

October 26, 2022

To minimize wildlife entanglement, The Texas Department of Transportation (TxDOT) has adopted the following US Fish & Wildlife Service definition of 'wildlife friendly' for the **netting material** used on rolled erosion control products (RECPs). Products with various netting configurations will continue to be accepted, tested, and approved by TXDOT, but RECPs will no longer be approved or classified as wildlife friendly on the TXDOT Approved Products List (APL) unless they meet the following criteria.

Wildlife Friendly RECPs shall:

- *Be made of natural fiber netting or no-netting. Products must not contain plastic netting of any type, including:*
 - *Polypropylene, nylon, polyethylene, etc.*
 - *Degradable, photodegradable, UV degradable plastic netting.*
- *Be made with loose weave, non-welded, movable jointed netting.*

All products currently listed on the TxDOT APL as wildlife friendly will remain on the list until **March 1, 2023**. However, to remain on the APL after that date as a wildlife friendly RECP, all products will be required to meet the following two conditions:

- Confirm that the RECP meets the USFW definition of wildlife friendly.
- Unless previously tested under current USFW wildlife friendly requirements, submit an application to the Texas A&M Transportation Institute Sediment & Erosion Control Laboratory (SEC Lab) for evaluation to ensure that the RECP meets the existing sediment loss and vegetation establishment requirements as approved by TxDOT.

Both conditions must be met by March 1, 2023, for existing products to remain on the APL as a wildlife friendly RECP. If manufacturers of wildlife friendly products fail to confirm and submit an application for evaluation by March 1, 2023, they will no longer be listed as an approved wildlife friendly product. All manufacturers that have confirmed USFW wildlife friendly requirements and have submitted applications by March 1, 2023, will remain on the APL until testing is completed for sediment loss and vegetation establishment. During testing, if a product does not meet testing requirements as set by TXDOT, the products will be removed from the APL.

New product submittals classified as wildlife friendly on the TxDOT APL, will be required to meet the wildlife friendly definition described above and will be expected to meet all sediment loss and vegetation establishment thresholds as required by TxDOT. All products will be tested on a first come-first served basis.

Once on the APL, all erosion control products will be recertified by physical properties testing every three years as part of the Product Recertification Program.

All hydraulic erosion control products (HECPs) that are currently listed on the APL and those that submit applications for evaluation and meet existing sediment loss and vegetative establishment requirements, will continue to be approved for use as wildlife friendly products.

The official Approved Product List is maintained on the TxDOT's Internet Home Page at: <http://www.txdot.gov/business/resources/erosion-control.html>. Please feel free to contact Travis Jez at 512-416-3091 or Travis.Jez@txdot.gov, if you have questions about this letter or the new wildlife friendly requirements.

Sincerely,

Travis Jez 
Maintenance Division

Cc: Jett McFalls – Texas Transportation Institute, Derrold Foster – Texas Transportation Institute

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