



Natural Resources Conservation Service
P.O. Box 2890
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NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES
450 – NHCP
NOTICE 167

October 30, 2017

Purpose. This notice transmits new or revised national Conservation Practice Standards (CPSs), along with an updated index, for insertion into the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes are included to highlight key changes made to each document.

Effective Date. This notice is effective upon receipt.

Explanation of Changes. New, revised, or deleted national CPSs are as follows:

Anaerobic Digester (Code 366) – Revised language as needed to improve readability and clarify intent in criteria. “Conditions Where Practice Applies” section was updated and two items were removed. Provided additional information on the use of open and closed flares. Updated the safety section.

Contour Farming (Code 330) – The contour farming definition was changed to read “Aligning ridges, furrows, and roughness formed by tillage, planting and other operations at a grade near the contour to alter the velocity or the direction of water flow.” Added the resource concern linked to each purpose. Under “general criteria,” made changes to the wording on minimum and maximum row grades and lowered the allowable deviation of row grade within 50 feet of a stable outlet. Changed requirements under “plans and specifications.”

Crosswind Ridges (Code 588) – The crosswind ridges standard was reviewed and updated to reflect current agency policy and science. Each “purpose” has the resource concern linked. Minor word edits were made to clarify criteria. In “references,” updated the Wind Erosion Prediction System reference.

Dam (Code 402) – The agency updated criteria and added references. Other changes improved the clarity of language used in the standard.

Mulching (Code 484) – The mulching standard was reviewed and updated to reflect current agency policy and science. The “definition” was changed with the reference to “materials produced offsite” removed. Each “purpose” has the resource concern linked. Under “general criteria applicable to all purposes,” a paragraph was added to remove synthetic mulches and to not incorporate them into the soil. The percentage of ground cover to reduce potential evaporation was increased and two new references were added.

DIST: S, R, L, and National Center Director



Pond Sealing or Lining – Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner (Code 521) – Title changed from “Pond Sealing or Lining – Flexible Membrane” to “Pond Sealing or Lining – Geomembrane or Geosynthetic Clay Liner” to better reflect the current industrial standard nomenclature. Practice Standard Code changed from 521A to 521. Units changed from “Number” to “Square Feet” to better represents the quantity of the practice installed. HDPE liner thickness changed from 40 mil to 60 mil.

Stream Crossing (Code 578) – The purpose of this standard has been modified to only address resource concerns. Criteria listed as considerations was moved to the appropriate criteria section. Language has been simplified to better coordinate CPS 578 with other conservation practices, policy, and procedures by cross-referencing instead of reiteration.

Stripcropping (Code 585) – The strip-cropping standard was reviewed and updated to reflect current agency policy and science. Each “purpose” has the resource concern linked. Minor word edits were made to clarify criteria. Under “general criteria,” added the following: “Design the row grades with positive row drainage of not less than 0.2 percent on slopes where ponding is a concern. This would include sites with soils with slow to very slow infiltration rates (soil hydrologic groups C or D), or where crops are sensitive to ponded water.” In “references,” updated the Wind Erosion Prediction System and added a reference for the Water Erosion Prediction Project.

Structure for Water Control (Code 587) – The agency updated criteria and added references. Other changes improved the clarity of language used in the standard.

Water and Sediment Control Basin (Code 638) – Revised language as needed to improve readability and clarify intent of criteria. Topsoil criteria and the auxiliary spillway portion of the outlet criteria were moved to the considerations section since these are not always required. Added criteria for embankment foundation preparation.

Waste Recycling (Code 633) – Language changes were made in the definition, conditions where practice applies, and criteria to clarify the purpose of the standard and how it is to be used.

Waste Treatment Lagoon (Code 359) – The document has been revised extensively. Those revisions include modifications to align the structural design requirements to align with changes to the Waste Storage Structure Standard. These changes include changes in accepted concrete and timber design criteria, modification of language for storage requirements to improve clarity, modify language to conform to the Plain Language Act, improvements to the safety criteria, changing the requirement of a staff gauge from optional to required, and improvements to the “Plans and Specifications” and “Operation and Maintenance” sections of the standard. Other changes have been made to improve the clarity of the language used in the standard.

Waste Treatment Lagoon (Code 359) – The document has been revised extensively. Those revisions include modifications to align the structural design requirements to align with changes to the Waste Storage Structure Standard. These changes include changes in accepted concrete and timber design criteria, modification of language for storage requirements to improve clarity, modify language to conform to the Plain Language Act, improvements to the safety criteria,

changing the requirement of a staff gauge from optional to required, and improvements to the Plans and Specifications” and “Operation and Maintenance” sections of the standard. Other changes have been made to improve the clarity of the language used in the standard.

Water and Sediment Control Basin (Code 638) – Revised language as needed to improve readability and clarify intent of criteria. Topsoil criteria and the auxiliary spillway portion of the outlet criteria were moved to the considerations section since these are not always required. Added criteria for embankment foundation preparation.

Reviewed With No Revisions Required. Updated format with verbiage edits to comply with the Plain Language Act as follows:

Access Control (Code 472)

Alley Cropping (Code 311)

Forest Trail and Landings (Code 655)

Hillside Ditch (Code 423)

Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (Code 654)

Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384)

Pen and ink Changes. Minor changes to existing CPSs are as follows:

Saturated Buffer (Code 604) – To expand the range of applicability of the standard to greater number of field sites, the current 5-percent flow capacity criteria for the saturated buffer is maintained, but designers are now allowed to use an alternate length of the distribution pipe if the 5-percent criteria is found impractical or cost-prohibitive. The required geological investigation for slope stability is also maintained, but designers are allowed an alternate analysis of slope stability based on professional, onsite observations.

Filing Instructions. If a hardcopy of the NHCP is maintained, replace the “Contents” section (pages i through vi, dated March 2017) with the revised pages found at <http://directives.sc.egov.usda.gov/viewerFS.aspx?hid=22299>

Remove and archive, as appropriate, the following existing practice standards:

Access Control (Code 472), dated September 2010

Alley Cropping (Code 311), dated May 2011

Anaerobic Digester (Code 366), dated September 2009

Contour Farming (Code 330), dated December 2013

Cross Wind Ridges (Code 588), dated December 2013

Dam (Code 402), dated May 2011

Forest Trail and Landings (Code 655), dated September 2011

Hillside Ditch (Code 423), dated September 2008

Mulching (Code 484), dated December 2013

Pond Sealing or Lining – Flexible Membrane (Code 521A), dated August 2006

Road/Trail/Landing Closure and Treatment (Code 654), dated November 2008

Saturated Buffer (Code 604), dated May 2016R

Stream Crossing (Code 578), dated September 2011
Stripcropping (Code 585), dated September 2008
Structure for Water Control (Code 587), dated April 2010
Waste Recycling (Code 633), dated May 2011
Waste Treatment Lagoon (Code 359), dated October 2003
Water and Sediment Control Basin (Code 638), dated September 2008
Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384), dated May 2011

This notice and each of the conservation practice standards included with this notice can be accessed electronically through the NRCS website at http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/wps/portal/nrcs/detailfull/national/technical/cp/ncps/?cid=nrcs143_026849

Federal Register Notice

NRCS published a notice to solicit public comments about how to improve specific agency conservation practice standards in the *Federal Register* on June 23, 2017, for a 30-day comment periods. Comments from the public were accepted during the comment period.

Guidance to the States and the Pacific Islands and Caribbean Areas for complying with the provisions of the 1996 Farm Bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS State-level technical guides can be found in Title 450, General Manual, Part 401, Subpart B, Section 401.19.



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