

**Georgia Soil and Water Conservation Commission**

**PHOTODOCUMENTATION**

*Photodocumentation is to be used to provide proof of installation and pictures of after-storm events.*

A minimum of three photographs per BMP are required. Each picture shall be date/time stamped and generally be taken from the same location on each visit.

The minimum three photographs should follow the guidelines below:

**Overview shot:** This shot should give the viewer a sense of the site topography, e.g., concentrated flow versus sheet flow etc. It is intended to capture items needing distance to be appreciated. Whenever an object can provide scale, it shall be included. The BMPs themselves are of known dimension and serve this purpose well.

**Closeup shot:** This shot is important to give detail. It cannot be so close as to exclude what is in comparison or contrast. Capture both the good and the bad in one frame if possible. If unable then be sure the successive photos are of a panoramic-type approach with overlap in each one. Silt and sediment deposition benefit from comparison to rulers, hard hats, cellphones etc.

**Orientation Shot:** This shot compliments the closeup by way of adding distance and arrows or circles.

Example:

*If a sediment barrier had a failure within 6’ section of a 200’ run the 3 photos may be framed in this way;*

*Overview – taken from 100-150’ away showing the site has a long slope that terraces midway down.*

*Closeup – the 6’ section has a 3” gap of daylight under it after the water undermined the barrier (silt fence). From about 5-10’ away with a hard hat placed on the ground at the silt fence the viewer can start to sense how big the failure is.*

*Orientation – taken from about 20-30’ away the gap appears small, if at all. By circling the area of the failure in the photograph the viewer understands where it occurred even if it can’t be seen in the shot.*

*By including all 3 shots the viewer is given the best chance to understand what has happened, giving both “how” and “where”.*