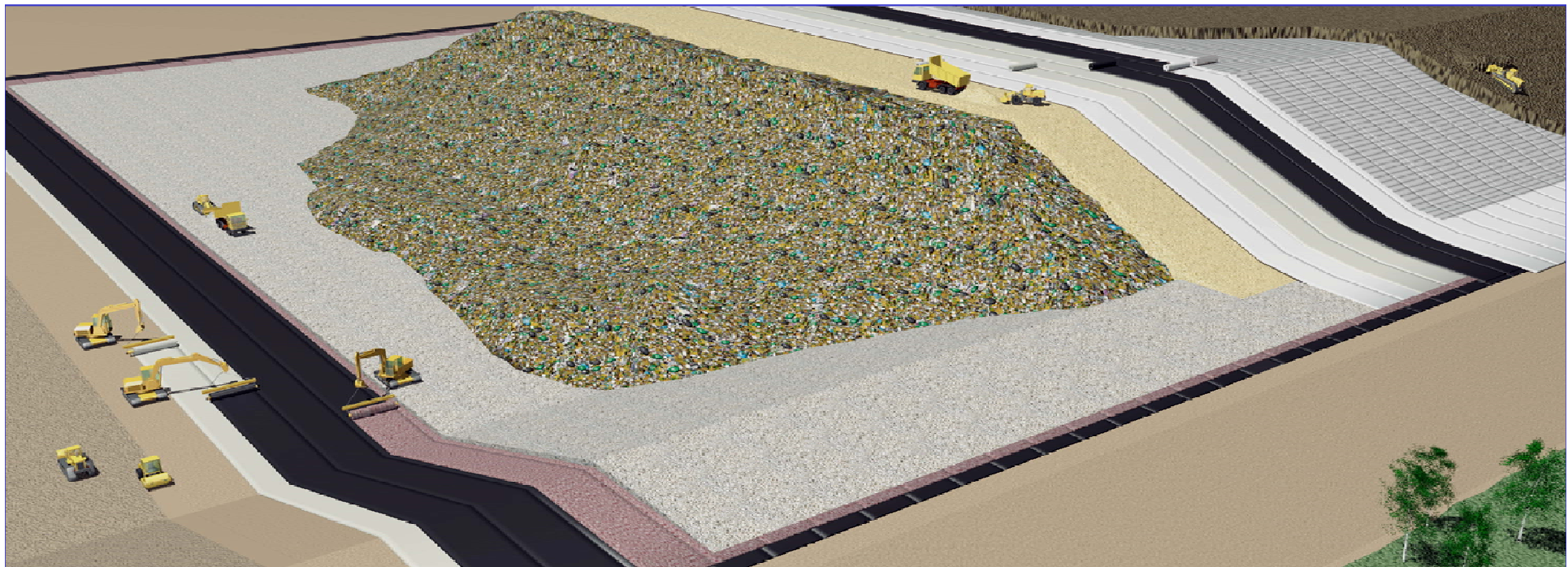
- Introduction:
  - Application of GCL in Landfill Covers
  - GCL- Characteristics
- Internal Long-Term Shear Strength
  - Test Methode
  - Test Results
- Interface Shear Strength
  - Shear Box Testing
  - Stability Calculation based on Shear Box Tests



## 1. Introduction

# Landfill Engineering with Geosynthetics

Landfill Capping



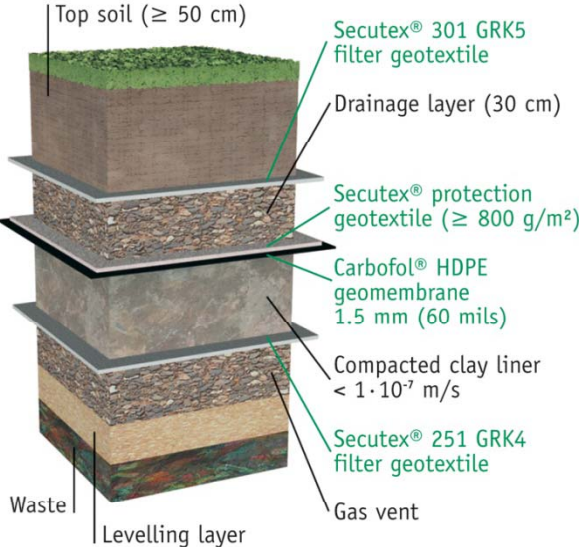
Landfill Base Lining



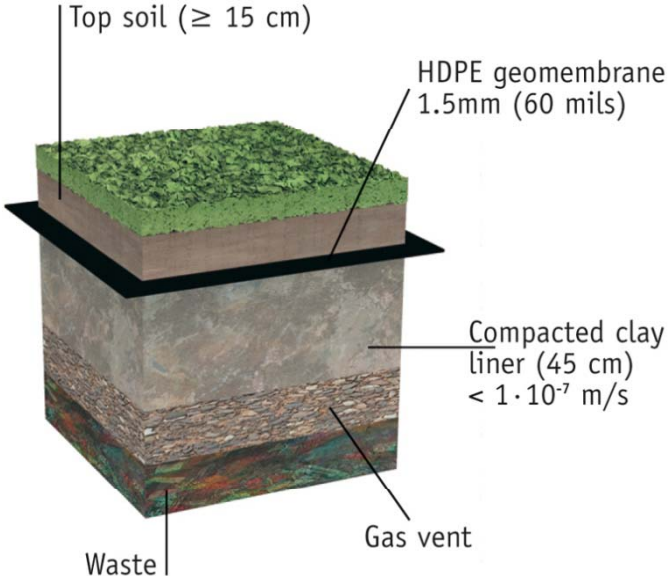
# Landfill Capping Systems



US-EPA directive for landfill caps (non-hazardous)



NAUE Geosynthetic solution following the European landfill regulations

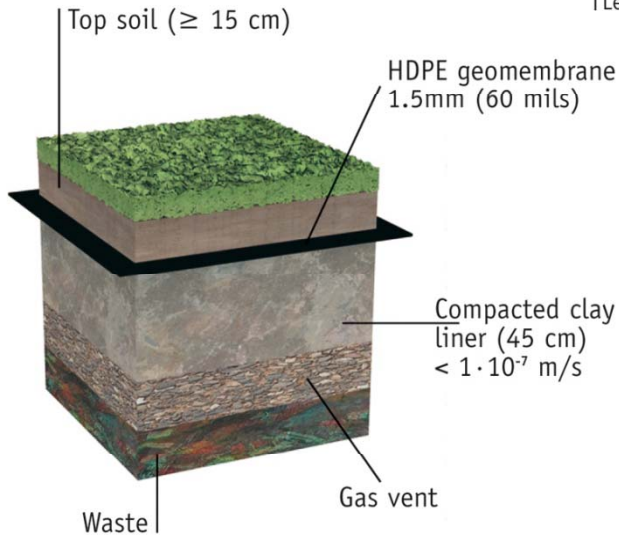
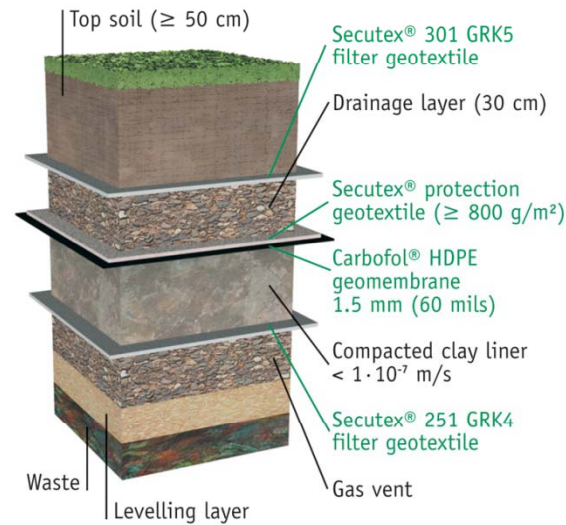


