

No. RW/33046/2/86-NH-Stds.

*Dated the 10th April, 1987*

To,

1. All State Chief Engineers dealing with NH Works.
2. DGBR.
3. Director Genral (Works)
4. Director, CRRI

**Subject : Tentative Specification for Bitumen Mastic Wearing Course for Bridge Decking and Road Pavement.**

The bitumen mastic has been successfully used as a wearing course on bridge decks and road pavements. It has proved to be a suitable surfacing material for bus stops also. The bitumen mastic as a surfacing has got the following advantages :

- (i) It has got appreciable capacity to absorb shocks and vibrations.
- (ii) Its cracks are self healing.
- (iii) It prevents bleeding compared to other bituminous mixes.
- (iv) Due to its long service life compared to other type of bitumen wearing courses, its use is desirable where the renewal or surfacing operations can not be carried out frequently either on account of existing continuous congestion or lack of proper diversion.

With the above aspects in view, a tentative specification for the use of bitumen mastic for bridge decking and road pavement wearing course has been evolved and a copy of the same is enclosed for information and future guidance. The design mix as necessitated for each individual case should be done. It is to be ensured that the bitumen mastic shall be placed as a wearing course on a pavement with a bituminous base/binder course or concrete slab.

2. The ISI has already published an Indian Standard dealing with Specification for Bitumen Mastic for Bridge Decking and Road (IS : 5317 1969-reprinted in February 1979). There are also standard specifications available on the subject in developed countries. References have been drawn from ISI and BS Standards while finalising the tentative specification in question.

3. In use of bitumen mastic wearing courses the following should be kept in view :

- (i) Bitumen mastic is a rich specification and is costly therefore. It should not be used as a routine item.
- (ii) Bitumen mastic is not a suitable specification in places where abundant fuel, oil, drippings are expected.

4. Any modification or improvement to these specifications if considered necessary in the light of your experience in the field or in laboratory, may be communicated to this Ministry for consideration.

**Note :** Enclosures are not printed. However, copy of the note can be obtained from concerned Deptt. on request.