United States Department of Agriculture

Natural Resources Conservation Service

P.O. Box 2890
Washington, D.C.
20013

NHCP-1Q

NATIONAL HANDBOOK OF CONSERVATION PRACTICES, NOTICE 118
450-IV

Purpose. This notice transmits new or revised conservation practice standards for insertion in the National Handbook of Conservation Practices (NHCP). In addition, notes are included for clarification.

Effective Date. This notice is effective when received.

Explanation.

Contour Buffer Strips (332). This new standard provides guidance for the establishment of narrow strips established to permanent vegetation and alternated between wider strips used for crop production.

Filter Strip (393A). This revised standard increases the minimum acceptable width of a filter strip from 10 feet to 20 feet. A complete revision of this standard is in progress to bring it up to date technically and into conformance with current format policy.

Tree & Shrub Pruning (660A). This revised standard clarifies the conditions where the practice applies and the criteria. Diagrams have been included for added clarification.

Riparian Forest Buffer (391A). This revised standard contains the following changes. Reference to zone 3 was added to the last paragraph under “additional criteria”, the second paragraph under “considerations”, and the fourth paragraph under “operation and maintenance.”

Pest Management (595A). This revised standard changes the “conditions where practice applies” to include all land where pest control is needed.

Manure Transfer (634). This new standard provides guidance for conveying manure from the point of origin to a storage facility and from a storage facility to agricultural land for final utilization.

Covered Anaerobic Lagoon (360). This standard issued in 1996 as a national interim standard has been canceled.

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DIST-NHCP

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Instructions.

Replace the "Contents" pages in NHCP with the attached revised version dated July 1997.

Insert the new or revised standards in the NHCP in alphabetical order as designated on the revised "Contents" pages.

Remove the practice standards for Riparian Forest Buffer (391) dated May 96, Filter Strip (393) dated April 82, Tree/Shrub Pruning (660) dated June 94, and Pest Management (595) dated June 90. Retain them in archived status until there is no further use for them.

Remove the national interim practice standard for Covered Anaerobic Lagoon (360) dated May 96. States that are presently using this standard or that choose to use it in the future should issue it as a state interim standard.

One hard copy of this notice and the attachments are being sent to all States, Regional Offices, Institutes, Centers, and Cooperating Scientists. NRCS will no longer store forms and publications at the Consolidated Forms and Publications Distribution Center in Landover, Maryland. All forms and publications will be stored, printed, and/or ordered from the General Services Administration (GSA) National Forms and Publication Center used by NRCS. Refer to General Manual (GM) notice 120-ADS, Circular No. 4 (Part 403), dated June 5, 1997, for procurement instructions.

Copies of this notice and each of the conservation practice standards included with it can be accessed electronically. Access can be through either the NRCS Home Page on the World Wide Web (WWW) or from the FTP server in Fort Worth, Texas. Guidance for electronic access of standards is contained in NHCP Notice 116.

Federal Register Notices

The National Conservation Practice Standards Subcommittee (NCPSS) published notice of intent to adopt these standards in the Federal Register on February 27, 1997. Comments were accepted for sixty days. Although a number of individuals requested copies of these proposed standards, none submitted comments about them.

NHCP Notice 117 provided initial guidance to the states for complying with the provisions of the 1996 farm bill that require advertising for public comment prior to revising NRCS state technical guides. Federal Register notices prepared by the states to comply with the rule should be sent to:

Office of the Federal Register
800 North Capitol Street, Room 700
Room 700

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The Office of the Federal Register charges for publishing notices. The cost is $408.00 for a full page and $136.00 per column. A single Federal Register page contains three columns. Notices that require less than a page are billed by the column. Notices that require more than a full page are billed for one full page and for the number of additional columns required for the second page. The notice for NHCP-117 required one column. A copy of the Federal Register noticed published for NHCP-117 is attached.

Regional and State Offices are encouraged to cooperate and coordinate the publishing of notices in the Federal Register. A single notice can include information for two or more states.

Questions concerning these procedures for publishing in the Federal Register should be directed to Peter Zeck, Program Analyst in Management Services Division, NRCS, Washington, D.C. Mr. Zeck can be reached at 202-690-4860.

Interim Conservation Practice Standards

NHCP Notice 116 included information about the future use of National Interim Conservation Practice Standards. The Natonal Technical Guide Committee has since determined that national interim standards will not be issued. In the future, technical guidance for interim technologies that may have widespread application will be provided in the form of models for interim conservation practice standards that can be implemented by states.

NHCP Notice 116 empowered State Conservationists to approve interim standards. Prior to making such approvals, State Conservationists shall determine that proposed interim standards have the support of the state technical specialists responsible for the technologies contained in them.

Effective with NHCP Notice 118 is the policy of having the NCPSS issue practice codes for all conservation practice standards, including interim standards issued by states. This will be reflected in the forth coming revision of the General Manual concerning standards. This policy has been implemented at the request of Conservation Operations Division and Quality Management and Program Evaluation Division. Practice codes for state issued interim standards can be obtained by contacting Charles H. Lander, Chairman of the NCPSS. Mr. Lander can be reached by telephone: 202-690-0249, or email: charles.lander@usda.gov.

