

NO. RW/NH-35072/6/2007-S&R (R)

Dated, the 23rd May, 2008

To

The Secretary, PWDs of all State Government/UTs (dealing with National Highways), Engineer in Chief/
Chief Engineers of States/UTs dealing with National Highways, Director General (Border Roads),
Chairman, National Highways Authority of India (NHAI)

**Subject : Use of City compost in plantation in medians, turfing on side slopes of embankment and plantation
of trees in right-of-way along National Highways**

In response to a directive by the Hon'ble Supreme Court of India, an Inter-Ministerial Task Force was constituted by the Ministry of Urban Development for promoting integrated plant nutrient management using city compost along with synthetic fertilizers. The Hon'ble Supreme Court had accepted the recommendations of the Task Force and directed all concerned agencies to implement the recommendations.

2. The Inter-Ministerial Task Force has inter-alia recommended that the use of city compost for all road dividers, embankment stabilization and road side greening etc. should be made mandatory. The quality standards laid down by the Task Force for compost from Municipal Solid Waster (MSW), till Bureau of India Standards (BIS) comes out with standards, is placed at **Annex-I**.

3. It has, therefore, been decided that city compost shall be used as organic fertilizer for plantations in medians, turfing on side slopes of embankment and plantation of trees in right of way along National Highways as per requirement depending upon availability of city compost of desired quality as specified in **Annex-I** and economy. Use of city compost along state roads may also be adopted as in the case of National Highways.

4. The feedback on its utilization may be reported to the Ministry.

Compost Quality Characteristics Recommended by the Sub-Group

Sl. No.	Item	Organic Fertilizer (From MSW)	Enriched Organic Fertilizer
I	CHEMICAL PARAMETERS		
1.	Moisture %	15-25	15-25
2.	Organic Carbon % (Min.)	16	20
3.	Total Nitrogen % (Min.)	0.8	1.5
4.	Total Phosphate as P_2O_5 % (Min.)	0.8	1
5.	Total Potash as K_2O % (Min.)	1.0	1.5
6.	C/N Ratio	12:1-20:1	12:1-20:1
7.	pH	6.5-7.5	6.5-7.5
8.	Electrical Conductivity (m.mhos) (Max.)	4	4
9.	Bulk Density	0.7-0.9	0.7-0.9
10.	Inert Material (Max.)	25	20
11.	Particle size	Entire material to pass through 4 mm IS sieve	Entire material to pass through 4 mm IS sieve
12.	Physical Condition	Powdery, Non sticky, Free flowing, free from foul smell and free from live weeds	Powdery, Non sticky, Free flowing, free from smell and free from weeds
II	MICROBIOLOGICAL PARAMETER		
13.	Total Bacterial count/gm carrier (Min.)	10^8 - 10^{10}	10^8 - 10^{10}
14.	Total Salmonella and Higella sp	Nil	Nil
III	HEAVY METALS		
15.	Cadmium ppm (Max.)	5	5
16.	Chromium ppm (Max.)	50	50
17.	Lead ppm (Max.)	100	100
18.	Arsenic ppm (Max.)	10	10
19.	Mercury ppm (Max.)	0.15	0.15
20.	Nickel ppm (Max.)	10	10
21.	Copper ppm (Max.)	300	300
22.	Zinc ppm (Max.)	1000	1000