

*No. RW/NH-33041/3/2001-S&R(R)*

*Dated the 7th August, 2003*

To

The Secretaries of States/Union Territories, Public Works Department (dealing with National Highways), All Chief Engineers of States Union Territories (dealing with National Highways), The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, The Director General (Border Roads).

**Subject: Use of rubber/polymer modified bitumen on National Highways / Centrally Sponsored Works-clarification thereof**

It has been brought out to the notice of the Ministry that the modified bitumen being manufactured by M/s Hindustan Colas Limited (HCL), a joint venture company between Hindustan Petroleum Corporation Limited in collaboration with M/s Hindustan Colas SA, France, one of the world leaders, in value added bituminous products are being discriminated against by some agencies in the procurement of modified bitumen. While it has been specified under clause 7.7 of IRC SP-53-2002 that "Modified bitumen from refinery sources or blended at approved central plant or made by appropriate mobile blending plant with site blending facility shall be used for road works" and that "blending at site by simple stirrers is not permitted", it has been brought to the notice of the Ministry that some of the agencies are specifying the use of refinery modified bitumen only. This restrictive interpretation of clause 7.7 of IRC-SP-53-2002 amounts restricting competition and this needs to be avoided scrupulously.

The products of HINCOL have been tested by reputed research institutes and have been certified to conform to IRC-SP-53-2002 for modified bitumen. Further the products of HINCOL, are being manufactured at central plants using equipments and technologies imported from COLAS.

In view of the above, modified bitumen being manufactured by HINCOL be treated at par with refinery modified bitumen.