# Landfill Capping Systems

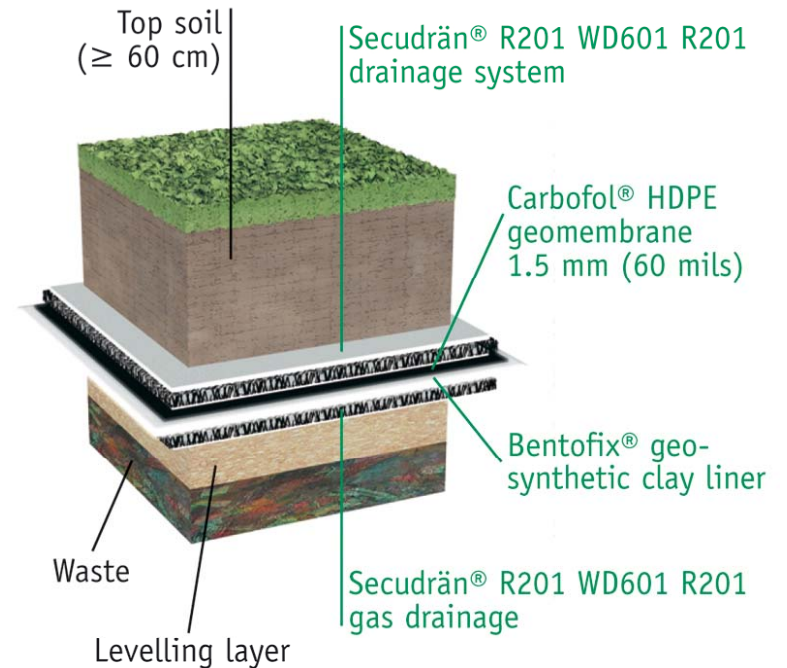


## Composition of mineral layers and geosynthetic components

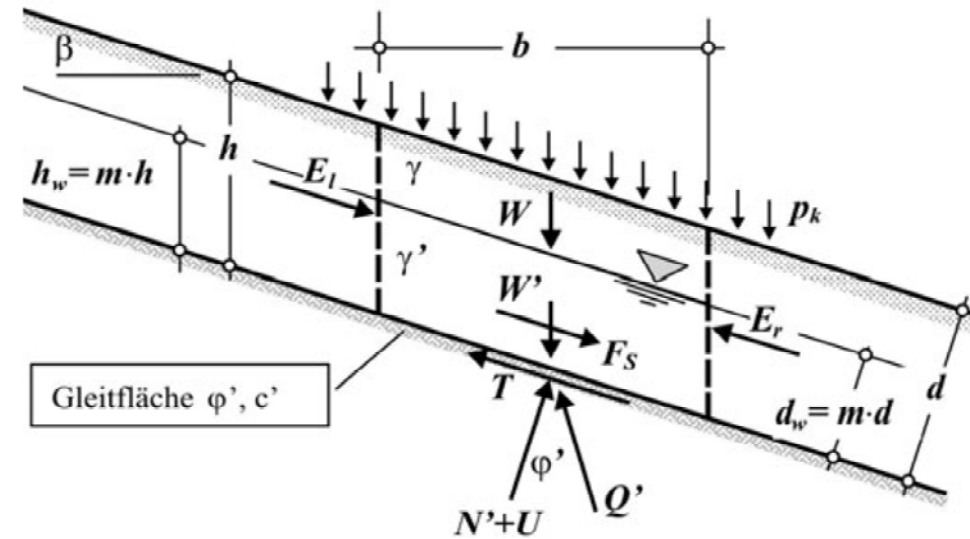
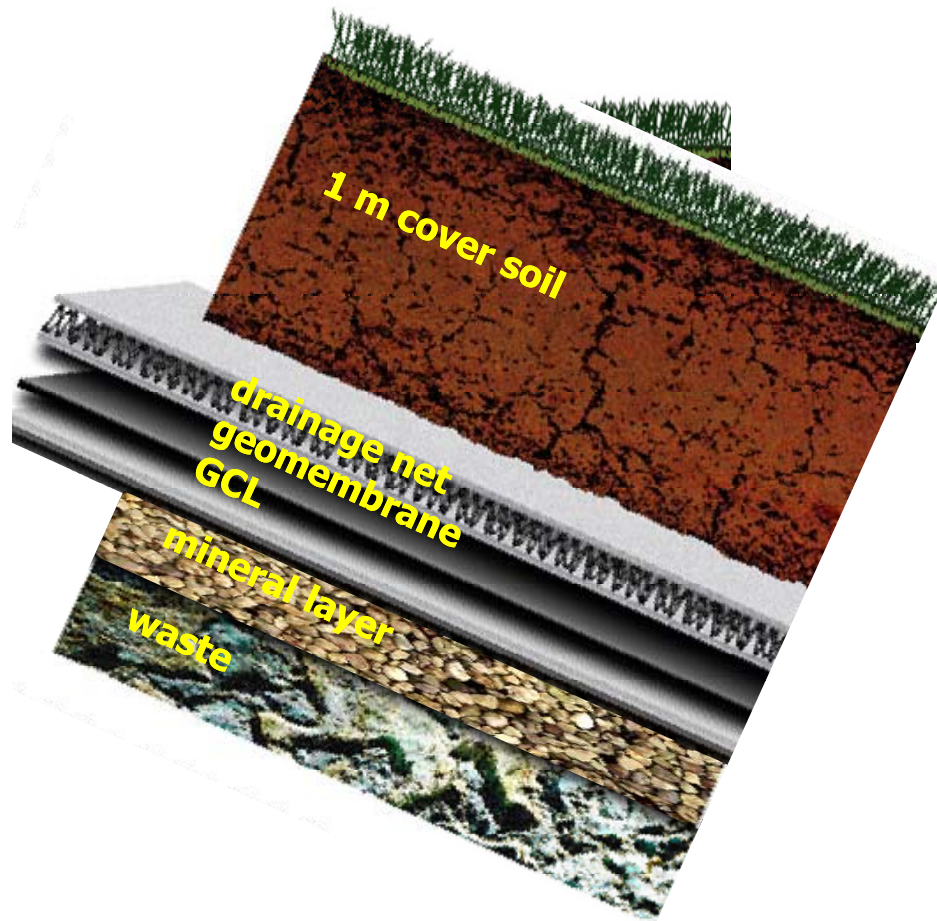
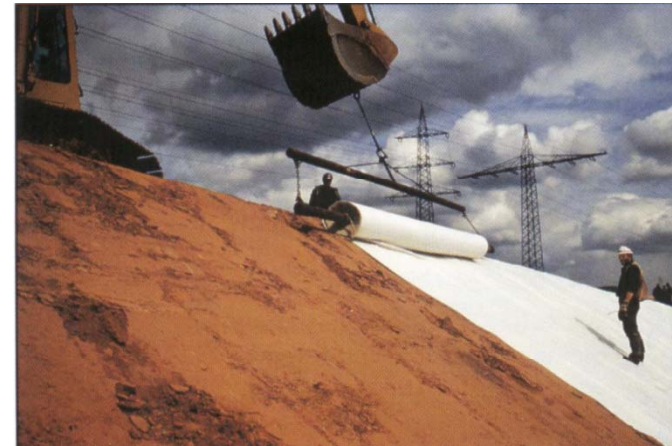
US-EPA directive for landfill caps (non-hazardous)



NAUE Geosynthetic solution following the European landfill regulations



## Slope of landfill cappings







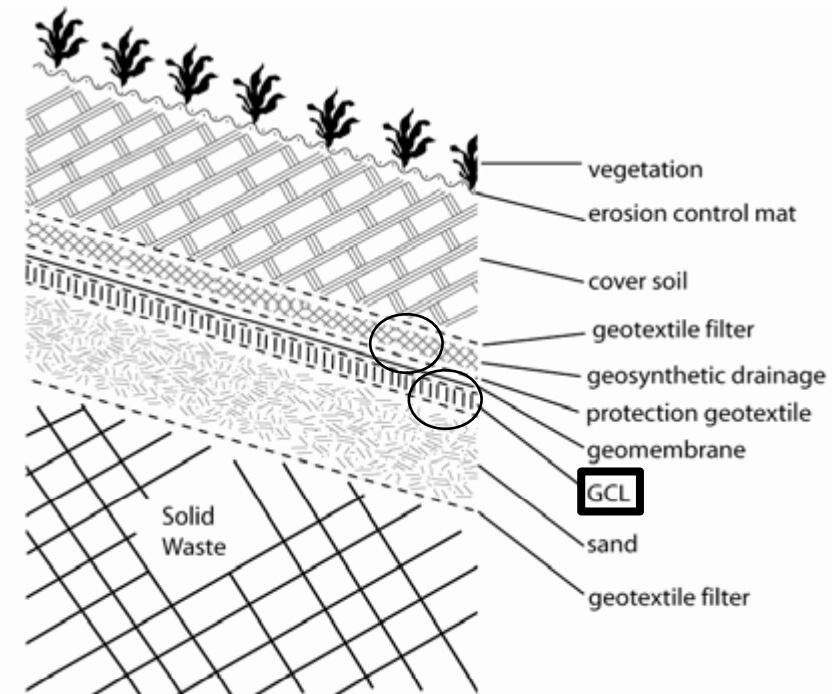
## 2. Internal Long- Term Shear Strength



# Internal shear strength



## Internal shear strength Geosynthetic Clay Liner (GCL) and Geosynthetic Drainage Mat





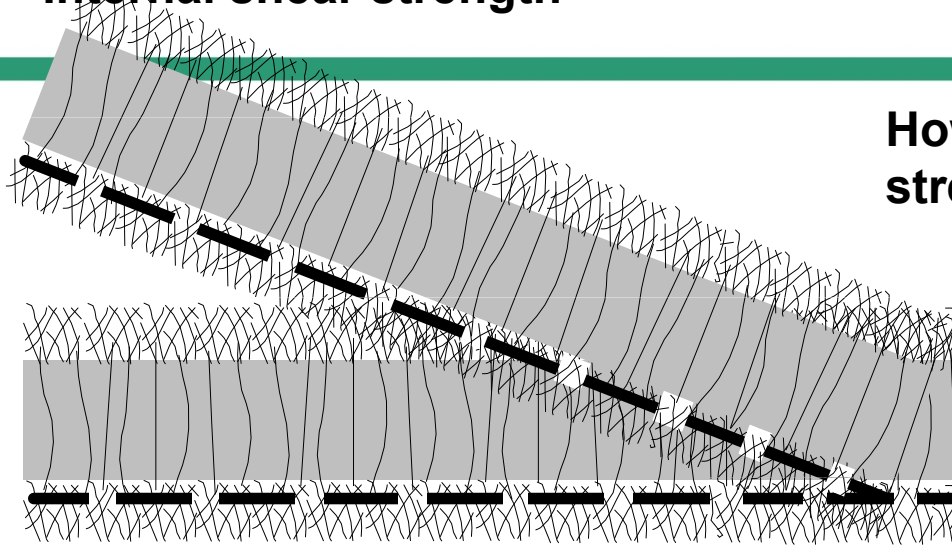
# Internal shear strength



Failure because of low internal shear strength

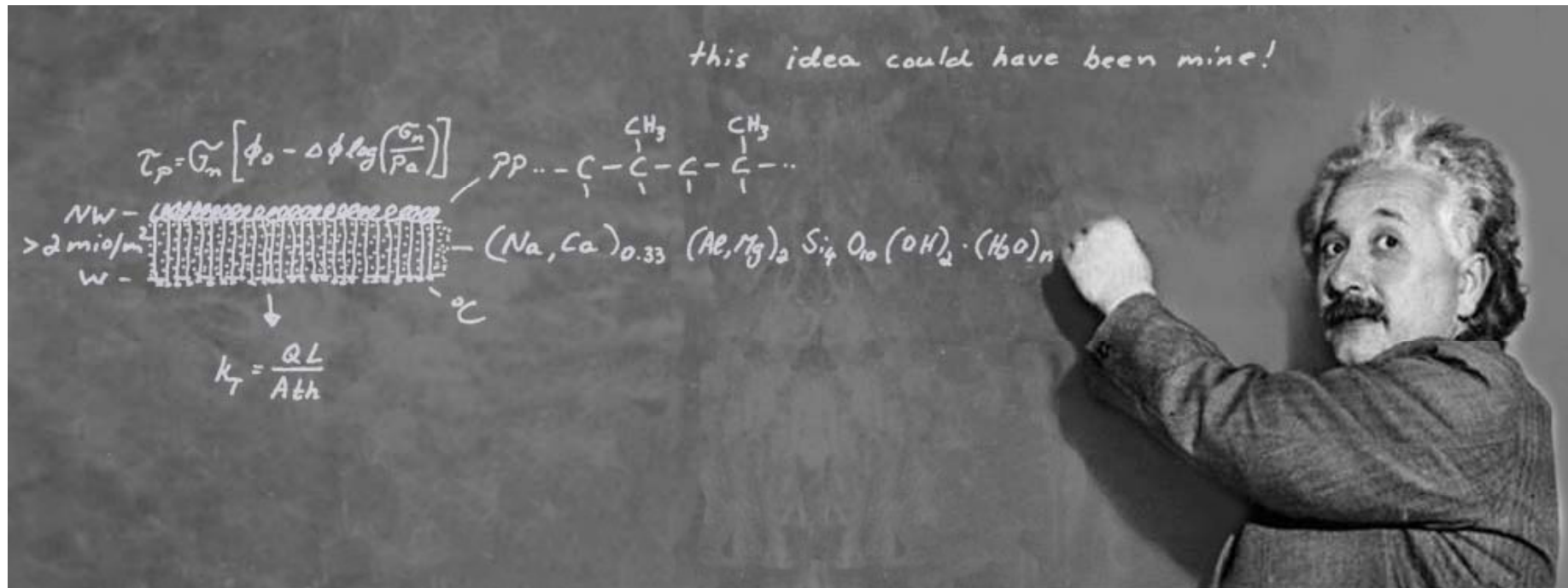


# Internal shear strength



How to reach high internal shear strength in GCLs?

