

Ref : HyD GR/1-50/1

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17 June 2010

Highways Department Technical Circular 2/2010

Control in the Use of Shotcrete (Sprayed Concrete) in Slope Works

Introduction

This circular lays down the departmental procedures for the control in the use of shotcrete in slope works. The purpose of these procedures is to improve the visual appearance of roadside slopes maintained by Highways Department (HyD).

2. It updates and supersedes HyDTC No. 5/2000 which is hereby cancelled.

Background

3. Following a number of major landslides in 1994-95, the government have expanded the slope maintenance programme. Since then shotcrete has been commonly applied on slopes as surface protection to reduce erosion, prevent water infiltration and improve stability.

4. In view of the concerns expressed by the community on the increasing use of shotcrete in late 90's and on the aesthetics and environment, the then Works Bureau issued a Technical Circular WBTC No. 17/2000 on "Improvement to the Appearance of Slopes". It promulgates general procedures on the improvement to slope appearance and enhances the policy guidance contained in WBTC No. 25/93 on "Control of Visual Impact of Slopes". This circular supplements the above WBTCs and provides specific procedures for implementation in HyD.

Control Procedures

5. All Offices and Divisions in HyD shall follow the "Guidelines on the Use of Vegetation and Shotcrete Cover on Roadside Slopes" given in Appendix A unless endorsed otherwise by the Vetting Committee on Slope Appearance (see para. 6 below). The Guidelines apply to all types of slope works, be they slope upgrading, slope maintenance or new slope formation in capital works projects. To facilitate compliance with the Guidelines, the Maintenance Engineer/Project Engineer should complete the "Checklist for Proposed

Surface Protection of Roadside Slopes” given in Appendix B. The Checklist shall form part of the submission to the Vetting Committee when shotcreting is proposed.

Vetting Committee on Slope Appearance

6. In accordance with WBTC No. 17/2000, a departmental Vetting Committee on Slope Appearance has been set up to review and endorse the need for all shotcreting proposals in roadside slope upgrading/maintenance works and capital works projects (excluding emergency repairs after landslips, minor local repairs and temporary slopes during construction). No shotcreting shall be undertaken if the proposal is rejected by the Vetting Committee. Detailed particulars of the Vetting Committee are given in Appendix C.

(Original Signed)
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