

*No.RW/NH-11047/1/87-DOI-Vol.II**Dated, the 27th June, 1994*

To

Chief Engineers, PWDs of all States/UTs. (dealing with National Highways); Director General (Works), Central Public Works Department; Director General Border Roads; Chairman, National Highway Authority

Subject: Pavement markings-use of road marking machines

Road marking is an effective means for guiding and controlling traffic and thereby improving safety. Guidelines on application of road markings have been laid down in IRC:35-1970 "Code of Practice for Road Markings (with paints)". In this context attention is also drawn to this Ministry's letter No.PL- 80(2)/71-SP dated 27th July, 1971 wherein the need for providing proper road markings was emphasised. Subsequent to this, instructions regarding use of proper quality marking paints so as to enhance the performance and service life of road markings were communicated vide this Ministry's letter No.RW/NH-34016/1/88-DO II dated 28th November, 1990. It is hoped that the above directions are being followed in respect of road markings on National Highways in your State.

2. In India, the pavement markings at present are being laid generally by manual applications. This system has inherent shortcomings, such as lack of proper quality control leading to non-uniform and inadequate application thickness, short service life, slow progress and prolonged inconvenience to the traffic. Mechanised application using road marking machines on the other hand yields better uniform, longer-lasting and more conspicuous markings, which could be attributed to penetration of paint on to road surface and better adhesion due to pressurised application. In addition, laying process is much faster.

3. In view of the above advantages, it is recommended that wherever possible, road marking machines should be used, especially on all National Highways, for laying pavement markings. Concurrently, the feasibility of gradual switch over from manual to mechanised applications of road markings may be examined.

4. As per the present information, "WALK-BEHIND TYPE" road marking machines are being manufactured indigenously, with the following known manufacturers:-

- (i) AUTO MARK Traffic Systems (P) Ltd.
16, Benham Hall Lane, (Dr. D.D. Sathc Marg), Bombay-404 004
- (ii) ULTRA Techno Inc.
Industrial Estate, G.T.Road, SONEPAT-131 001(Haryana)

It has been claimed that these machines can lay 1 km length of line marking, 15 cm wide and 0.2 mm thick in one hour. A demonstration of road marking machines manufactured by M/s. AUTO MARK Traffic Systems was held recently in this Ministry wherein the usefulness and suitability of the machine for application of road markings was successfully disseminated. The demonstration was also attended by officers from various organisations, such as NDMC, MCD, PWD, DG(BR), DDA, CRRl and Traffic Police.

5. Considering the need for switch-over to mechanised application of road marking, you may like to use such machines on experimental basis, monitor performance of the machines as also of the resultant markings, and furnish necessary feed back to this Ministry regarding their suitability.

6. It is requested that the contents of this letter may be brought to the notice of all concerned officers of your department for their information and appropriate action.