- cover nonwoven
- fibre-reinforced bentonite layer
- carrier geotextile





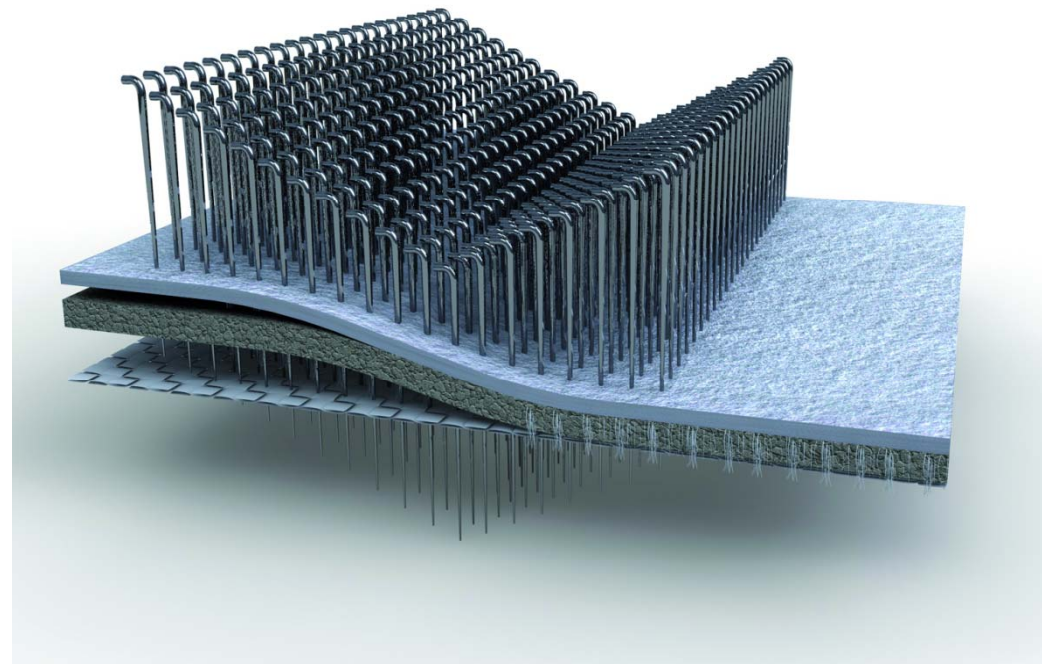
# Internal shear strength



## Needle-punched Geosynthetic Clay Liner (GCL)

Needle-punching of all components creating a uniform internal shear strength

GCL components:  
two durable geotextiles  
and one uniform core of  
high quality sodium  
bentonite powder



# Internal shear strength



## Measurement of the internal shear strength

Shear box tests to measure the hydrated shear strength for stability analysis



Peel test to measure the peel strength for quality control

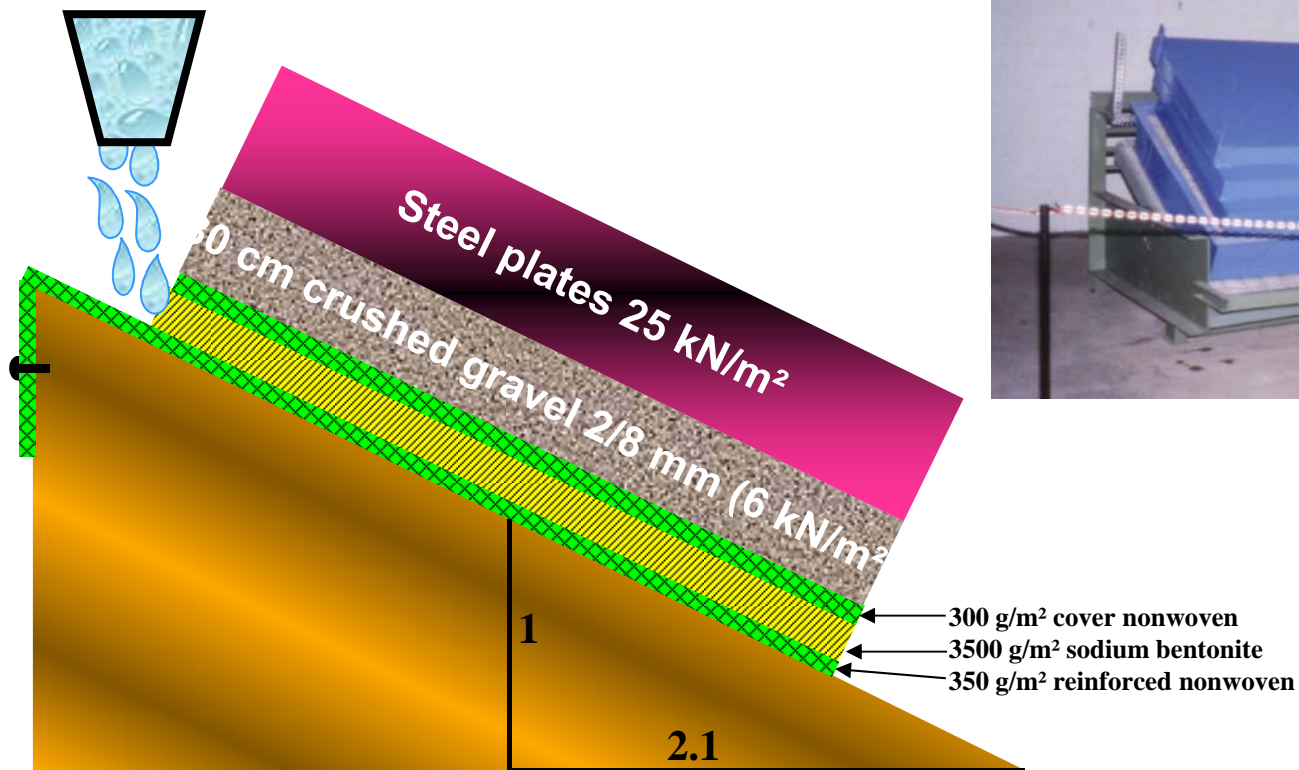


## Long-term shear strength testing with large scale tilt tables

Different GCL types have been tested in the 90's in order to test the long term shear performance

25° (2.1 : 1) and loaded with 31 kPa

→ No displacement!





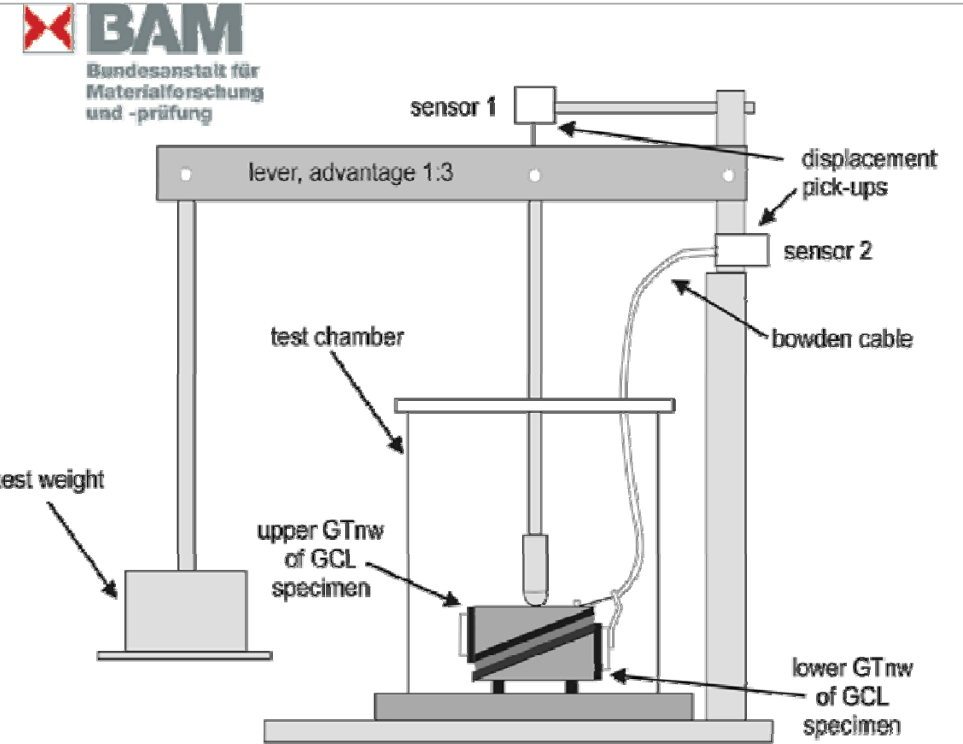
# Internal shear strength



## Test device for 'long-term shear test'

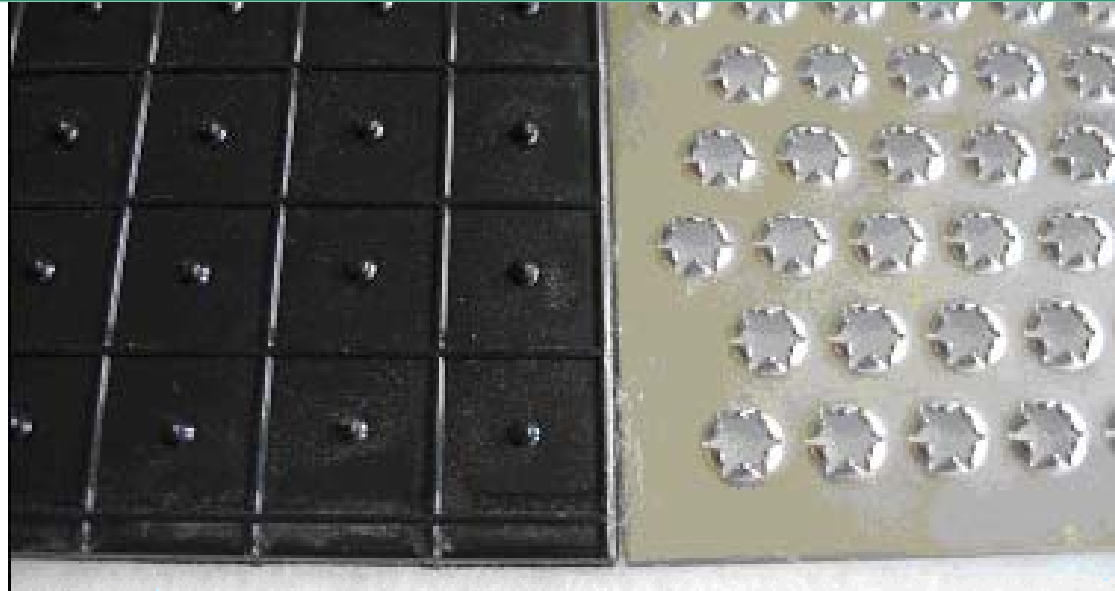


In 2000 BAM (Federal Institute for Materials Research and Testing) developed a methodology to measure long-term shear behavior of GCLs



