

CBP Verification Committee's Revised Draft BMP Verification Principles

Revised: April 30, 2012

PRINCIPLE 1: Practices, treatments, and technologies reported for credit through the Chesapeake Bay Program partnership must be:

- properly designed, installed, and maintained to ensure that they are achieving the expected nutrient and sediment reductions reviewed and approved to by the partnership;
- consistent with or functionally equivalent to established practice definitions and/or standards;
- not previously reported; and
- not expired or removed from the landscape.

In support of tracking, verifying and reporting practices not consistent with nor functionally equivalent to established practice definitions and/or standards, partners and stakeholders can seek partnership review and approval of BMPs and corresponding efficiencies, supported by documentation/data, which are less than functional equivalents of the previous partnership approved BMPs working through the established partnership BMP review protocol.

PRINCIPLE 2: Verification of practices needs to provide assurance of effective implementation by being scientifically rigorous and defensible in this era of TMDL accountability, based on professionally established and accepted sampling, inspection, and certification protocols regardless of funding source (cost share versus non-cost share), source sector (agriculture, urban, etc.), and jurisdiction (state, local) while allowing for adaptability.

PRINCIPLE 3: Need to establish a representative baseline of practice implementation from which periodic confirmations will be performed to account for changes through time.

PRINCIPLE 4: Need to strive for the right balance between the requirement for verification and the need to focus limited staff and funding on continued program implementation.

OR

PRINCIPLE 4: Need to recognize and address the need for sufficient staff and funding in order to accomplish both verification and continued program implementation.

[Additional principles are still under consideration/review by the BMP Verification Committee.]