



NATURAL RESOURCES CONSERVATION SERVICE CONSERVATION PRACTICE STANDARD

SPOIL SPREADING

CODE 572 (AC.)

DEFINITION

Disposal of surplus excavated materials.

PURPOSES

To dispose of excess soil from construction activities in an environmentally sound manner that minimizes soil erosion, protects water quality, and fits with the land use and landscape.

CONDITIONS WHERE PRACTICE APPLIES

This practice applies to sites where spoil material is available from excavation of channels, drainage ditches, irrigation canals, or other construction sites and where it is desirable and economically feasible to achieve one or more purposes.

FEDERAL, TRIBAL, STATE, AND LOCAL LAWS

Users of this standard should be aware of potentially applicable federal, tribal, state and local laws, rules, regulations, or permit requirements governing spoil spreading. This standard does not contain the text of federal, tribal, state, or local laws.

CRITERIA

General Criteria

Spoil shall be spread over a designated area according to an approved plan.

Locate spoil spreading areas as close as practical to the excavation area to minimize haul distance. Spread spoil in relatively uniform layers, maintaining positive drainage away from the spoil. Do not spread spoil when the ground or spoil is frozen or excessively wet unless site-specific design considerations indicate frozen or wet conditions will not have adverse effects.

Location and placement of spoil shall be such as to avoid unnecessary destruction of riparian vegetation or wetlands.

Spoil spreading for other construction sites shall be in accordance with the standard and specification of the applicable conservation practices and shall be shaped to a designed form that blends visually with the landscape.

Excessively rocky, infertile, or otherwise unproductive spoil material shall not be spread directly on crop production areas. The topsoil from the productive area shall be stripped and stockpiled prior to spoil spreading and reapplied following spoil spreading operations.

Spoils that are known or suspected to be contaminated with toxic substances must be tested to determine the nature and toxicity of the contamination. Based upon the evaluation, develop a plan to remove and dispose of the spoil in an environmentally sound manner.

Placement Adjacent to Channels

For spoil spreading along channels or ditches, surfaces of spoil shall not be steeper than 4:1 (4 horizontal to 1 vertical) on the landside and 3:1 on the channel side if a berm is established between the edge of the channel and the spoil. The berm width shall be a minimum of 8 feet. If the spoil is spread to the edge of the channel, the channel side slope of the spoil shall be shaped to join the side slope of the ditch bank so that loose spoil will not roll or wash into the channel or ditch.

The spoil shall be placed so as not to endanger the stability of the ditch bank and shall not exceed 3 feet in height above the natural ground surface. The finished surface shall slope away from the edge of the channel or berm as feasible.

Provisions shall be made for the diversion or safe passage of surface water concentrating on the landside of the spoilbanks along channels or ditches, or canals.

Sod chutes, rock chutes, corrugated metal pipes, drop spillways, or other means shall be used to lower surface water concentrating on the landside of spoilbanks into the ditch.

Establishment of Vegetation

All spoil areas not used for cropland shall be seeded in accordance with Wisconsin NRCS Conservation Practice Standard (WI NRCS CPS), Critical Area Planting (342).

CONSIDERATIONS

Additional recommendations relating to design which may enhance the use of, or avoid problems with, this practice, but are not required to ensure its basic conservation function are as follows:

- Consider effects on the water budget, especially on runoff, infiltration, deep percolation, and groundwater recharge.
- Consider effects of spoil placement on erosion and sediment delivery.

- Consider the potential effect of dissolved substances, including toxics from the spoil, to enter surface or groundwater.
- Consider effects on the visual quality of landscape or water resources.
- Consider effects on fish and wildlife habitat.
- Consider effects on adjacent wetlands.
- Consideration should be given to using spoil for direct or indirect human benefits such as blocking views, deflecting or redirecting wind or snow, and other uses.

PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS

Prepare plans and specifications for spoil spreading that describe the requirements for applying the practice according to this standard. Plans and specifications for this practice may be incorporated into the plans and specifications for the practice it serves. As a minimum, the plans and specifications shall include:

- A plan view showing the location of the spoil area,
- Lift thickness for spoil placement,
- The maximum and/or minimum slopes for spoil areas,
- Typical cross sections of spoil areas,
- The maximum and/or minimum height of spread spoil above the existing ground surface,
- An estimate of quantities, and
- Construction specifications that describe in writing the site-specific installation requirements for the spoil spreading.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

An Operation and Maintenance Plan (O&M) shall be developed that is consistent with the purpose of this practice, intended life of the components, and criteria for design.

The minimum requirements to be addressed in a written O&M plan include:

- Inspection of the spoil areas within six months after spreading and periodically thereafter,
- Fill or repair of any excessive rills or gullies in the spoil,
- Reestablishment of vegetation as necessary on the repaired areas,
- Mowing of the vegetation as necessary to maintain a dense, vigorous stand, and
- Control of undesirable species and/or noxious weeds as necessary.

REFERENCES

USDA, NRCS, Wisconsin Field Office Technical Guide (eFOTG), Section IV, Practice Standards and Specifications.

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