BAM and NAUE started in September 2000 a research project to measure the creep performance of GCs in order to estimate service lifetimes of GCL

# Internal shear strength



Textured geomembrane

Metal food grater



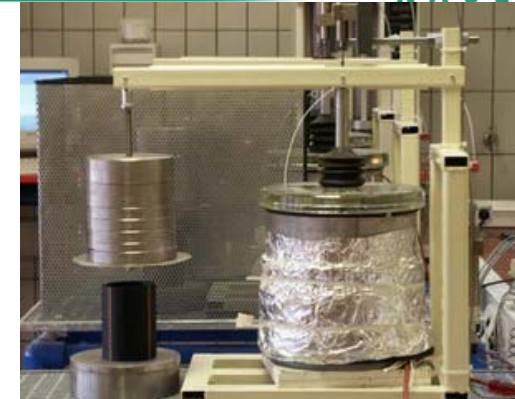
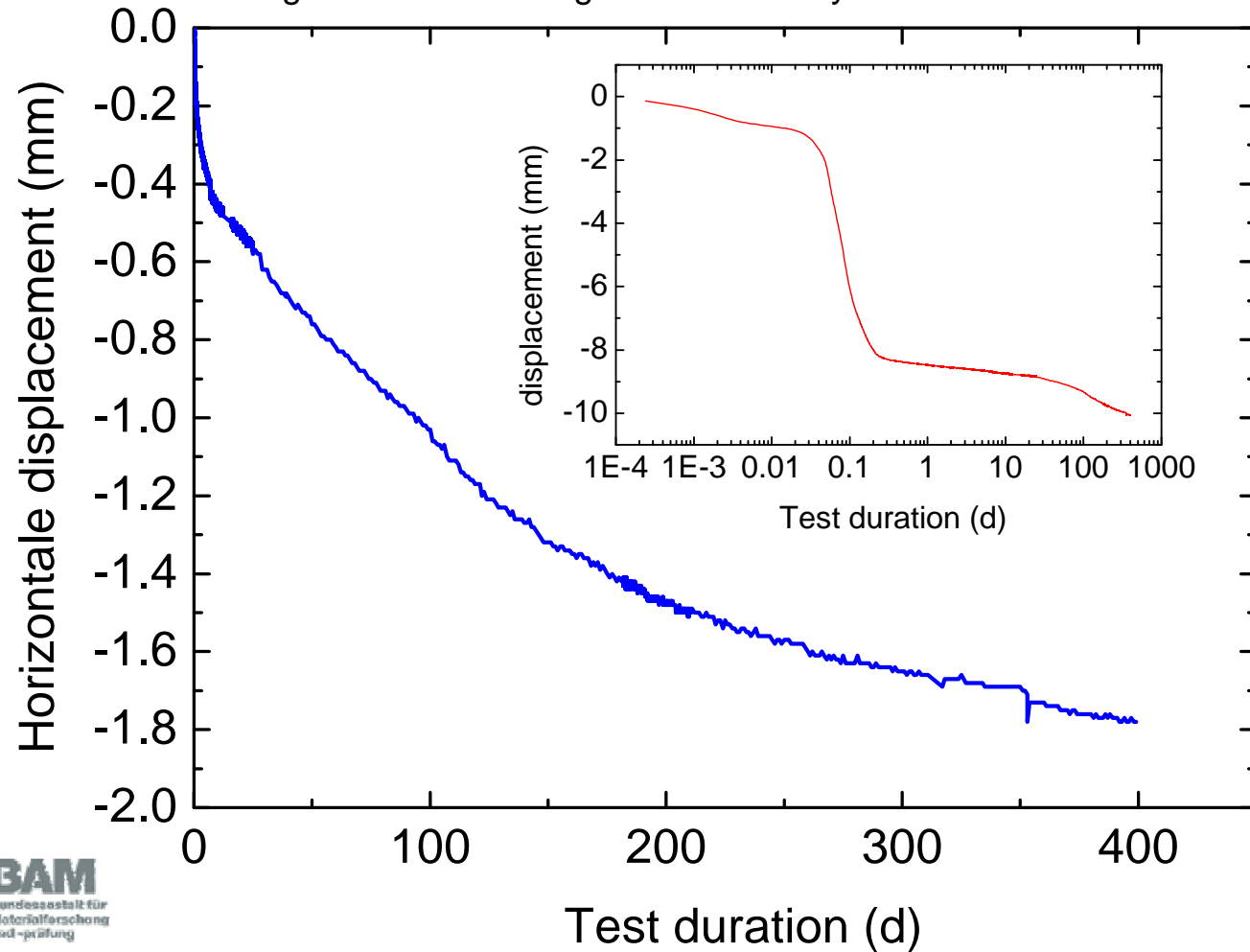
Uniform adhesion of the wedges to upper and lower surfaces of GCLs



# Internal shear strength

German Requirement 365 days/ 80°C/ 2,5 :1/ 50 kPa

BAM determination: if a product withstand these conditions a long-term shear strength for min. 100 years is estimated





# Internal shear strength



Tested GCL types

Sample	Top layer		Bottom layer		Peel strength N/(10 cm)	Thermal Lock
GCL 1A	300 g/m <sup>2</sup>	HDPE - nw	350 g/m <sup>2</sup>	HDPE - w/nw	230	yes
GCL 1B	300 g/m <sup>2</sup>	HDPE - nw	350 g/m <sup>2</sup>	HDPE - w/nw	214	no
GCL 2Aa	300 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PP1 - nw	350 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PP1 - nw / PP3 - w	119	yes
GCL 2Ab	300 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PP2 - nw	350 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PP2 - nw / PP4 - w	163	yes
GCL 2Ac	300 g/m <sup>2</sup> 500 g/m <sup>*</sup>	PP1 - nw PP1 - nw	350 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PP1 - nw / PP3 - w	111	yes
GCL 2Ad	220 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PP2 - nw	110 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PP5 - w	110	yes
GCL 2B	300 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PP1 - nw	300 g/m <sup>2</sup>	PP1 - nw / PP3 - w	60	no



GCLs with woven/ nonwoven carrier layer



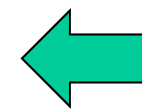
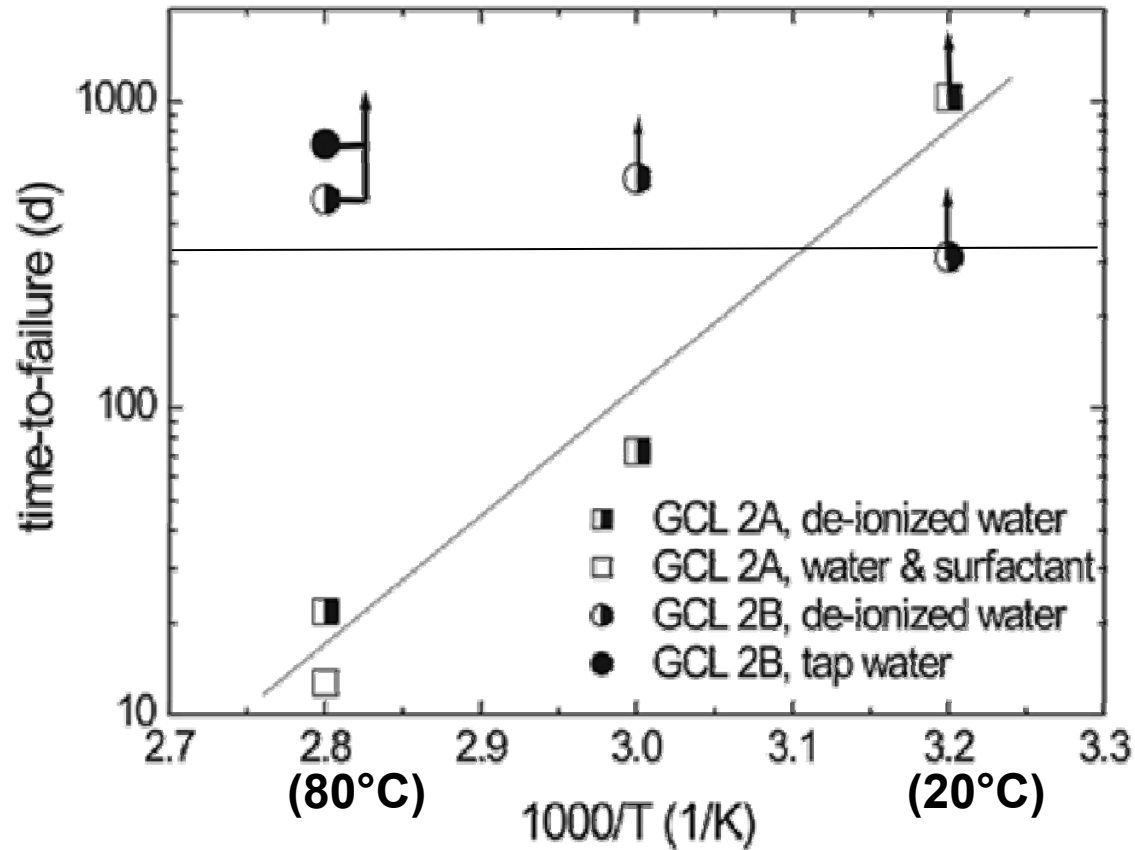
GCLs with woven carrier layer and Thermal Lock



