

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**INTERIM**

**INCINERATOR**

(No.)

**CODE 769**



**DEFINITION**

An incinerator used to dispose of dead poultry, suckling pigs, or other small animals.

**PURPOSE**

This practice may be applied as part of a conservation management system to provide a suitable disposal method of dead poultry or small animals to prevent pollution and improve environmental quality. This standard covers the planning and design of a manufactured incinerator for the disposal of dead poultry or small animals encountered on farms as part of normal farming operations.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

This practice applies where current disposal practices of dead poultry or small animals are unsatisfactory and where there is a need to improve sanitation, reduce pollution, or enhance water quality. The incinerator must be located on a farm and is owned and operated by the farm owner or by the farm operator.

The incinerator is used solely to dispose of animals or poultry originating on the farm where the incinerator is located.

**CRITERIA**

**General.** All Federal, state, and local laws, rules, and regulations governing waste management, pollution abatement, and health and safety shall be strictly followed. The owner or operator shall be responsible for securing all required permits, approvals, and registration and for the operation of the unit in accordance with appropriate laws, rules, and regulations. Permits must be obtained prior to construction and operation.

**Emissions.** Incinerator particulate matter emissions, carbon monoxide (CO) emissions, and visible emissions shall not exceed the requirements of the North Carolina Division of Air Quality.

The incinerator shall not cause, suffer, allow, or permit the discharge of air pollutants which cause or contribute to an objectionable odor.

The incinerator must comply with the visible emission rule (for most of these incinerators, the opacity requirement is 20%) and the general odor rule is no objectionable odors beyond the farm boundary.

**Capacity.** The required minimum incinerator capacity shall be based on the maximum daily weight of animal carcasses during a typical growing cycle. The maximum daily weight of animal carcasses shall be based on mortality data over several growing cycles excluding catastrophic losses. In the absence of specific landowner mortality data, incinerator capacity shall be based on similar operations in the local area.

Conservation practice standards are reviewed periodically and updated if needed. To obtain the current version of this standard, contact the Natural Resources Conservation Service.

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The required minimum incinerator size shall be the smallest size available that will incinerate the required minimum capacity in 2 or 3 burns within a 24 hour period of time. The incinerator shall have dual burn chambers.

The incinerator shall not be charged at a rate that exceeds its design capacity.

**Material.** Incinerators installed under this standard shall be constructed of durable material with a life expectancy equal to the planned life of the structure.

**Location.** Incinerators shall be located a sufficient distance, as recommended by the manufacturer, from any building to prevent spontaneous combustion.

The placement of the fuel tank with respect to the incinerator will comply with all safety regulations.

**Protection.** The incinerator will be located on a reinforced (fiber or steel) concrete slab for stability and safety. The concrete slab shall extend sufficient distance on all sides of the incinerator base to accommodate management of the facility. The top of the concrete slab shall be a minimum of 0.5 foot above natural ground. The area surrounding the concrete slab shall be shaped in such a way as to drain or divert all overland and roof runoff safely away from the structure and surrounding work area.

**Installation.** Electrical installation shall meet the requirements of the National Electrical Code (NEC) and state and local codes and must be certified in writing by a qualified licensed electrician. All electric wiring shall be in a conduit at the incinerator.

Gas hook-up must be certified in writing by a qualified licensed Liquefied Petroleum contractor to meet applicable National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) codes; all other national, state and local codes; and in conformance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

Fuel storage for diesel powered units shall be installed in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations and shall meet all

applicable state and local codes, rules and regulations.

**Vegetation.** All disturbed areas shall be vegetated in accordance with NRCS conservation practice standard Critical Area Planting, Code 342.

## CONSIDERATIONS

Consideration should be given to protecting the incinerator with a metal roof to extend the life of the unit. The roof structure will be constructed using non-combustible materials in accordance with manufacturer's recommendations. Size of structure and clearances shall be as recommended by the incinerator manufacturer.

Incinerators should be located as far as practical from any structure, well, spring, or surface watercourse. Recommended distances are as follows:

- at least 50 feet from any surface watercourse
- at least 100 feet from any well or water source
- at least 20 feet from any building to prevent spontaneous combustion

Growers should carefully estimate the capacity needed to manage daily mortalities and include other disposal methods in their resource management plan to cover situations in which heavy, unexpected losses occur.

Where air emissions are a concern, consideration should be given to alternate methods of disposal (composting, rendering, etc.).

Consideration should be given to the operating cost of the incinerator. Local fuel cost rates should be used to estimate these expenses.

Due consideration should be given to economics, the overall waste management system plan, and safety and health factors.

## PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Plans and specifications shall be prepared in accordance with the criteria of this standard

and shall describe the requirements for applying the practice to achieve its intended use.

### **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

An operation and maintenance plan shall be developed that is consistent with the purposes of the practice, its intended life, safety requirements, and the criteria for its design.

Incinerators shall only be used for the cremation of dead animals.

Incinerators must be operated properly to maximize equipment life and minimize emission problems. Any operator of an incinerator shall be trained by the manufacturer's representative or an equivalent organization. A trained operator must be on-site when the incinerator is in operation.

The incinerator must be loaded according to manufacturer's recommendations. Ashes should be removed frequently to maximize combustion and prevent damage to equipment. Plans shall include methods for collecting and disposing of the ash material remaining after incineration. The plan shall include a dedicated metal ash collection box or container. The ash shall be land applied at agronomic rates. The incinerator must be inspected periodically to ensure that all components are operating as planned and in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations.

### **REFERENCES**

NRCS conservation practice standard Critical Area Planting, Code 342