



December 18, 2015

MARYLAND TECHNICAL GUIDE
CHANGE NOTICE NO. 101

Purpose. To distribute new and revised Conservation Practice Standards, Conservation Practice Specifications, Implementation Requirements and Certification Sheets, Statements of Work, and Factsheets in Section IV.

Effective Date. Upon receipt.

Explanation. Section IV: The following Maryland Conservation Practice Standards and supporting documentation are issued as final.

- High Tunnel System (Code 325) – This is a new conservation practice standard that replaces the Seasonal High Tunnel for Crops (Code 798) interim standard. The practice has a 5-year lifespan. Improving plant health and vigor has been identified as the purpose of this standard.
- Amending Soil Properties with gypsum Products (Code 333) – This is a new conservation practice standard using the technology of gypsum products to improve soil structure and to reduce phosphorus runoff from field and buffer areas.
- Emergency Animal Mortality Management (Code 368) - This is a new conservation practice standard defined as a means or method for the management of animal carcasses from catastrophic mortality events. This practice may not apply to catastrophic mortality resulting from disease. In cases of disease-related catastrophic mortality, this standard is applicable only when the appropriate state or federal authority (typically the state veterinarian or USDA Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS)) approves the use of the methods in this standard. Also, this practice does not apply to routine animal mortality. For routine animal mortality, use the Maryland conservation practice standard for Animal Mortality Facility (Code 316).
- Combustion System Improvement (Code 372) – This is a new conservation practice standard to improve the air quality and energy efficiency of agricultural combustion systems.
- Prescribed Grazing (Code 528) - This practice standard has been updated to reflect the requirements of the current Grazing plan template. The Prescribed Grazing Specification document provides additional guidance for grazing systems and is a supplement to the practice standard.



- Denitrifying Bioreactor (Code 605) - This new conservation practice standard is based on the Interim Standard (Code 747) from Illinois and Iowa. States have been using and refining this interim standard since 2009. The summary of changes from the interim Standard (Code 747) to this new Standard (Code 605) is minor.
- Brush Management (Code 314) and Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315) – The national conservation practice standards were adopted. An additional purpose and related criteria were added to both to allow for multiple treatments to control pervasive plant species. The associated IR and Certification sheets were also updated.
- Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384) – This is a new conservation practice in Maryland primarily used for treatment of slash from forestry operations. The national conservation practice standard was adopted. Associated IR and Certification sheets have been created.

Section IV: In addition to the Implementation Requirements and Certification sheets (IR sheets) listed above, the following IR sheets have been created/revised:

- Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) and Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644) – Certification-only sheets have been developed for these practices to be used when they have been implemented as a result of other practices. The supporting documentation requirements regarding the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation worksheets have been modified to address new policy. Both policy changes related to these practices will be provide in a Maryland Instruction, to be issued soon.
- Early Successional Habitat Development and Management (Code 647) – The IR sheet has been revised to reflect policy changes related to the Wildlife Habitat Evaluation worksheets, as mentioned above.
- Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390) and Conservation Cover (Code 327) – The IR sheets have been updated to include additional check boxes and narrative for establishment and maintenance requirements.
- Implementation Requirements and Certification Sheet Index – Has been updated to reflect changes described above.

Filing Instructions.

Section I: File this Change Notice and the Change Notice Register in the front of Section I of the FOTG.



Section IV: Contents of this section are distributed in electronic format (eFOTG) only. If desired, paper copies of the standards may be downloaded from the eFOTG and filed in Section IV of the FOTG binder.

- File the new Conservation Practice Standards, Implementation Requirement and Certification Sheet, Statement of Work, and Factsheet for Code 325 in Section IV.
- File the new Conservation Practice Standards, Implementation Requirement and Certification Sheet, and Statement of Work for Code 333 in Section IV.
- File the new Conservation Practice Standard and Statement of Work for Code 368 in Section IV.
- File the new Conservation Practice Standard and Statement of Work for Code 372 in Section IV.
- File the revised Conservation Practice Standard, Conservation Practice Specifications, Statement of Work, and Factsheet for Code 528 in Section IV. The Grazing Plan template is also filed in Section IV under Code 528. Discard the old standard and statement of work.
- File the new Conservation Practice Standard and Statement of Work for Code 605 in Section IV.
- File the new/revised Conservation Practice Standards and Implementation Requirements and Certification sheets for Brush Management (Code 314), Herbaceous Weed Control (Code 315), and Woody Residue Treatment (Code 384) in Section IV. Discard the prior versions of the Practice Standards and IR sheets for Codes 314 and 315.
- File the new Certification-only sheets for Upland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 645) and Wetland Wildlife Habitat Management (Code 644) in Section IV.
- File the revised Implementation Requirements sheet for Early Successional Habitat Development and Management (Code 647) in Section IV. Discard the old IR sheet.
- File the revised Implementation Requirements and Certification sheets for Riparian Herbaceous Cover (Code 390) and Conservation Cover (Code 327) in Section IV. Discard the old sheets.



- File the revised Implementation Requirements and Certification Sheets Index in Section IV. Discard the old index.

Distribution. All documents may be downloaded from the MD NRCS eFOTG web page:
<http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg>

If you have questions concerning the Conservation Practice Standards, please contact Allan Stahl, State Engineer at (443) 482-2912, Christy Brown, State Agronomist at (443) 482-2936, or Steve Strano, State Biologist at (443) 482-2928.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Terron L. Hillsmann".

TERRON L. HILLSMAN, Ph.D.
State Conservationist

Attachments

DIST: Maryland NRCS Field Offices (w/attachments)
Maryland State Technical Committee (Change Notice only)