# Internal shear strength

## Results of the 'long-term shear tests'

Time to failure using different testing liquids



GCLs fulfil the requirement of 365 days

Arrhenius diagramm of shear test results of GCL 2Aa and 2B

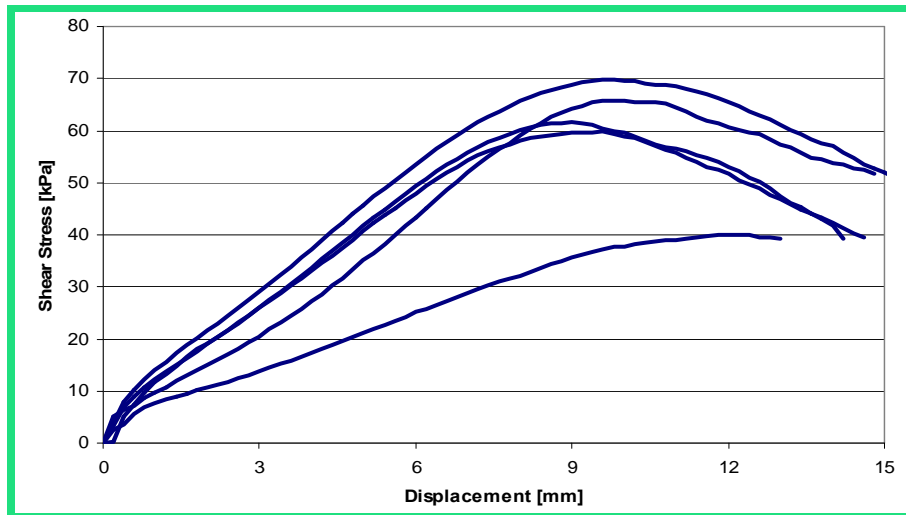
# Internal shear strength



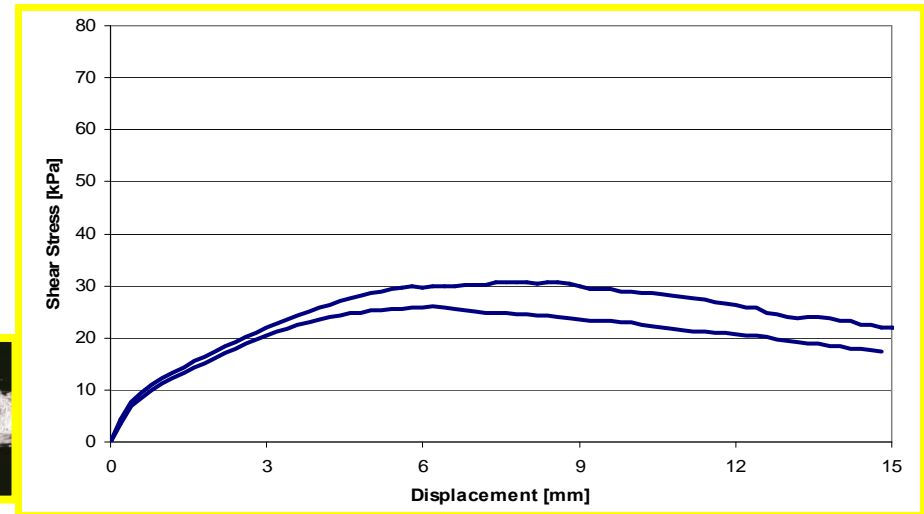
## Retaining shear strength after '~250\* years lifetime'

\* Estimated lifetime referring to the long-term shear test results

Shear box tests with a normal load of 20 kPa after the testing period in 'long-term shear tests'



GCLs with woven/ nonwoven carrier layer



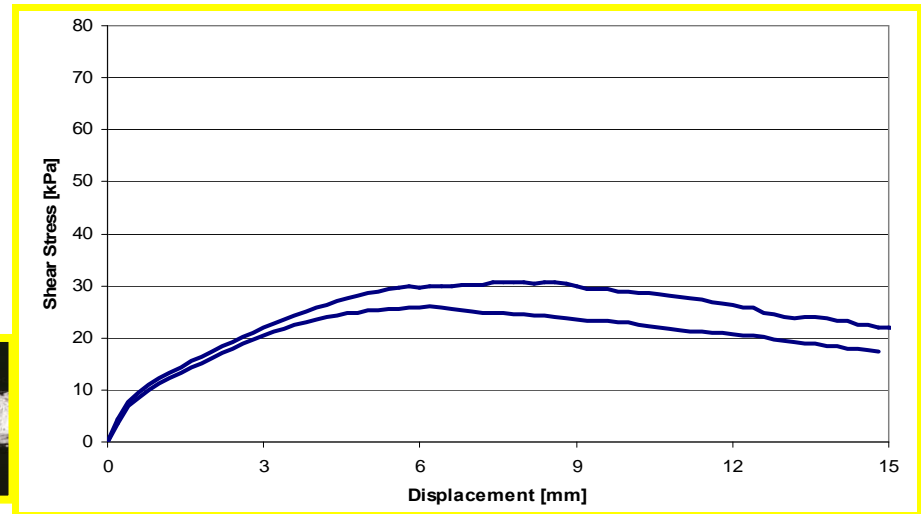
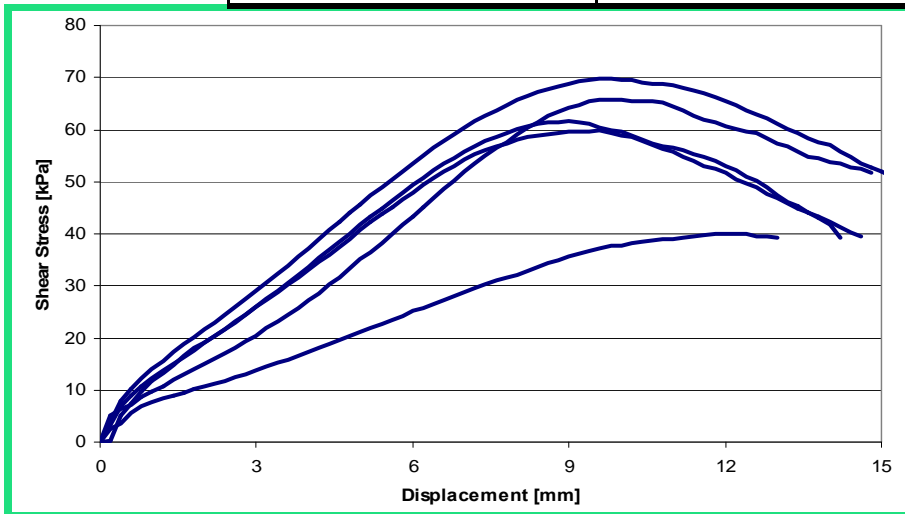
GCLs with woven carrier layer



# Internal shear strength



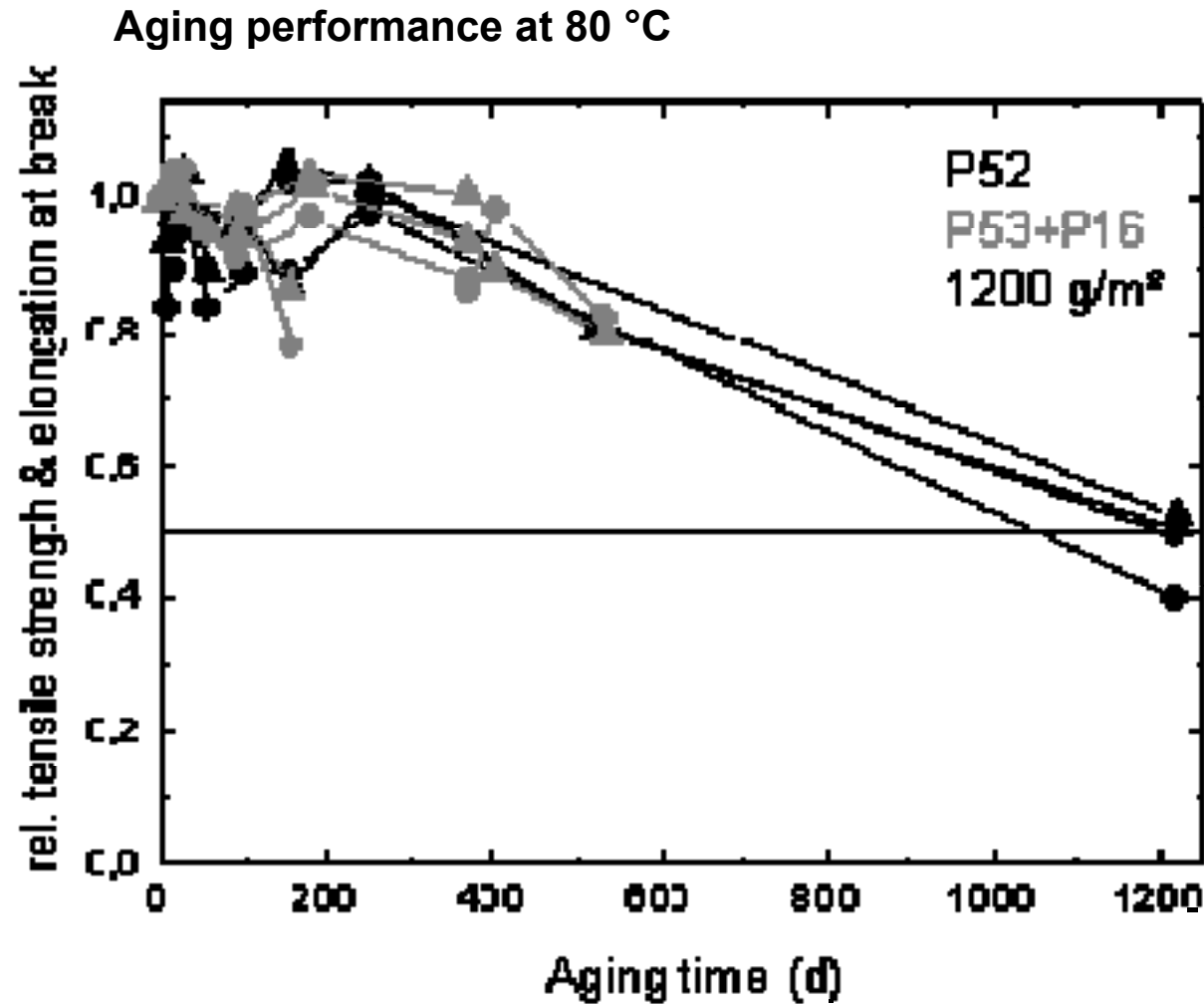
Sample	average maximum shear strength (load 20 kPa) [kPa]	average maximum internal friction angles [°]
Product 2Aa	59.4	71
Product 2B	31.7	58
Product 2Ad	28.4	54



# Internal shear strength



Resistance of stabilized PP-fibers of geotextiles against oxidative degradation



Stabilized polyolifins has a high concentration of antioxidants which protect PP material from oxidizing

- Conclusion:
  - Special test device allows measurement of creep performance of GCLs
  - GCLs are tested under different temperatures, liquids and mechanical stresses
  - Excellent long-term performance of Thermal Lock treated GCLs and GCLs with nonwoven/woven composite carrier layer were measured
  - Estimated service life of more than 250 years
  - High quality PP-fibers warranty long term tensile and peel strength
  - Tested GCLs meet GRI-GCL-3 specification





