

# GG131-14

## 405.1.4.3 (New)

**Proponent:** Brenda Thompson, Clark County Development Services, Las Vegas, NV, Chair, ICC Sustainability, Energy and High Performance Code Action Committee (SEHPCAC)

**Add new text as follows:**

**405.1.4.3 (New)Reference soil.** A soil sample or description shall be used as the reference soil for soil restoration in accordance with Section 405.1.4.2. One or more of the following shall be used as the basis for reference soils for the site:

1. Soils characteristic of a site as described in Natural Resources Conservation Service soil surveys where mapped.
2. Undisturbed soils on the site.
3. Undisturbed soils within the site's Natural Resources Conservation Service soil survey area that have vegetation, topography, or soil structure similar to the site.
4. For sites that have no existing soil, soils within the site's Natural Resources Conservation Service soil survey area that support species of vegetation intended to be used in the building project.

**Reason:** This proposal was submitted by the ICC Sustainability Energy and High Performance Code Action Committee (SEHPCAC). The SEHPCAC was established by the ICC Board of Directors to pursue opportunities to improve and enhance International Codes with regard to sustainability, energy and high performance as it relates to the built environment included, but not limited to, how these criteria relate to the International Green Construction Code (IgCC) and the International Energy Conservation Code (IECC). This includes both the technical aspects of the codes as well as the code content in terms of scope and application of referenced standards. In 2012 and 2013, the SEHPCAC has held six two-day open meetings and 50 workgroup calls, which included members of the SEHPCAC as well as any interested parties, to discuss and debate proposed changes and public comments. Related documentation and reports are posted on the SEHPCAC website at: <http://www.iccsafe.org/cs/SEHPCAC/Pages/default.aspx>.

The term "reference soil" is used throughout Section 405.1.4.2, Restoration, to identify the design objective of for soils placed, or restored on site. The section does not work without a definition for reference soil. "Reference soil is also used in the definition of CONSTRUCTION-COMPACTED SUBSOIL. The USDA's Natural Resources Conservation Services Web Soils Survey is an easy to use on-line database of the soils for almost all of the US. According to the NRCS: "*Web Soil Survey (WSS) provides soil data and information produced by the National Cooperative Soil Survey. It is operated by the USDA Natural Resources Conservation Service (NRCS) and provides access to the largest natural resource information system in the world. NRCS has soil maps and data available online for more than 95 percent of the nation's counties and anticipates having 100 percent in the near future. The site is updated and maintained online as the single authoritative source of soil survey information.*"

**Cost Impact:** Will not increase the cost of construction.

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