

No. RW/NHIII/P/12/82

*Dated the 27th March, 1982*

To

All State Governments and Union Territories (Depts. dealing with National Highways)

Sub : Use of Bitumen Boilers and Mechanical Sprayers on N.Hs.—Road Works

It has been observed that on a large number of road works on National Highways spraying of bitumen for surface dressing and for tack coat and seal coat for bituminous macadam, asphalt concrete and premix carpet is done using improvised cans etc. Even on the works of built-up spray grout and full grout use of cans is commonly seen. The bitumen spread in this manner does not cover the surface uniformly and it does not penetrate into the interstices to the desired depth. It is also noticed that chips for surface dressing and seal coat are spread manually leading to uneven distribution and resulting in loose chips in the finished surface. Also, heating of bitumen in drums etc., leads to overheating and spillage losses. These invariably result in separation of layers and large-scale distress at an early date.

2. In view of the high cost of bitumen and the consequent need for conserving the same, it is emphasised that for all N.H. works bitumen boilers and mechanical sprayers shall be used. In addition, for surface dressing and seal coat works, gritters should be used. The details of these equipments are given in the IRC publication No. 72-1978 "Recommended Practice for Use and Upkeep for Equipment, Tools and Appliances for Bituminous Pavement Construction".

3. It is requested that these instructions may be conveyed to all the concerned field officers for strict compliance.