### 3. Interface Shear Strength

## Failure mechanisms

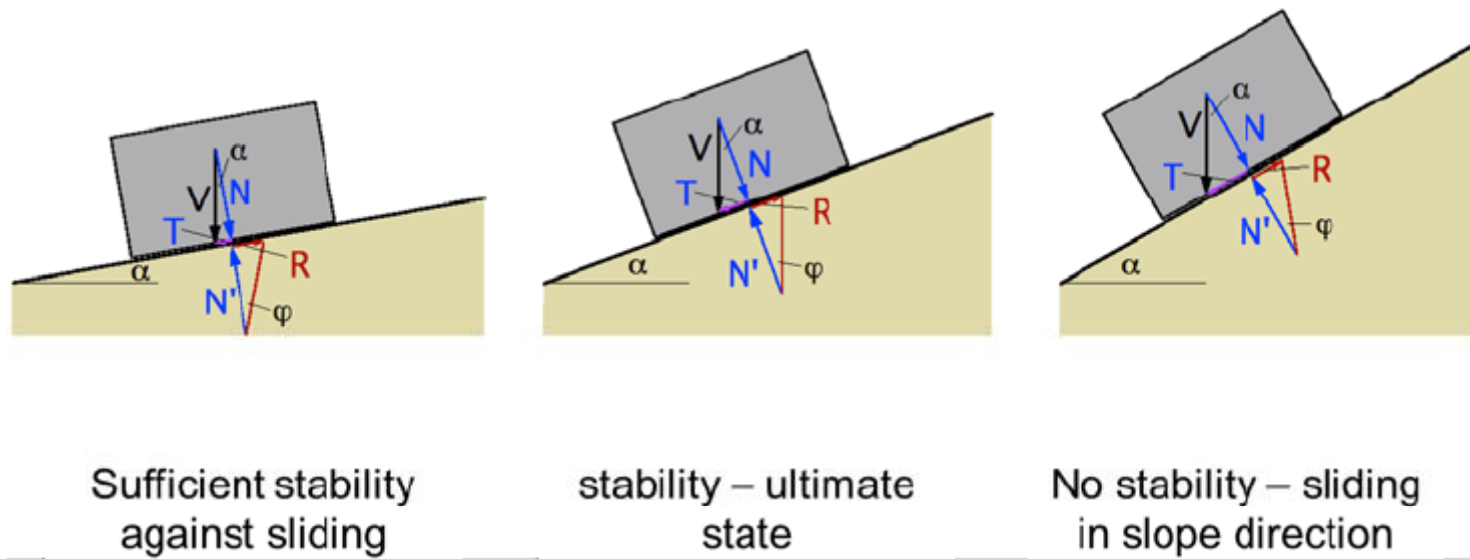
### Reasons of failure

- Steep and long slopes
- + wrong type of geomembrane (smooth side)
- + high loads from cover (1 m soil)
- + reinforcing element with poor tensile strength
- + poor anchorage design
- = poor friction
- = sliding failure



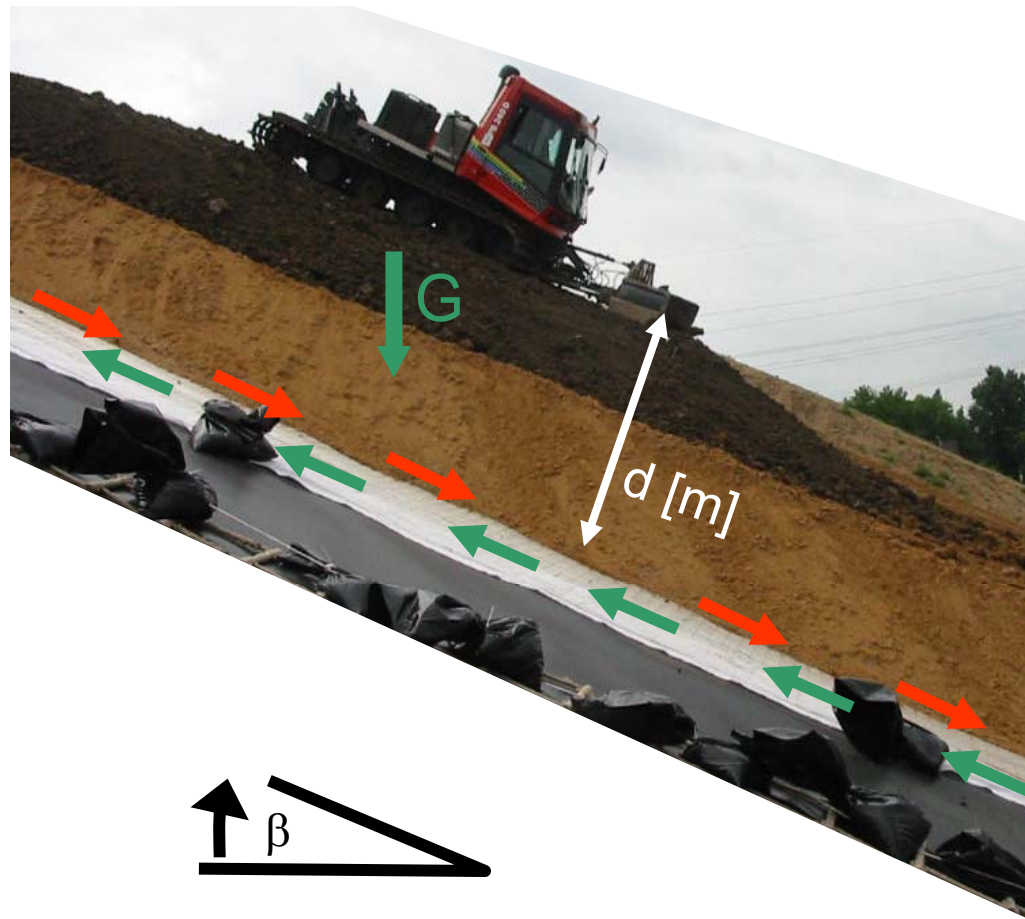
# Interface shear strength

## Design basis on interface for cap lining systems against sliding on slopes





## Geosynthetic Lining System in slopes - stability



### Scope

- All layers are installed parallel to slope surface
- Avoiding any stresses in the lining element
- Cover layer causes stress in slope direction
- Avoiding sliding on interfaces => failure
- All forces have to be transferred by friction mobilization

# Interface shear strength

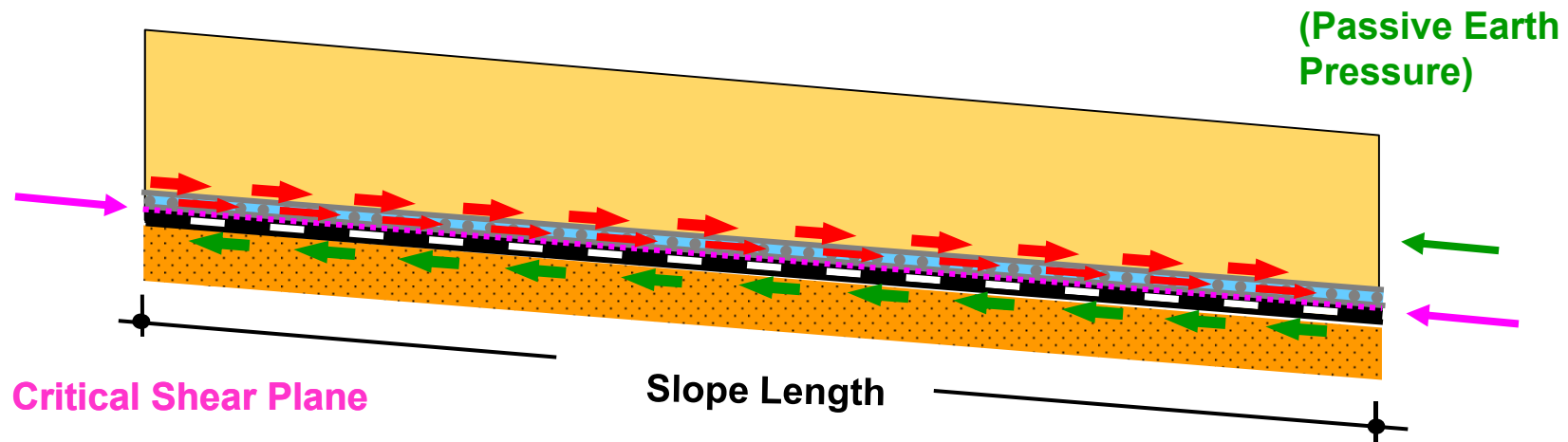


## Stability of sealing system against sliding

General design principles following EUROCODE 7 (Partial Safety Design Concept)

$$\frac{\sum \text{Driving Forces}}{\sum \text{Resisting Forces}} = \text{Degree of utilization} \leq 1 \quad \checkmark$$

The driving forces have to be multiplied with partial safety factors and the holding forces have to be divided by partial safety factors.



**Determination of the required reinforcing element to reach a sufficient stability of the sealing system against sliding!**

**If utilisation  $\mu > 1$**

1. The veneer reinforcement „helps“ to come back to  $E_d \leq R_d$  and is part of  $R_d$ .
2. If veneer reinforcement is required  $\Rightarrow$  Slope length is relevant (multiplied by the length).

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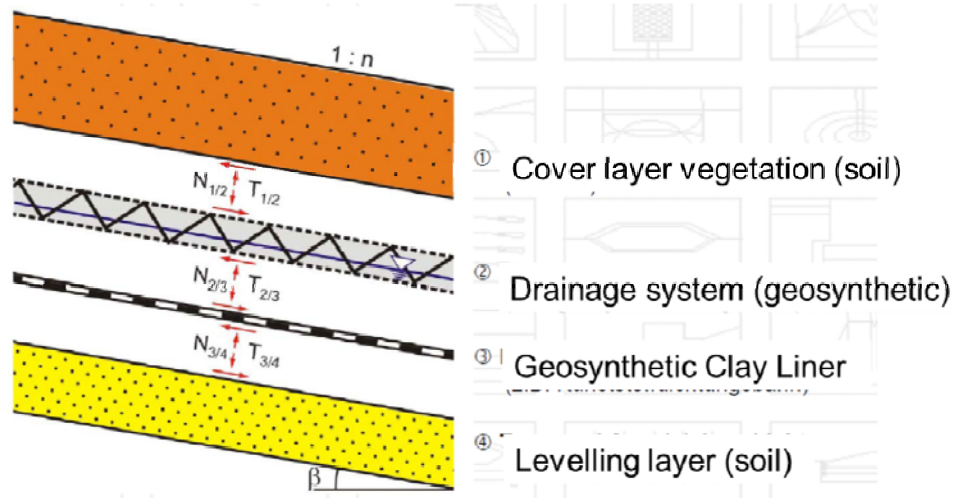
## Deficit long-term tensile strength

$$T_{G,d} = 1.0 \times ((t_{B,d} + s_{w,d} + t_{S,d}) \times l) - ((t_{f,d} + t_{s,h,d}) \times l)$$

(driving forces – resisting forces)

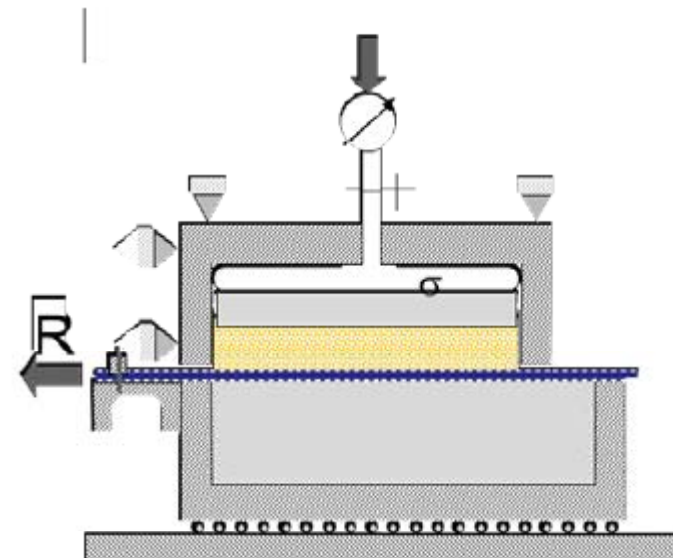


# Interface shear strength



N = Normal load in the shear plane "above and below"  
T = Shear (friction) load parallel to the shear plane

