



**TECHNOGRAM  
001 - 2021**



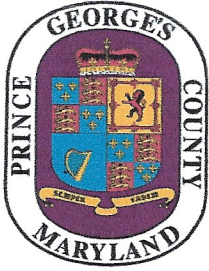
**SUBJECT:** Topsoil Certification

**PURPOSE:** To establish a requirement for a Topsoil Certification prior to issuance of final inspection and close out of site development rough and fine grading and/or building permits

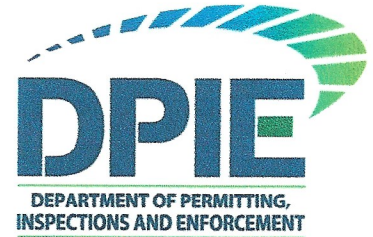
**SCOPE:** This technogram applies to all Department of Permitting, Inspections and Enforcement (DPIE) building and site road permits as listed below:

Effective immediately, a Topsoil Certification is required prior to issuance of a final inspection close out of building and site road permits. This certification is to be signed and sealed by a professional Landscape Architect or a professional Engineer specializing in Geotechnical Engineering registered in the State of Maryland. This certification is to ensure that the topsoil provided prior to application of vegetative cover or stabilization is in accordance with Sec. 32-152(a)(1) of the County Grading Code that states the following:

- I. Topsoil shall be in accordance with the Maryland Department of the Environment, Standards and Specifications for Soil Erosion and Sediment Control, B-4-2 Soil Preparation, Topsoiling and Soil Amendments or approved subsequent revisions thereof.
- II. Topsoil must be a loam, sandy loam, clay loam, silt loam, sandy clay loam, or loamy sand. Other soils may be used if recommended by an Agronomist or Soil Scientist and approved by the appropriate approval authority. Topsoil must not be a mixture of contrasting textured subsoils and must contain less than 5 percent by volume of cinders, stones, slag, coarse fragments, gravel, sticks, roots, trash, or other materials larger than 1½ inches in diameter.



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- III. Topsoil must be free of noxious plants or plant parts such as bermuda grass, quack grass, johnson grass, nut sledge, poison ivy, thistle, or others as specified.
- IV. Topsoil substitutes or amendments, as recommended by a qualified Agronomist or Soil Scientist and approved by the appropriate approval authority, may be used in lieu of natural topsoil.

Topsoil Certification requirement pertains to the following permit types:  
 Residential building permits (RGU, SGU)  
 Commercial building permits (CGU, CU, CG)  
 Site development rough grading permits (SDRG)  
 Site Development Fine Grading Permit (SDFG)  
 Street Construction Permit  
 Special or other permit as required

The Topsoil Certification is to be stated as follows:

**Topsoil Certification**

Permit Case Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Permit Case Name: \_\_\_\_\_

This is to certify to the best of my knowledge that the topsoil was installed in accordance with Section 32-152(a)(1) of the County Grading Code prior to the application of the necessary vegetative cover.

Registered Professional Signature and Seal

Date:

**APPROVED BY:**

**Melinda Bolling**  
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**Melinda Bolling, Director**

**March 9, 2021**