

No. RW/32016/4/91-RMP

Dated the 28th April, 1992

To

All Chief Engineers of the States and Union Territories (dealing with National Highways); Director General (Border Roads); Director General (Works).

Subject: Improvement in Cold Feed System in Bituminous Hot Mix Plants.

Clause 504.3.4 of Ministry's "Specifications for Road and Bridge Works" (Second Revision) published by Indian Roads Congress, New Delhi, relates to the preparation of mix for bituminous works for National Highways. sub-para(a) of this clause indicates that "Cold aggregate feed system for providing blended aggregate in the correct proportion (called Cold bin feed arrangement)" shall be one of the essential units for producing uniform mix.

2. It would be seen that there is no mention of number of bins/hoppers in the sub-para of specifications referred to above. The purpose of cold feed system is to achieve initial proportioning in feeding of the aggregates. However in most of the Hot Mix Plants being used in the country, maximum number of bins on primary cold feed system is three. These have been found adequate to meet the requirements of open-graded bituminous mixes like bituminous macadam, seal coat, etc.

3. However, with the introduction of more sophisticated specifications like Bituminous Concrete, dense bituminous macadam, etc. calling for a closer grading, the necessity for more accurate blending of aggregates has arisen. Keeping this requirement in view, the Ministry has been considering that the minimum number of bins on cold feed system of Bituminous Hot Mix Plants should be four instead of generally three at present.

4. To begin with, Ministry has already specified minimum four bins for hot mix plants being deployed/to be deployed for execution of World Bank and Asian Development Bank Loan assisted National Highway and State Road Projects.

5. Consequently, for normal National Highway works also, it would be necessary to have four bin-system on all Hot Mix Plants. Keeping this in view, it has been decided that for works costing more than Rs. 3 crores having dense bituminous mix specification (Bituminous concrete, dense bituminous macadam etc.) deployment of Hot Mix Plants with cold feed system having a minimum of four number bins/hoppers may be made mandatory. Accordingly this requirement may please be made obligatory in all cases where tenders are being invited after 1.9.1992. Clause 504.3.4 (a) for above category of works after above amendment shall read as below, and this should be clearly brought out in tender documents.

504.3.4(a) 'Cold aggregate feed system with minimum 4 No. bins having gates and belt conveyor arrangements for initial proportioning of aggregates from each bin in the required quantities.'

To satisfy the above requirement, the contractors could bring in new Hot Mix Plants with four bin system. Alternatively, they could modify the existing plants by adding more bin to convert to four bin cold feed system.

7. Ministry intends to incorporate this change formally in the Third Revision of Ministry's Book on 'Specifications for Road and Bridge Works' under preparation at present. Ministry also intends that switchover from three bins to four bins in cold feed system may be effected for all Hot Mix Plants to be used on NH works from the date the Third Revision of the Ministry's Specifications Book is made applicable or from April, 1994 - whichever is earlier.

8. It is requested that these instructions may be brought to the notice of all concerned for implementation.

9. The receipt of the letter may kindly be acknowledged. Ministry may be kept informed of the action taken in this regard.