FRANK BUSBY
Deputy Chief for Science and Technology

Attachments

Natural Resources Conservation Service

Notice of Proposed Change to the Natural Resources Conservation Service's National Handbook of Conservation Practices

AGENCY: Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), U.S. Department of Agriculture.

ACTION: Notice of availability of proposed changes in the NRCS National Handbook of Conservation Practices for review and comment.

SUMMARY: It is the intention of NRCS to issue a series of new conservation practice standards in its National Handbook of Conservation Practices. These new standards include Forage Harvest Management (Code 511); Mine Shaft and Adit Closing (Code 457); and Vegetative Barriers (Code 601). NRCS State Conservationist's who choose to adopt these practices for use within their state will incorporate them into Section IV of their Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG). Some of these practices may be used in conservation systems that treat highly erodible land.

DATES: Comments will be received until not later than November 18, 1996.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Inquire in writing to Gary Nordstrom, Director, Ecological Sciences Division (ECS), Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS), Post Office Box 2890, Room 6154–S, Washington, DC 20013.

Copies of these standards are available from NRCS–ECS in Washington, DC. Copies are also available electronically on the NRCS server at Fort Worth, Texas. The name of the server is "ftp.ftw.nrcs.usda.gov." Practice standards appear as files in "/pub/nhcp/pending." Practice code numbers are used as file names in this subdirectory. These standards are available as MS Word 6.0 files. They should be downloaded from the FTP server as binary files.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Section 343 of the Federal Agriculture Improvement and Reform Act of 1996 states that revisions made after enactment of the law to NRCS State technical guides used to carry out highly erodible land and wetland provisions of the law shall be made available for public review and comment. For the next 30 days the NRCS will receive comments relative to the proposed changes. Following that period a determination will be made by the NRCS regarding disposition of those comments and a final determination of change will be made.

Gary R. Nordstrom,

Director, Ecological Sciences Division, Natural Resources Conservation Service, Washington, DC.

[FR Doc. 96–26591 Filed 10–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3410–16–P

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE

Office of the Secretary

Performance Review Board; Membership

Below is a listing of individuals who are eligible to serve on the Performance Review Board in accordance with the Office of the Secretary Senior Executive Service (SES) Performance Appraisal System:

William J. Taylor, III
Michael A. Levitt
Carolyn P. Acree
Mark E. Brown
Ronald P. Hack
Frank W. Deliberti
Eileen M. Albanese
Paul R. Webber, IV
Shirl G. Kinney

Anthony J. Calza,

Acting Executive Secretary, Office of the Secretary, Performance Review Board.

[FR Doc. 96–26566 Filed 10–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–BS–M

Foreign-Trade Zones Board

[Order No. 845]

Grant of Authority for Subzone Status United Technologies Corporation, Pratt & Whitney Group Precision Components International, Inc. (Aircraft Turbine Engine Components) Columbus, GA

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, by an Act of Congress approved June 18, 1934, an Act "To provide for the establishment . . . of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United States, to expedite and encourage foreign commerce, and for other purposes," as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u) (the Act), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) is authorized to grant to qualified corporations the privilege of establishing foreign-trade zones in or adjacent to U.S. Customs ports of entry;

Whereas, the Board's regulations (15 CFR Part 400) provide for the establishment of special-purpose subzones when existing zone facilities cannot serve the specific use involved;

Whereas, an application from the Georgia Foreign-Trade Zone, Inc., grantee of Foreign-Trade Zone 26, for authority to establish special-purpose subzone status at the aircraft turbine engine component manufacturing facilities of United Technologies Corporation, Pratt & Whitney Group and Precision Components International, Inc. (an affiliate of Pratt & Whitney), located within a manufacturing complex in Columbus, Georgia, was filed by the Board on November 1, 1995, and notice inviting public comment was given in the Federal Register (FTZ Docket 68–95, 60 FR 56566, 11–9–95); and,

Whereas, the Board adopts the findings and recommendations of the examiner's report, and finds that the requirements of the FTZ Act and Board's regulations are satisfied, and that approval of the application is in the public interest;

Now, therefore, the Board hereby authorizes the establishment of subzones at the United Technologies Corporation, Pratt & Whitney Group plant (Subzone 26E) and at the adjacent Precision Components International, Inc., plant (Subzone 26F) in Columbus, Georgia, at the locations described in the application, subject to the FTZ Act and the Board's regulations, including § 400.28.

Signed at Washington, DC, this 7th day of October 1996.

Robert S. LaRussa,

Acting Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Import Administration, Alternate Chairman, Foreign-Trade Zones Board.

Attest:

John J. Da Ponte, Jr.,

Executive Secretary.

[FR Doc. 96–26649 Filed 10–16–96; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 3510–DS–P

[Order No. 847]

Exxon Corporation (Oil Refinery), Baton Rouge, LA, Area; Grant of Authority for Subzone Status

Pursuant to its authority under the Foreign-Trade Zones Act of June 18, 1934, as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a–81u), the Foreign-Trade Zones Board (the Board) adopts the following Order:

Whereas, by an Act of Congress approved June 18, 1934, an Act "To provide for the establishment * * * of foreign-trade zones in ports of entry of the United States, to expedite and encourage foreign commerce, and for other purposes," as amended (19 U.S.C. 81a-81u) (the Act), the Foreign-Trade