

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATIONS**

**SURFACE DRAINAGE  
MAIN OR LATERAL  
(ft.)  
CODE 608**

**MAIN OR LATERAL SPECIFICATIONS  
CLEARING**

The channel area shall be cleared of trees, logs, stumps, and other materials necessary for construction. Care must be taken to protect all trees to be saved for environmental purposes. Where feasible, consideration will be given to saving selected trees within the work area that would be beneficial as wildlife habitat and would contribute to the visual quality of the area. All material shall be disposed of by an acceptable method as shown on the plans.

**EXCAVATION**

Channels shall be excavated to line and grade as shown on the plans or as staked in the field. The excavated surface shall be reasonably smooth. Construction activities shall be carried on in a manner that will not restrict flow from upstream channels. Care must be taken to reduce and prevent pollution of water.

**SPOIL**

Spoil shall be disposed of as shown on the plans or as marked in the field.

**STRUCTURES**

All structures and other related protection devices shall be installed as the work progresses to permit proper functioning of the ditch and to prevent environmental damage during the installation period.

**VEGETATION**

Vegetation shall be planted at times and rates

shown in the plans or in the specifications for each job.

**CHECKING FOR COMPLETION**

Surface drainage shall be checked in accordance with TR-62, Notekeeping for Surface Drainage Systems.

**OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE**

The estimated life span of this installation is at least 10 years. The life of this installation can be assured and increased by developing and carrying out a good operation and maintenance program.

This practice will require periodic maintenance and may also require operational items to maintain satisfactory performance.

1. Maintain cross section and gradient by controlling channel erosion and sloughing.
2. Immediately remove silt deposits, obstructions, or blockage of the drainage system that includes channel spillways, trash racks, inlets, or outlets.
3. Control the growth of vegetative materials by the use of herbicides and/or mowing. Avoid direct drainage water contact with herbicides.
4. Install and maintain fences to control livestock access when adjacent fields are used for pasture.
5. Replace weathered or displaced rock riprap to constructed grade.
6. Immediately repair any vandalism, vehicular, or livestock damage.