

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
PACIFIC ISLANDS AREA**

**CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION**

**TERRACE (600)**

**SCOPE**

This specification covers the construction of terraces. Construction shall be in accordance with the drawings and these specifications.

**SAFETY**

Landowners or operators, sponsoring organizations, and contractors shall be liable for damage to utilities and damage resulting from disruption of service caused by construction activities. The Natural Resources Conservation Service makes no representation on the existence or nonexistence of any utilities. Absence of utilities on the drawings is not assurance that no utilities are present at the site.

It is the responsibility of the landowner or operator to determine if there are buried or overhead utilities in the vicinity of the proposed work. They will take proper procedures to insure that the utilities shall not be jeopardized and that equipment operators and others will not be injured during construction operations.

**SITE PREPARATION**

All dead furrows, ditches, or gullies to be crossed by the terrace shall be filled in before terrace construction begins in order to facilitate construction and to prevent seepage through the terrace ridge. Old terraces, fences, trees, or other obstructions that will interfere with the successful operation of the system shall be removed.

**EARTH WORK**

The terraces shall be constructed to the lines, grades, and cross sections shown on the plans and/or staked in the field. The minimum cross section shall meet or exceed design dimensions, and the channel shall drain reasonably well. The top of the constructed ridge shall not be lower at any point than the design elevation. The channel shall not be higher at any point than the design elevation. The slope shall not vary more than 0.30% from the design grade in any 100 foot section (e.g. A terrace designed for a 1% slope shall not be less than 0.70 % nor more than 1.30 % slope.).

Material for earthfill shall be obtained from excavation in the channel or other designated areas. It shall be free of objectionable materials such as brush, roots more than 1 inch in diameter, and rocks over 6 inches in diameter.

While it is generally always preferable, where it is necessary, topsoil is to be stockpiled and spread over excavations and other areas to facilitate restoration of productivity.

Earthfill shall be compacted by machinery travel. The maximum layer thickness before compaction shall be 4 inches. The tracks of the equipment must pass over 90 percent of the surface of each lift before a new lift is placed. The moisture content of the terrace fill material shall be such that, when kneaded in the hand, the fill material will form a ball that does not readily separate. Material that is too wet shall be dried and material that is too dry shall have water added or work shall be stopped until moisture conditions are satisfactory.

Terrace ridges constructed across gullies or depressions shall be compacted by machinery travel or other means sufficient to insure proper functioning of the terrace.

Any ditch or depression at the bottom of the back slope shall be filled and smoothed so that drainage will be away from the terrace and not parallel to it.

The surface of the finished terrace shall be reasonably smooth and present a workmanlike finish.

### **OUTLETS**

The outlet shall be equal in area to the channel capacity requirements. The outlet of the terrace shall be stable and every effort shall be made to protect the terrace outlet. If a vegetated outlet is already established, the heavy equipment movement in the outlet during terrace construction shall be closely controlled.

### **WORKMANSHIP**

All construction shall be performed in a workmanlike manner, and the job site shall have a neat appearance when finished.

### **CONSTRUCTION OPERATIONS**

Construction operations shall be carried out in such a manner and sequence that erosion and air and water pollution are minimized and held within legal limits.

The owner, operator, contractor, or other persons will conduct all work and operations in accordance with proper safety codes for the type of construction being performed with due regards to the safety of all persons and property.

### **BASIS OF ACCEPTANCE**

The acceptability of this practice shall be determined by inspections to insure compliance with all the provisions of this specification and to the drawings.