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No. NH VI-50 (18)/80

Dated the 12th December, 1983

To

The Secretary (All State PWDs.)/The D.G. of Works, C.P.W.D. and the Chief Engineers of all State PWDs dealing with bridge works on N.H. and other Centrally financed projects.

As the PWDs are aware, a significant trend of degradation in the quality of cement has been the cause of serious concern of consumers all over the country in recent years. In this context with a view to reinforcing consumer protection ISI certification of all cement supply has been made mandatory since August, 1983.

2. In the past few years defective or low quality of Ordinary Portland Cement to be used in reinforced or Prestressed concrete bridges has been reported frequently. The major deficiencies are mostly of two kinds:

i) Shortfall in weight of an individual bag or average weight of a bag with a nominal weight of 50 Kg. exceeding the tolerance limit i) specified in IS-269 and IS-8112 (rate with the latest amendments);

ii) 3 and 7 day mortar cube strength falling below the specified limits of IS : 269 and IS : 8112.

3. In view of the added accent on consumer protection and compulsory ISI Certification introduced, it is now necessary on the part of all engineer-in-charge of reinforced and prestressed concrete bridge works to ensure that the quality of cement supplied to site strictly conforms to IS standards.
4. In a recent meeting of the Committee for Promotion of Consumer Protection and Rational Utilisation of Cement (CPU) attended by the Additional Director General (Bridges) of this Ministry, it was suggested by members that all specific cases of defective quality of cement received by the consumers may be brought to the notice of the Cement Controller, who welcomed the suggestion.
5. We will, therefore, urge upon you to advise all your Engineering Officers dealing with bridge works on National Highways and other Centrally financed bridge projects that in specific instances of deficiencies in specified quality of cement either in quantity or in strength may be brought immediately to the notice of the Cement Controller directly with a copy to this Office.
6. It is hoped that in view of the critical importance of quality assurance of cement used in bridge works, these instructions will be implemented immediately.