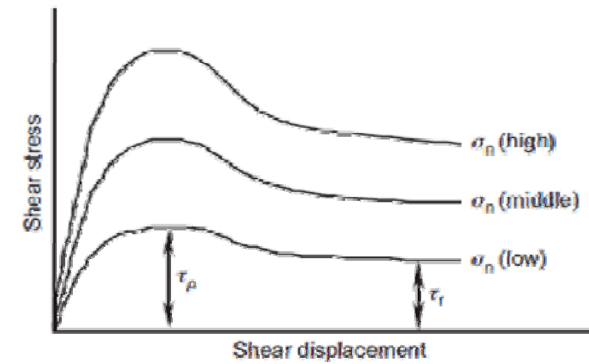
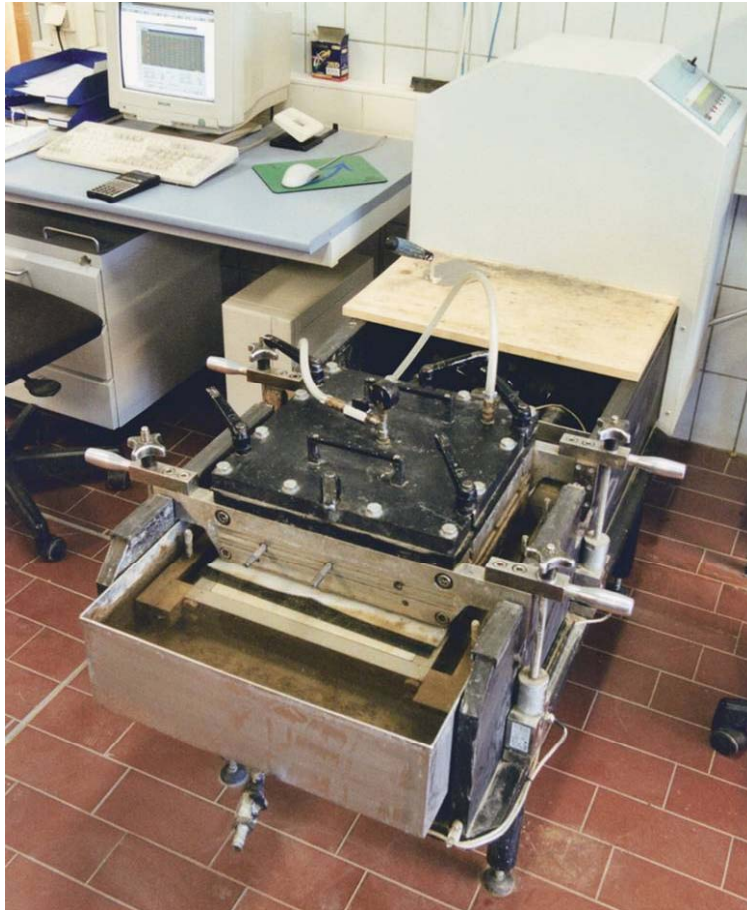
Different interface friction  
between geosynthetics and  
between geosynthetics and soils



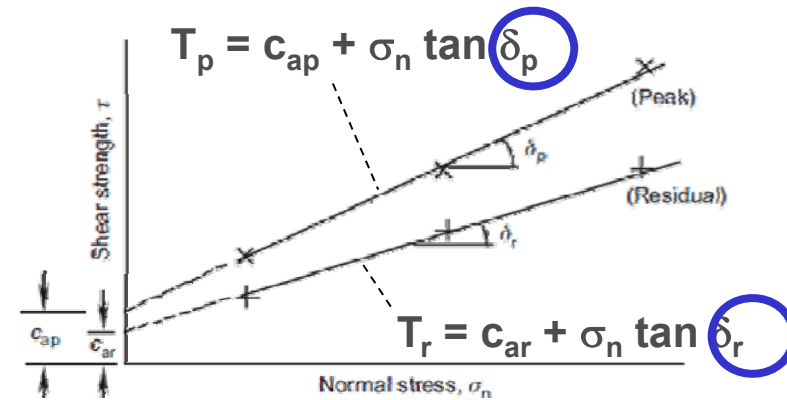
Interface shear box tests according to GDA  
E2-8 (2005)

# Interface shear strength

## Interface Shear Testing / direct shear box test



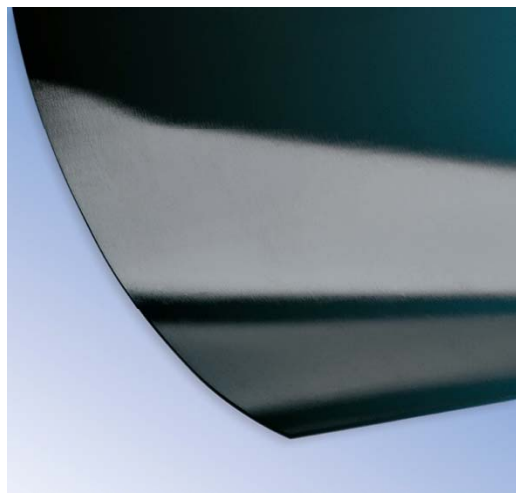
Direct shear test data



Mohr-Coulomb stress space

## Input values - interface friction angles

- Using GM **smooth/smooth**



Carbofol s/s

$$\delta = 10^\circ$$

Valid for all types of smooth GM

Top side  
Bottom side



Secutex  
protection  
geotextile  
(nonwoven)



GCL  
Bentofix  
(cover  
geotextile =  
nonwoven)



## Input values - interface friction angle

- Using GM Megafriction/Megafriction



Carbofol MF/MF

$$\delta \geq 30^\circ$$

Top side

Bottom side



Secutex  
protection  
geotextile  
(nonwoven)



GCL  
Bentofix  
(cover  
geotextile =  
nonwoven)



# Interface shear strength

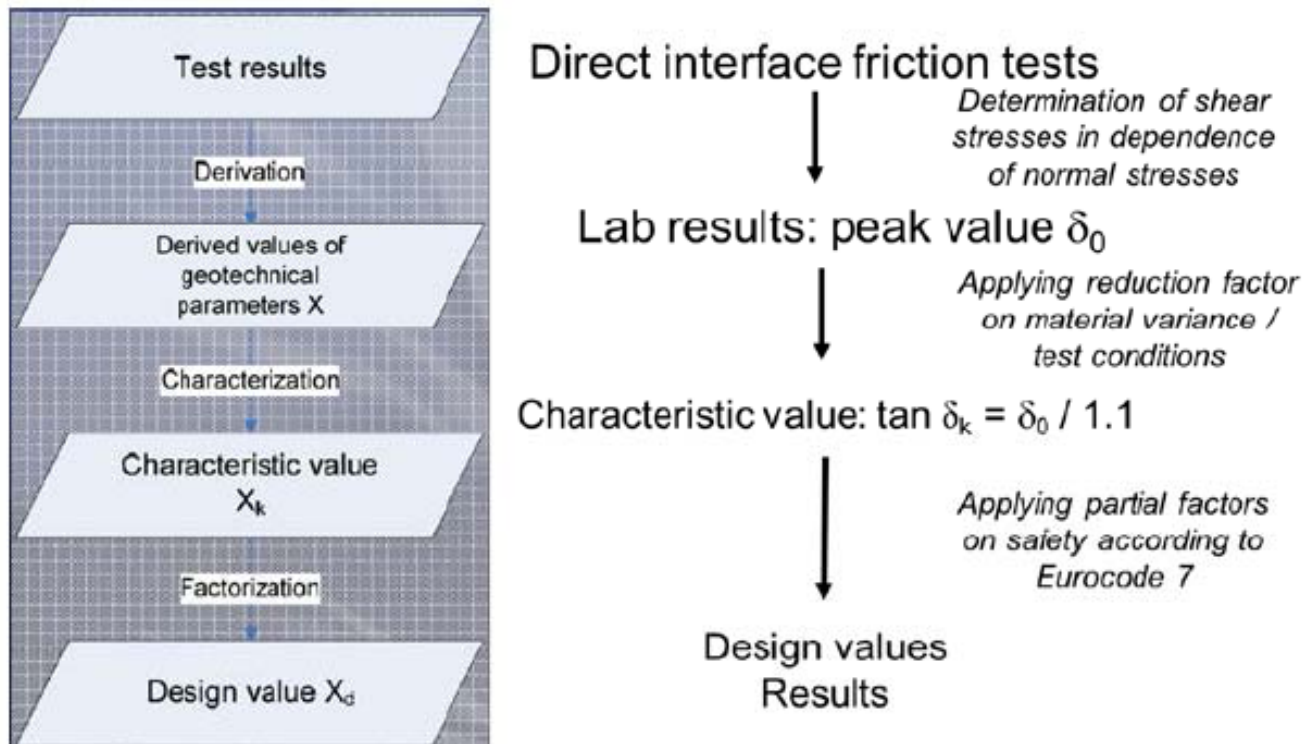


## Examples of interface shear values

between different geosynthetics and soil. The indicated approximate values result from over 15 years of project experience. The specific design values must be determined on a project by project basis and follow as close as possible on-site conditions.

	Bentofix®	Secudrän®	Secutex® nonwoven	Carbofol® smooth	Carbofol® MegaFriction	Sand 0/2 mm	Gravel 8/16 mm	Mixed grained top soil
■ Thermally fused nonwoven achieves the higher value								
■ Is rarely designed								
Bentofix®	33°	19-25°		11°	30°	29°	32°	26°
Secudrän®	19-25°			11°	30°	29°	32°	26°
Secutex® nonwoven			18°	11°	30°	29°	32°	26°
Carbofol® smooth	11°	11°	11°			18°		
Carbofol® MegaFriction	30°	30°	30°			25°		
Sand 0/2 mm	29°	29°	29°	18°	25°	32°	-	-
Gravel 8/16 mm	32°	32°	32°			-	36°	-
Mixed grained top soil	26°	26°	26°			-	-	28°

- Input parameters for stability calculation based on shear box tests



# Interface shear strength



Garanty slope stability with:  
-improoving interface friction angle  
-or using a geogrid for verneer reinforcement



## Tensile strength

The veneer reinforcement „helps“ to come back to  $E_d \leq R_d$  and is part of  $R_d$ .  
If veneer reinforcement is required => Slope length is relevant (multiplied by the length).

