

Conservation Practice Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements

The following is a listing of frequently used Conservation Practices and required support data. As Conservation Practices are updated, required support data is detailed in the “Plans and Specifications” subsection of the Standard.

A conservation practice is a component of a system of practices and management that accomplishes the conservation objective. **Supporting data are to include a record of planning, design, installation, checking, and maintenance necessary to ensure an effective practice.**

Supporting data include those features of a practice that can be measured, surveyed, tested, or observed. The completed work is to be checked against the plans and specifications or other requirements to ensure a satisfactory job. Check notes or observations become a part of the supporting data along with previous planning, layout, or documenting records.

Design and construction data are required for most engineering practices. The data should be sufficient to show that the design and installation meets NRCS standards and specifications. The following additional data are normally needed for the practices listed. Similar data would be needed for comparable practices.

All documentation will be filed in the case file or referred to in the case file.

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| All Engineering Practices | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inventory and evaluation records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CONS-6 notes or special report • Survey notes, where applicable <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Design survey – Construction layout survey – Construction check survey • Design records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Physical data, functional requirements and site constraints, where applicable – Soils/subsurface investigation report, where applicable • Design and quantity calculations • Construction drawings/specifications with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Location map – Designed by and checked by names or initials – Approval signature – Job class designation – Initials from preconstruction conference – As-built notes • Construction inspection records <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – CONS-6 notes or separate inspection records – Construction approval signature • Record of any variances approved, where applicable • Record of approvals of in-field changes affecting function and/or job class, where applicable • Approved Waste Management System Plan, where practice is part of a waste management system plan |

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| Agrichemical Containment Facility (702) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Certification of building and/or roof by Professional Engineer or Licensed Builder if there is building and/or roof that was funded by NRCS • Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices |
| Alley Cropping (311) | <p>As planned and applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Species • Spacing of plants within and between rows • Number of trees, shrubs, and crops to be planted in the rows and alleys • Method of establishment • Type of site preparation • Required Operation and Maintenance such as pruning, weed control, and replacement of dead or damaged stock • Pest and nutrient management • Supplemental irrigation, if needed |
| Brush Management (314) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Deep Tillage (324) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Conservation Cover (327) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Conservation Crop Rotation (328) | <p>As planned and applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Purpose • Soil type and tolerance • Cropping sequence • Acceptable alternative tillage or crop substitution • Operation and Maintenance |
| Constructed Wetland (656) | <p>Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices.</p> |
| Contour Buffer Strips (332) | <p>As planned and applied:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Purpose • Location and layout • Plant material information • Site preparation • Planting method • Operation and Maintenance |
| Cover Crop (340) | <p>Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection.</p> |
| Critical Area Planting (342) | <p>Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection.</p> |

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| Cross Wind Stripcropping (589B) | As planned and applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Purpose • Crop rotation • Type/width of planting and harvesting equipment • Wind erodibility group (WEG) • Soil loss tolerance (T) • Field width • Row direction • Strip width • Strip number • Operation and Maintenance |
| Cross Wind Trap Strips (589C) | As planned and applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Purpose • Soil loss tolerance (T) • Species • Seeding rate • Seeding date • Fertilization • Design width • Strip width • Site preparation • Weed control • Operation and Maintenance |
| Diversion (362) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Fence (382) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Field Border (386) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Filter Strip (393A) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Filter Strip – Animal Waste Management (780) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Firebreak (394) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Forage Harvest Management (511) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |

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| Forest Harvest Trails and Landings (655) | As planned and applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Area, length, and width of all landings and forest harvest trails will be shown on the map or photo • Mechanical and vegetative erosion control measures to be taken will be documented • Operation and Maintenance items such as grading or re-shaping of trails and landings after use, re-seeding of harvest trails and landings, and replacement of rock rip-rap and culverts will be documented as applicable • Impacts to soil, water, and cultural resources and threatened and/or endangered species will be documented |
| Forest Stand Improvement (666) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Grade Stabilization Structure (410) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Grassed Waterway (412) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Heavy Use Area Protection (561) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Herbaceous Wind Barriers (422A) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Mine Shaft and Adit Closing (457) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Mulching (484) | As planned and applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Kind • Rate • Tacking • Netting • Rate • Width • Length • Operation and Maintenance |
| Nutrient Management (590) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Pasture and Hay Planting (512) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Pest Management (595) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Pipeline (516) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Pond (378) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Prescribed Grazing (528A) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |

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| Residue Management, Mulch-Till (329b) | As planned and applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Purpose • Estimated kinds and amounts of residue • Types of operations • Previous crop residue • Crop to be planted • Residue orientation • Residue planned, percent • Tillage operations • Operation and Maintenance |
| Residue Management, No-Till (329A) | As planned and applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Purpose • Estimated kinds and amounts of residue • Types of operations • Previous crop residue • Crop to be planted • Residue orientation • Residue planned • Operation and Maintenance |
| Riparian Forest Buffer (391) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Roof Runoff Management (558) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Sediment Basin (350) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Shallow Water Management for Wildlife (646) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Spring Development (574) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Stream Crossing and Livestock Access (728) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Streambank and Shoreline Protection (580) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Stripcropping, Field (586) | As planned and applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Purpose • Extent in acres • Crop rotation • Type/width of planting and harvesting equipment • Soil loss tolerance • Field width • Row direction • Strip width • Strip number • Operation and Maintenance |

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| Structure for Water Control (587) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Subsurface Drain (606) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Surface Drainage (607) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Tree/Shrub Establishment (612) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Tree/Shrub Pruning (660) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Underground Outlet (630) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Upland Wildlife Habitat Development (645) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Waste Utilization (633) | As planned and applied: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Location map • Soil tests • Manure test or book values • Previous crop • Crop yield goal • Spreader calibration • Rate of manure applied • Date of application • Method of application • Crop nutrient budget • Location of setbacks • Location of sensitive areas • Operation and Maintenance |
| Water and Sediment Control Basin (638) | Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices. |
| Watering Facility (614) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Well Decommissioning (351) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abandoned Well Plugging Record form required by the state of Michigan signed/certified by licensed well driller or land owner • Refer to Support Data Documentation and Certification Requirements listed for All Engineering Practices |
| Wetland Enhancement (658) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Wetland Restoration (659) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (644) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |
| Windbreak/Shelterbelt Establishment (380) | Requirements are included in the Conservation Practice Standard under the “Plans and Specifications” subsection. |