



Natural Resources Conservation Service
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Date: November 5, 2009

Pacific Islands Area FOTG Notice PI-20

SUBJECT: SECTION IV - DOCUMENTS FOR FOUR PRACTICES

This notice releases Section IV documents for four practices. The following describes the changes made to each of the standards by the NRCS National Office.

- **Filter Strip (Code 393):** Significant changes were made to this standard. The number of purposes were reduced from six to three. The Riparian Forest Buffer, wildlife habitat, and watershed maintenance or enhancement purposed were removed. In the Criteria section, the slope gradient along the leading edge of the filter strip is now set at a maximum of 1 percent to not to exceed $\frac{1}{2}$ of the upland slope immediately adjacent to the filter strip. A new design procedure, outlined in [Agronomy Technical Note No. 2 \(Using RUSLE2 for the Design and Predicted Effectiveness of Vegetative Filter Strips \(VFS\) for Sediment\)](#), is now mandated to design filter strips planned for sediment removal. The minimum flow length required for irrigation tail water situations has been increased to 20 feet.
- **Mulching (Code 484):** Significant changes were made to this standard. The "Purpose" section was revised by, (1) adding a purpose for reduction of airborne particulates; and (2) removing increased soil fertility from the "improve soil condition" purpose. Under the "General Criteria" section, (1) animal manure was removed as an acceptable mulching material; (2) added criteria to the use of manufactured mulches, and that the rate specified by the manufacturer is the "minimum amount" that is acceptable; and (3) added that the mulch material must also be free from pesticides and chemicals that may impede the planned use of the mulch. Under "Criteria for Soil Moisture" removed the criteria requiring the mulch be applied prior to soil moisture loss. Under the "Criteria for Erosion Control" removed the criteria that the mulch cover shall not exceed 80 percent for wood products and 90 percent for gravel/inorganic mulches. Under "Criteria to Establish Vegetative Cover" the minimum cover was changed from 50 percent to 70 percent, and under "Criteria for Soil Condition" all the criteria for animal manure and fertility were removed.
- **Residue Management, Seasonal (Code 344):** Substantial changes were made to this standard. One new purpose was added to address soil condition. Under the "General Criteria" (1) the option to burn residue was removed and (2) tillage operations permitted during the residue management period is limited to under cutting tools. The tillage criteria were removed from the "Criteria to Reduce Sheet and Rill and Erosion from Wind" and "Criteria to Provide Food and Escape Cover for Wildlife." Criteria were added to the "Additional Criteria to Improve Soil Condition". The "Considerations" section was revised to include PM-10, soil organisms, and cover crops.
- **Stripcropping (Code 585):** Only minor changes were made to this standard. The "General Criteria" section was revised to require: (1) equal strip widths for erosion susceptible strips and erosion resistant strips; (2) that at least 50 percent of the rotation shall consist of erosion resistant crops or sediment trapping cover; and (3) that the same rotation shall be followed in each adjacent strip while the year of the rotation is staggered to maintain

alternating strips in an erosion resistant crop or cover. Under the "Additional Criteria for Soil Erosion by Water ..." section, criteria for maximum row grade has been modified to be the same as the Contouring Standard (330), and criteria was added for cover conditions on the field headlands/end rows. The "Considerations" section of the standard was revised to remove the specific considerations for each of the practice purposes. The "Operations and Maintenance" section of the standard was revised to remove the specific operation and maintenance for each purpose and combined into one common list of activities for operation and maintenance.

The four National practice standards were adopted for use in the PIA. PIA changes are shown in italics within the documents.

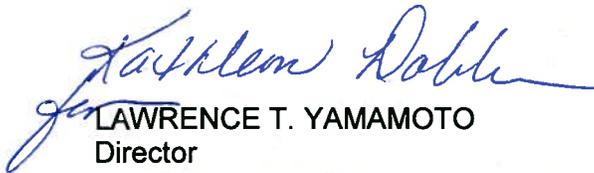
In addition to the Standard, a PIA Jobsheet, Example Jobsheet, and SOW were developed for each practice.

Instructions. Please refer to the following table for a description of the specific documents released. The documents have been posted to Pacific Islands Area eFOTG and are available for viewing and printing online @: <http://www.nrcs.usda.gov/technical/efotg/index.html>.

Contact.

If you have questions about these documents, please contact Phil "Kipp" Cherry, State Agronomist, via phone at (808) 541-2600 ext. 108 or email at phil.cherry@hi.usda.gov.

If you have questions about this notice, please contact Gail Ichikawa, Resource Conservationist/Agricultural Economist, via phone @: (808) 541-2600 ext. 110 or email at gail.ichikawa@hi.usda.gov.



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Distribution: AE (All Employees)

Following is a description of the information released and changes made to eFOTG:

Document	Description
PI FOTG Notice PI-20	New PI Notice.
PI Register of FOTG Notices	Revised PI Register.
Section IV Table of Contents	Revised Section IV Table of Contents.
Section IV – Index of Standards and Specifications	Revised Index.
Filter Strip (393) – Standard, Jobsheet, Example Jobsheet, and Statement of Work	New documents.
Mulching (484) – Standard, Specification, Jobsheet, Example Jobsheet, Mulch Calculation Worksheet, Example Mulch Calculation Worksheet, and Statement of Work	New documents.
Residue Management, Seasonal (344) – Standard, Jobsheet, Example Jobsheet, and Statement of Work	New documents.
Strippcropping (585) – Standard, Jobsheet, Example Jobsheet, and Statement of Work	New documents.

