

**NEW JERSEY DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
STATE SOIL CONSERVATION COMMITTEE
Chapter 251, PL 1975 as amended,
Administrative Policies Bulletin**

<u>Administrative Bulletin:</u> 2017-4.0	<u>Effective Date:</u> December 7, 2017
<u>Subject:</u> Soil Restoration Measures	<u>From:</u> Frank Minch, Executive Secretary

1.01 PURPOSE

To provide guidance relative to Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan Certification and Inspection in conjunction with the Standards for Topsoiling and Land Grading to ensure adequate decompaction of subsoil where necessary and proper topsoil depth prior to the issuance of a Report of Compliance.

1.02 SUMMARY

Amendments to the Standards in conjunction with the Soil Restoration Act, P.L. 2010, c. 113, require additional measures to provide for cost-effective restoration of the optimal physical, chemical and biological functions for specific soil types and intended land use.

The following policy shall apply to Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plans submitted on or after December 7, 2017.

1.03 PROCEDURE

Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan review shall include an examination of project area(s) which may be subject to the soil restoration elements of the Standard for Land Grading. These elements include:

1. Delineation of land areas not subject to soil compaction mitigation. A description of such land areas are provided in the Standard.
2. Standard soil restoration notes.
3. Typical lot detail identifying potential areas for soil compaction testing.
4. Other potential areas for soil compaction testing. (e.g. common areas)

Upon determination that these elements along with all other requirements under N.J.A.C. 2:90-1 are satisfactory, the District shall certify the Soil Erosion and Sediment Control Plan in accordance with N.J.S.A. 4:24-45.

Prior to a Report of Compliance inspection, the Soil Compaction Mitigation Verification Form must be filled out completely by the applicant or applicant's designee, identifying actions taken and submitted for each lot requested for inspection.

1. Testing for presence of soil compaction in subsoil through either:
 - a. Wire test
 - b. Penetrometer
 - c. Tube test
 - d. Densitometer test
2. Remediation performed
3. Non-growing season postponement

In addition, supporting documentation, test locations, test results, and remediation work performed (if necessary) must be provided.

Prior to the Report of Compliance inspection, the inspector shall review the Soil Compaction Mitigation Verification Form and supporting information. Consideration must be made to evaluating common areas as part of the Report of Compliance inspection.

At the time of the inspection, the District inspector must confirm that either a) the test results indicate no additional remediation work was necessary, b) the test results indicate the presence of soil compaction and compaction remediation was performed in conformance with the Standard, c) compaction remediation was performed in conformance with the Standard with no testing performed or d) non-growing season conditions prohibit testing and/or remediation work.

Since tube and densitometer tests are certified by a licensed professional engineer, bulk density values equal to or less than the value specified in table 19-1 will be deemed adequate and conforming to the requirements in the Standard with no further confirmation.

Confirmation means, conducting wire flag or penetrometer test(s) at the approximate location(s) identified on the supporting documents provided by the applicant/designee and determining conformance with the compaction mitigation requirements in the Standard for Land Grading.

Upon confirmation by the inspector, a Conditional Report of Compliance or Final Report of Compliance may be issued, pending conformance with all other soil erosion and sediment control measures provided on the certified plan including but not limited to depth of topsoil in accordance with the Standard for Topsoil.

A Conditional Report of Compliance may be issued in instances of non-growing season postponement and may be included as part of a performance deposit. Testing and/or remediation will be conducted at the beginning of the next growing season and will require a supplemental Compaction Mitigation Verification Form.