NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE
PACIFIC ISLANDS AREA

CONSERVATION PRACTICE SPECIFICATION

HILLSIDE DITCH (423)

GENERAL

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

The designer may develop their unique specification and also select other specifications developed for this type of structure (earthwork, concrete, metal, etc.), as appropriate, ensuring that the design is in compliance with conservation practice standard, Hillside Ditch (423).

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 non-existence 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 should 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 hillside ditch should be filled in, if practicable, before construction begins in order to facilitate construction and to prevent seepage through the ridge. Obstructions that will interfere with the successful operation of the system shall be removed.

EARTH WORK

Hillside ditches shall be constructed to the lines, grades, and cross sections shown on the drawings and/or staked in the field. The minimum cross section shall meet or exceed design dimensions, and the channel shall drain well.

The hillside ditch outlet shall be protected from damage during the construction. If a vegetated outlet is already established, the movement of equipment in the outlet area during construction shall be restricted to the minimum necessary. The outlet area shall not be used for topsoil storage, spoil disposal or equipment staging.

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

MOISTURE CONTROL

The proper moisture content for compaction in the ridge will be determined by inspection during the placement operation. The material should maintain a ball shape when squeezed in the hand with no drainage of water.

As far as practicable, the material shall be brought to the proper water content. Supplemental water may be applied by sprinkling the materials on the fill. Material that is too wet shall either be removed or be dried to the specified moisture content prior to compaction.

COMPACTION

Fill shall be compacted to a density equivalent to that of the surrounding area, preferably by means of hand tamping or manually directed power tampers. Fills compacted in this manner shall be placed in layers not greater than 4 inches in thickness before compaction.

Fill not meeting the specified requirements shall be reworked or removed and replaced with acceptable fill.

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.

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.