

PART 503 – SAFETY

SUBPART B – PUBLIC SAFETY AT STRUCTURE SITES

WA503.14 Confined Spaces

- A. Certain structures that the Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) provides technical assistance on are classified as a “**Confined Space**” by Washington State Department of Labor and Industry rules. Safety Standards for Agriculture are set forth in *WAC 296-307 Part Y-8*. These rules contain specific requirements that must be met before a person enters a confined space.
- B. Generally all catch basins, sumps, reception pits, covered tanks and any other structures that may trap dangerous gases that the NRCS designs are considered a confined space. It is generally known that manure in these structures can produce dangerous gases; however, even dry structures or those with only clean water can also develop dangerous air conditions. These conditions can develop quickly and may even occur during construction.
- (1) During the design of structures that may be considered confined spaces; fencing, suitable covers, or other means shall be specified in the plans to protect those areas from unauthorized entry. The planned safety measures shall be in place according to the construction drawings and specification prior to certification by the NRCS.
 - (2) Where a structure is included in a plan that meets the criteria for a confined space, an appropriate warning statement shall be included in the operation and maintenance plan.
 - (3) Where a sump is included in the design, flexible discharge hoses, guide rails with flange connections, or other mechanical methods shall be considered to eliminate the need for sump entry during pump maintenance.
 - (4) NRCS employees shall not enter a confined space for construction inspection or any other purpose without proper authorization. All requests for authorization to enter confined spaces shall be submitted to and approved by the Area Conservationist.
 - (5) NRCS employees entering a confined space shall comply with all applicable state and federal rules concerning a confined space, which may include but not be limited to: taking applicable training relating to confined spaces, completing atmospheric testing of facility prior to entry, using self-contained breathing apparatus, and having trained attendants at the site.

WA503.15 Risk Assessment of Engineered Log Jams (ELJs) and Large Woody Debris Structures (LWDS)

- A. It shall be understood that the following policy utilizes the terms ELJ and LWDS interchangeably as defined in subparagraph C.
- B. NRCS is tasked with developing designs, providing technical assistance and conducting design reviews for ELJ projects. It is imperative that NRCS ensures that projects will meet the habitat improvement goals as well as minimizes the potential risk to life, property and infrastructure. Poorly designed ELJs may pose harmful risks

to the public, property, transportation and water management infrastructure. As such, we shall ensure due diligence has been provided with the design of these projects in order to prevent unanticipated harm to private landowners, infrastructure, and recreationalists that may come in contact with ELJs.

C. Definitions:

- (1) Engineered Log Jam (ELJ) and large Woody Debris Structure (LWDS) – A manmade structure, designed utilizing engineering analysis procedures, comprised of woody vegetation, ballast and anchoring material for the purpose of creating instream fish habitat, grade control, stream restoration and streambank stabilization projects.
- (2) Risk Assessment – Methodology for determining the negative impacts to the public, property and infrastructure created by ELJs.

D. The risk assessment procedure found in the most current version of the USBOR/USACOE National Large Wood Manual shall be utilized to assess risk.

- (1) A report shall be prepared that outlines the risks and mitigating factors chosen to address identified risks. The report shall provide adequate detail and information in a concise coherent format. All support documentation shall be attached to the report for documentation purposes.

E. Risk Assessments

(1) Non-NRCS

1. The risk analysis shall be completed by the engineer of record for the project.
2. NRCS review of the risk analysis shall be consistent with WA 505, Subpart B – Non-NRCS Engineering Services, WA505.11(2) – Non-TSPs.

(2) NRCS

1. The risk analysis shall be completed by a NRCS employee possessing adequate “Design” job approval authority for the applicable practice(s).

F. In addition, all Washington State regulations shall be complied with regarding specific risk assessment criteria that is required for ELJ projects.

G. Exemptions

- (1) A waiver to the WA503.15C can be granted in situations where a comparable risk assessment procedure is utilized. The Area Engineer and/or the State Conservation Engineer are authorized to grant an exception.
- (2) Waivers will not be granted for non-compliance with Washington State permits and regulations.