

**NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE  
CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD**

**OBSTRUCTION REMOVAL**

(Ac.)  
CODE 500

**DEFINITION**

Removal and disposal of unwanted, unsightly or hazardous buildings, structures, vegetation, landscape features, and other materials.

**PURPOSE**

To safely remove and dispose of unwanted obstructions and materials in order to apply conservation practices or facilitate planned use of abandoned mine lands, farms, ranches, construction sites, and recreation areas.

**CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES**

On land where existing obstructions interfere with planned use and development.

**CRITERIA**

Obstruction removal shall be planned, designed, and carried out to meet all federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

Rock piles, boulders, stones, fences, hedgerows, abandoned buildings and structures, trash, and similar obstructions that would interfere with planned use and development shall be removed.

[In areas with stone walls and cellar holes, plans shall comply with local regulations.](#)

- [M.G.L. c. 40, §15B MA Scenic Road Act;](#)
- [M.G.L. c. 40C, §4 MA Local Historic Districts.](#)

All debris such as broken concrete and masonry, structural steel and wood, stones, stumps, slash, and sterile or toxic soil shall be

disposed of so that they will not impede subsequent work or cause damage to offsite or other areas.

Disposal shall be [in compliance with state and local laws and regulations](#) or by removing debris to an approved landfill in an environmentally acceptable manner.

[Plans shall be in compliance with](#)

- [M.G.L. c. 132, §§40-46 MA Forest Cutting Practices Act and regulations at 304 CMR 11.00 et. Seq. \(DCR\);](#)
- [M.G.L. c. 48, §§16-20, An Act Relative to the Handling of Slash;](#)
- [310 CMR 7.07 \(1-6\) Open Burning regulations;](#)
- [M.G.L. c.61, the Forest Tax Law; and](#)
- [MA Endangered Species Act.](#)

[Planners shall consult the MA Natural Heritage to ensure that site preparation activities do not endanger local wildlife populations.](#)

All required gully shaping shall be performed to specified dimensions and grades. Fills shall be compacted as appropriate. The cover over buried materials shall be designed to be adequate for the planned use, treatment, and vegetation.

Appropriate erosion control practices shall be applied on disturbed areas.

**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 purpose.