



United States Department of Agriculture  
Natural Resources Conservation Service  
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## CIRCULAR 440-19-4

Conservation Programs Manual, Title 440 – Programs

Part 508 – Conservation Stewardship Program (CSP) (CMT Supported Contracts)

SUBJECT: PGM – Payment Exception due to Natural Events

**Purpose.** To communicate the addition of a payment exception due to disaster or related condition and to align this exception with a similar exception under Title 440, Conservation Programs Manual, Part 507, Subpart J, Section 507.94C (440-CPM-507-J-507.94C).

**Effective Date.** July 31, 2019

**Background.** The CSP statute requires that a producer will not be determined to be in violation of a CSP contract for failure to meet its terms due to circumstances beyond the control of the producer, including a disaster or related condition. This statutory requirement is incorporated into regulation at 7 CFR Section 1470.21(b)(6).

**Policy or Procedure.** This circular amends policy found in 440-CPM-508-J-508.94A by adding the following:

*Exception: NRCS may make the existing activity payment and/or additional activity payment as scheduled when, due to a significant disaster or related condition (such as drought, wildfire, pestilence, hurricane, or flooding), NRCS determines that the participant cannot fully complete the program requirements. If NRCS makes such determination, NRCS will not issue Form NRCS-CPA-153 and will consider the program requirements met as long as the participant can provide documentation of his or her stewardship and/or adoption of additional activities prior to the disaster or related condition.*

Note: For any additional activities that a participant has not yet adopted, follow guidance in 440-CPM-508-J-508.94C.

**Filing Instructions.** This circular is to be printed in hardcopy and retained in local files until the applicable manual is updated to include this information.

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