### Calculation of the long term design strength of a reinforcing element

given from calculation:

● action forces:

$t_{B,d} =$	8,944 kN/m <sup>2</sup>
$s_{w,d} =$	0,116 kN/m <sup>2</sup>
$t_{S,d} =$	0,000 kN/m <sup>2</sup>

● resisting forces:

$t_{f,d} =$	6,582 kN/m <sup>2</sup>
$t_{S,h,d} =$	0,000 kN/m <sup>2</sup>

● calculation length:

$l =$	40 m
-------	------

### Calculation of the deficit long-term tensile strength:

$$\mu = ((t_{B,d} + s_{w,d} + t_{S,d}) * l) / (t_{f,d} + t_{S,h,d}) * l + T_{G,d}$$

$$T_{G,d} = 1,0 * ((t_{B,d} + s_{w,d} + t_{S,d}) * l) - ((t_{f,d} + t_{S,h,d}) * l)$$

$$T_{G,d} = \textcircled{99,1} \text{ kN/m}$$



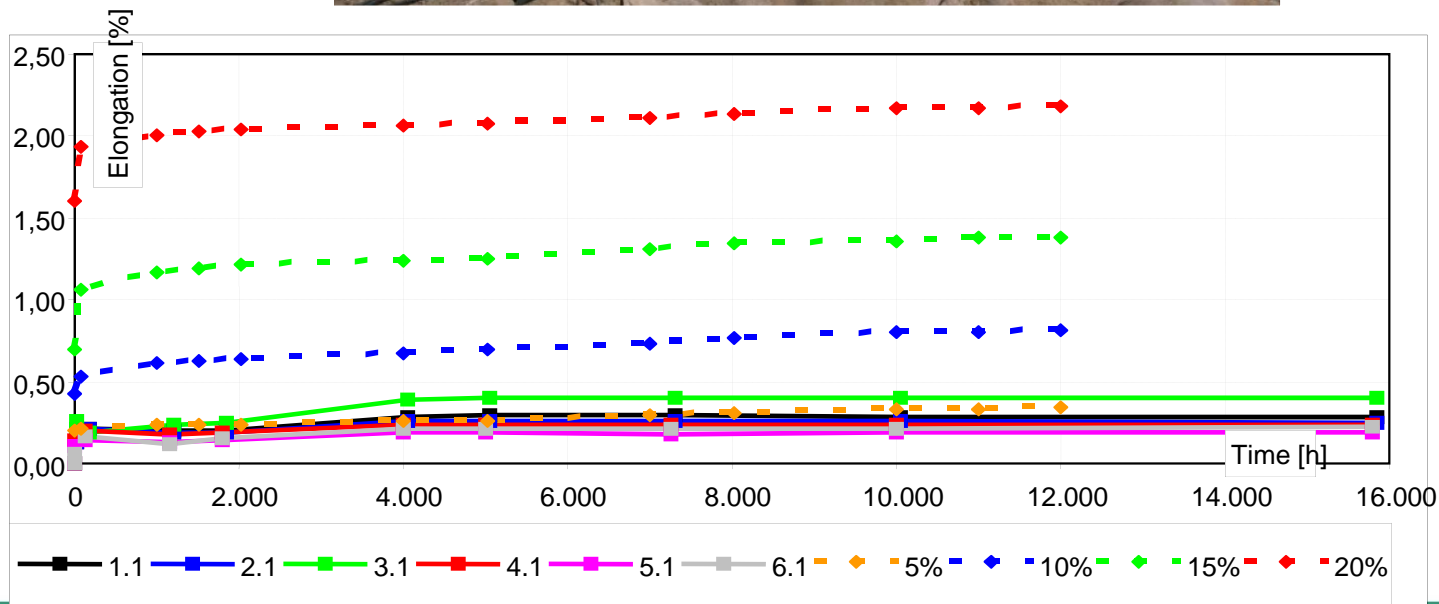
# Interface shear strength

## Creep monitoring of the verneer reinforcement

Field Tests/  
Landfill  
Duisburg-  
Sudamin



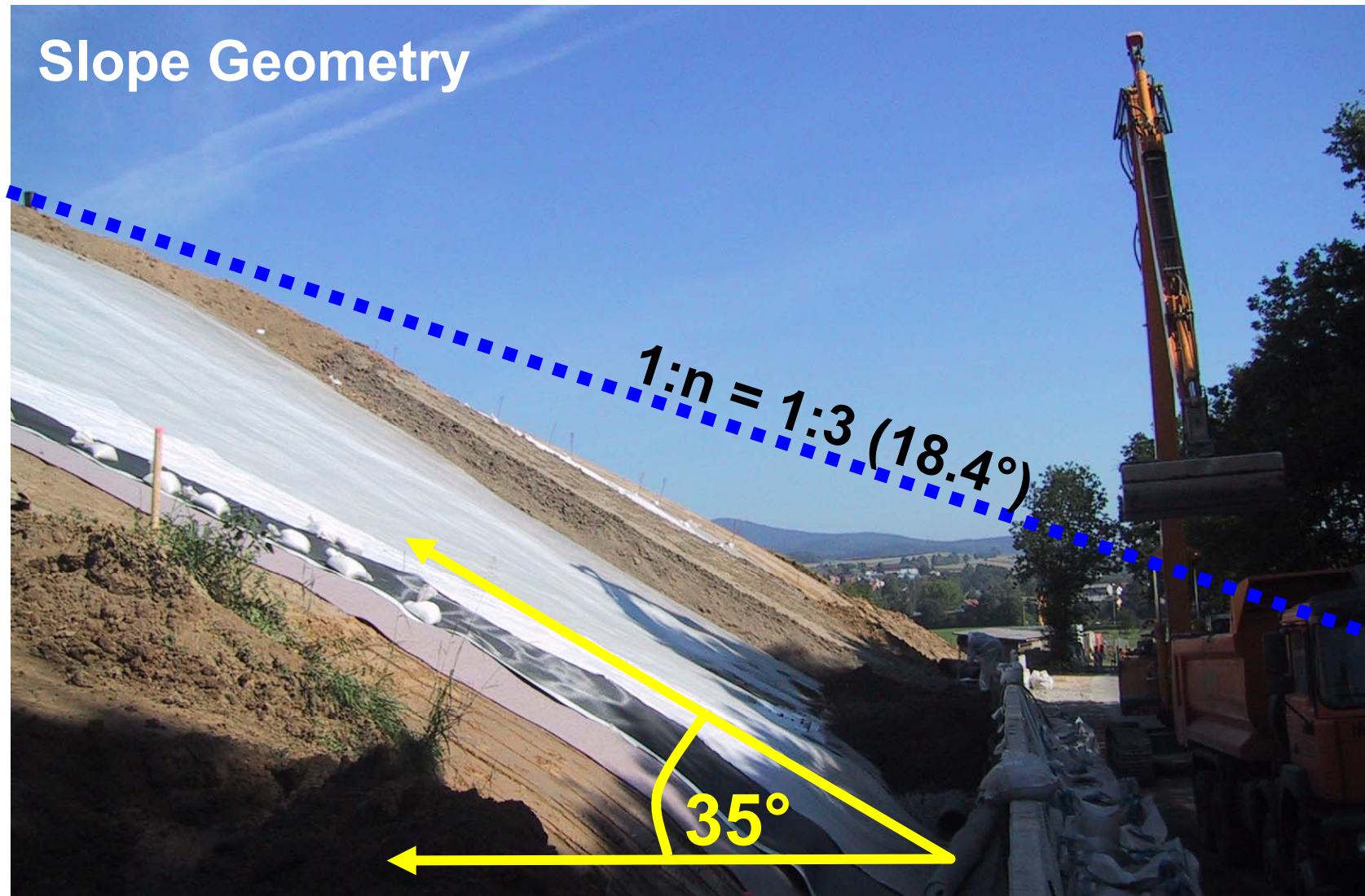
Installation of the strain gauges



Results of in air tests`

Measured strain values  
(approx. 0,3 %)

## Slope Geometry



Landfill "Furth im Wald", Bavaria

- Conclusion:
  - All internal and interface shear strength must be considered in stability analysis
  - Shear box tests are required
  - Different test devices and test performance may lead to different results
  - Sensitive use of test results is necessary




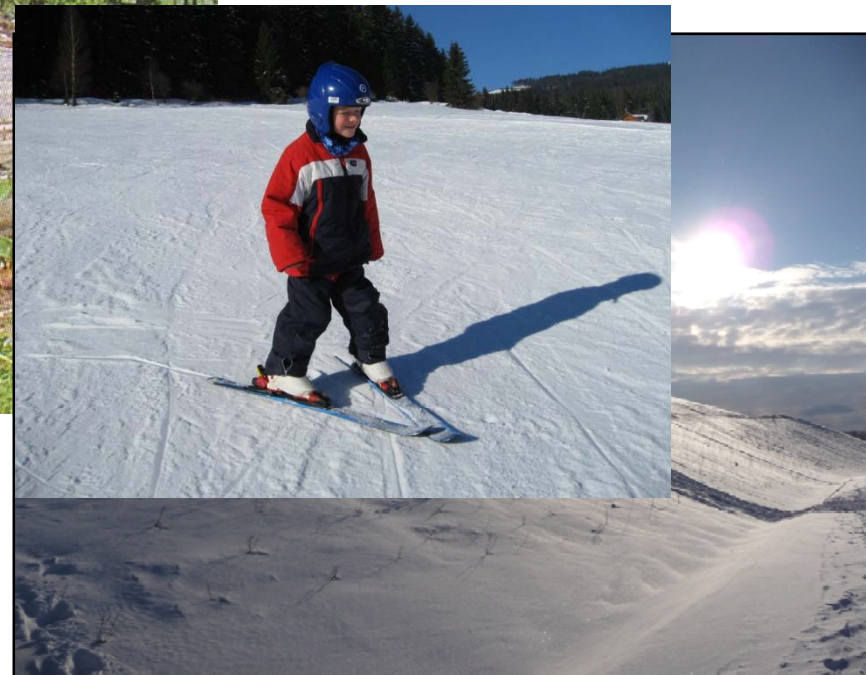


$$\tau_p = G_m \left[ \phi_0 - \alpha \phi_{0g} \left( \frac{C_u}{P_a} \right) \right]$$

$$PP \sim -\text{C}-\overset{\text{CH}_3}{\underset{|}{\text{C}}}-\text{C}-\overset{\text{CH}_3}{\underset{|}{\text{C}}}-\text{C}-\overset{\text{CH}_3}{\underset{|}{\text{C}}}-\dots$$

$$(Na, Ca)_{0.35} (Al, Mg)_2 Si_4 O_{10} (OH)_2 \cdot (H_2O)_n$$

$$k_f = \frac{\alpha L}{A \Delta h}$$



# VERSOS'12

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Thank you for your attention.  
Any questions?



**Katja Werth, Dipl. Ing.**

BBG Bauberatung Geokunststoffe GmbH & Co. KG  
Germany



**Burkard Lenze, Dipl. Geoök.**

NAUE GmbH & Co. KG  
Germany