

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

Dated, the 3rd January, 2006

To

The Secretary of all States/UTs (in charge of PWD); The Engineer-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of State PWDs and UTs (dealing with National Highways); The Director General (Border Roads); The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India.

Subject : Use of Rubber/Polymer Modified Bitumen in Road Works

This Ministry has from time to time issued several circulars stipulating guidelines on the use of rubber and polymer modified bitumen in the works pertaining to National Highways and centrally sponsored schemes.

2. Vide circular No. RW/NH-34041/36/90-S&R (Vol.-II) dated 11/17th January, 2000, it has, inter-alia been intimated that the IRC guidelines on modified bitumen should be adopted for all works of National Highways and other centrally sponsored schemes.

3. The IRC guidelines in the matter were first published under Publication No. IRC:SP:53-99, which has since been revised and published under IRC:SP:53-2002. Para 7.7 of this IRC Publication specifies as under:

“Modified bitumen from refinery sources or blended at approved central plant or made by appropriate mobile blending plant with site testing facility shall be used for road works. Blending at site by simple stirrer is not permitted.”

4. Some references have been received by this Ministry from Manufacturers/Suppliers of the modified bitumen expressing concern that the executive agencies are prescribing conditions to the effect that the modified bitumen should be purchased only from refineries. If this is so, then it may restrict competition.

5. It is, therefore, requested that the provisions of IRC:SP:53-2002, as amended from time to time (Guidelines on Use of Polymer and Rubber modified bitumen in road construction) may be used for the NHs and centrally sponsored works. Instructions to this effect may be issued to all concerned responsible for sanctioning of the works, preparation of tender documents and execution.

6. A status report in the matter may be sent to the Ministry.