

## § 652.41

provided during the period of decertification. Likewise, NRCS will not procure, or otherwise enter into an agreement for, the services of a decertified technical service provider during the period of decertification.

(b) National decertification list. NRCS shall maintain a current list of decertified technical service providers. NRCS shall remove decertified providers from the list of certified providers. Participants may not hire a decertified technical service provider. It is the participant's responsibility to check the decertified list before hiring a technical service provider. Decertification of a technical service provider in one State decertifies the technical service provider from providing technical services under current programs in all States, the Caribbean Area, and the Pacific Basin Area.

### § 652.41 Effect of filing deadlines.

A technical service provider's failure to meet the filing deadlines under this subpart will result in the forfeiture of appeal rights. All filings must be received by NRCS no later than the close of business (5 p.m.) the last day of the filing period.

### § 652.42 Recertification.

A decertified technical service provider may apply to be re-certified under the certification provisions of this part after the period of decertification has expired. A technical service provider may not utilize the certification renewal process in an attempt to be recertified after being decertified.

## PART 653—TECHNICAL STANDARDS

Sec.

- 653.1 General.
- 653.2 Technical standards and criteria.
- 653.3 Adaptation of technical standards.
- 653.4 Availability of technical standards.

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### § 653.1 General.

The Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) is responsible for the technical adequacy of conservation practices installed under all NRCS programs, and those practices applied

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under programs administered by the Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service (ASCS) where NRCS has the technical responsibility. NRCS technical or financial assistance will be provided when the practices are applied according to established technical standards.

### § 653.2 Technical standards and criteria.

Technical standards and criteria have been established for all conservation practices. They provide the guidance and direction needed to assure that the practices meet the intended purpose and are of the quality needed to assure lasting for the design life. Standards and criteria are developed in consultation with universities, research institutions, and individual industrial and private firms and individuals. Research information and practical experience are used in setting standards. Changes and new technical standards and criteria are prepared in the same manner as set out above.

### § 653.3 Adaptation of technical standards.

Technical standards and criteria developed on a national basis may require special adaptation to meet local needs. These adaptations must be approved by the Administrator of the Natural Resources Conservation Service or his designee.

### § 653.4 Availability of technical standards.

Information on technical standards used by NRCS is available at field, area, or State offices of NRCS.

## PART 654—OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

### Subpart A—General

Sec.

- 654.1 Purpose and scope.
- 654.2 Definitions.

### Subpart B—Federal Financially-Assisted Projects

- 654.10 Operation and maintenance agreement.
- 654.11 Sponsor(s)' responsibility.
- 654.12 Financing operations and maintenance.