

No. RW/NH-34016/1/88-DO II

Dated, the 28th November, 1990.

To

All Chief Engineers of States/UTs dealing with roads; Director General (Works), CPWD; Director General, Border Roads Development Board.

Subject: Road marking paints-wearing resistance thereof.

In accordance with the prevailing practice in the country, road markings are generally provided with ordinary paints. The Code of Practice for Road Markings (IRC: 35-1970) stipulates use of ordinary paints conforming to IS: 164-1951 (since revised to IS: 164-1981) "Specifications for ready mixed paints for road markings (first revision)". The above standard stipulates two grades of road marking paints in terms of resistance to wear based on accelerated laboratory tests. While Grade 1 paints are envisaged to possess over 6 hours wearing resistance (corresponding to actual service life of approx. 7 months on road), Grade 2 paints have only 1 to 6 hours resistance. Actual experience, however, reveals that the available paints normally do not last more than one to two months, which could possibly be attributed to general usage of Grade 2 paints having a wearing resistance on the lower fringe (i.e. 1 hour) within the permissible range of 1 to 6 hours. In contrast, the road marking paints used in developed countries possess a service life of six months to two years.

2. The short service-life of road marking paints as evidenced in the past, has been a matter of serious concern to this Ministry. With a view to enhance the service life to a reasonable level, it is considered desirable to stipulate a minimum wearing resistance of at least 4 hours for Grade 2 paints for use in road marking. Accordingly, this requirement has been clearly mentioned in Clause 803.3.1 of Ministry's "Specifications for Road and Bridge Works (Second Revision)".

3. It is requested that the above requirement in regard to road marking paints may be brought to the notice of all field officers handling National Highway works for strict compliance while inviting bids for road marking jobs or procuring paints for the purpose.