



NHCP-1P

**NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES, NOTICE 117  
450-VI**

**Purpose.** This notice transmits new conservation practice standards for insertion in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes for clarification have been added as needed.

**Effective Date.** This notice is effective when received.

**NEW STANDARDS**

<u>Practice Standard</u>	<u>Action</u>
Forage Harvest Management (511)	Insert New Standard
Mine Shaft & Adit Closing (457)	Insert Revised Standard

**Explanation.**

Several states have reported a problem losing information for practices that entered “archived status” when FOCS, PASIS 2.0.1 was released. Both the Information Technology Center (ITC) and the National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee (NCPSS) are aware of this problem and are working to correct it. In the interim, states will need to determine what archived practice information is needed in their FOCS database and provide this information to their field offices.

**Forage Harvest Management (511).** This new standard provides guidance for the mechanical harvest of forage species for animal consumption. It replaces the guidance that was previously contained in the Pasture and Hayland Management (510) conservation practice standard.

-MORE-

DIST-NHCP

**Mine Shaft & Adit Closing (457).** This revised standard provides guidance for the closing of abandoned mine shafts and adits. This revised standard has been given the practice code 457 so that the identity of the previous standard (code 452) may be retained in archived form.

**Instructions.**

Replace the “Contents” pages in the NHCP with the attached revised version dated January 1997.

Insert the new or revised standards in the NHCP in alphabetical order as designated on the revised “Contents” pages.

Remove the practice standard for Land Reclamation, Shaft & Adit Closing dated June 1984 from the NHCP and retain it as an archived standard until there is no further use for it.

File the attached example “Notice of Proposed Change . . . Practices” with this notice.

One hard copy of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all States, Regional Offices, Institutes, and Cooperating Scientists. Additional hard copies may be obtained from the Consolidated Forms and Publication Distribution Center (CFPDC) by ordering NHCP-1P.

Copies of this notice and each of the new conservation practice standards included with it can also be accessed electronically. Access can be through either the NRCS Home Page on the World Wide Web (WWW) or from the FTP server in Fort Worth. Guidance for electronic access of standards is contained in NHCP Notice 116.

Section 343 “Public Notice and Comment for Revising Certain State Technical Guides” of Subtitle E of the 1996 farm bill contains the following language.

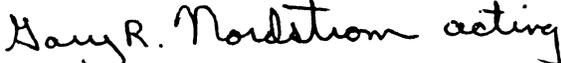
After the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall provide for public notice and comment under Section 553 of title 5, United States code with regard to any future revisions to those provisions of the Natural resources Conservation Service state technical guides that are used to carry out Subtitles A, B, and C of Title XII of the Food Security Act of 1985 (16 U.S.C. 3801 et seq.).

The National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee (NCPSS) filed notice of intent to adopt these standards in the Federal Register in October 1996. Comments were received for 30 days.

In situations where states adopt these standards without modification, their requirement to satisfy Section 343 “Public Notice and Comment for Revising Certain State Technical Guides” of Subtitle E of the 1996 farm bill has already been accomplished.

States that modify, supplement, or otherwise change these national standards will have to advertise and seek public comment within the state prior to adopting them and placing them in Section IV of their Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG).

Attached to this notice is an example of the notice used to advertise these standards in the Federal Register. This can be used as a model to develop a notice at the state level when it is necessary to seek public comment within the state. Questions concerning when it may be necessary to seek public comment at the state level prior to adopting these standards should be referred to your legal counsel.

  
GARY A. MARGHEIM  
Acting Deputy Chief for Science and Technology

Attachments