



Natural Resources Conservation Service
210 Walnut Street, Room 693
Des Moines, IA 50309-2180

March 6, 2009

IOWA INSTRUCTION 210-382 – CERTIFICATION OF URBAN CONSERVATION PRACTICES

Part 382.0 PURPOSE

This Iowa Instruction specifies the certification process for certain types of Urban Conservation Practices that:

- a. are designed and certified by an Iowa Professional Engineer
- or -
- b. do not have an associated NRCS Practice Standard.

Part 382.1 SCOPE

These instructions will be followed by all employees engaged in the design and technical certification of Urban Practices.

Part 382.2 FILING INSTRUCTIONS

This Iowa Instruction will be placed on the State Office Shared drive under the following: S:\Service_Center\NRCS_statewide_shared\Iowa Bulletins and Manuals\Iowa Instructions\210 – ENG - Engineering

Part 382.3 EXHIBITS

See the attachment.

210 - ENG - CERTIFICATION OF URBAN PRACTICES 7-9-08.pdf

/s/

Richard Sims
State Conservationist

Attachment

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(IA Instruction 210-382 First Edition – March 2009)

Helping People Help the Land

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IOWA INSTRUCTION 210-382 – CERTIFICATION OF URBAN CONSERVATION PRACTICES

1. PURPOSE:

This Iowa Instruction provides the certification process for certain types of Conservation Practices that a) are designed and certified by an Iowa Professional Engineer, or b) do not have an associated NRCS Practice Standard.

2. BACKGROUND:

The design and construction of urban conservation practices are occurring throughout the state. The size and complexity of these practices vary widely as well as those who provide the technical assistance. As a technical agency, the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) prides itself as being a leader and promoter of many of these conservation practices including, but not limited to: grade stabilization, settling basins, conservation cover, etc. While specific NRCS Field Office Technical Guide (FOTG) practice standards do not exist for most practices being implemented under the umbrella of urban conservation, design and installation requirements can be obtained from references such as the Iowa Statewide Urban Design and Specifications (SUDAS), the Iowa Storm Water Management Manual, the Iowa Rain Garden Design and Installation Manual, and industry product manufacturer technical documents.

3. EXPLANATION OF PROCESS:

Regardless of the type of urban practices being offered through a USDA Service Center Program, our technical assistance must be carried out in a manner that adheres to the NRCS National Engineering Manual (NEM) policy. Individuals promoting and marketing these conservation practices must understand the NEM policy which states only individuals (whether internal or external) possessing the proper authority may approve and/or certify practices. The NEM policy also provides additional direction for the use and acceptance of technical work being completed by licensed Professional Engineers (PE) in Iowa (<http://policy.nrcs.usda.gov/media/pdf/NEM505.pdf>).

Based on our engineering policy, the following guidance is being provided for the design and certification of urban conservation practices being promoted by our USDA Service Centers:

- a) Practices being designed and installed under the direct supervision of a licensed PE in Iowa shall be certified by that licensed engineer. An example of this would include the licensed engineer signing the "Technical Certification" block on the FARMS Certification Page.
- b) Practices being designed and installed under the existing NRCS Job Approval Authority policies shall be approved and certified by an individual possessing the delegated practice authority.
- c) If a practice is designed or installed and is not covered by a) or b), then NRCS shall not certify the practice as meeting a standard. This includes certification of the materials and quantities.

4. EXCEPTIONS:

- (a) The exception to a), b), and c) above are rain gardens and native landscapes, and soil quality restorations. These practices may be defined as management practices and generally do not need engineering assistance in order to implement and certify the practice.

Approved By:

/s/

Richard Sims

State Conservationist

Natural Resources Conservation Service

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Date:

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