

No. NHVI-50 (20/77)

Dated the 15th Dec., 1977

To

All State Chief Engineers/Addl. Chief Engineers of the
State PWDs and Union Territories dealing with Roads

Subject : The requirement of insisting on acceptance tests on cement before using the same on all centrally sponsored works

The supplies of cement, conforming to the relevant prescribed Indian Standards, for all centrally sponsored works are being arranged to the States against orders placed by them on rate contracts entered into by the Director General of Supplies and Disposals. Instances have, however, come to notice where such cements have failed to satisfy the relevant requirements of the Indian Standards. This issue was discussed at the Chief Engineer's meeting held at New Delhi on 30th July, 1977, when it was felt that it may not be sufficient to rely solely on the test reports/certificates issued by the Inspection Directorate of the Director General of Supplies and Disposals based on the periodic samples tested by them. In order to ensure that only cement of the requisite quality is used on our works, it is very essential that the States also take samples and get them tested independently in accordance with the provisions of the rate contract, to check that the cement actually conforms to the prescribed standards. The cement should also be stored properly and tested again at the time of actual use on works.

2. Normally, cements manufactured in the country are covered by the following Indian Standards :—

IS : 269 — Specification for Ordinary, Rapid Hardening and Low Heat Portland Cement.

IS : 455 — Specifications for Portland Blast Furnace Slag Cement.

IS : 1489 — Specification for Portland Pozzolana Cement.

3. The necessary tests for checking the quality of cement are also indicated in the aforesaid standards as well as in the Ministry of Shipping & Transport Specifications for Road and Bridge Works and IRC Bridge Code Section III. These tests must necessarily be carried out on each batch of cement received. The test cubes should be tested before the start of the work for both the 7 days and 28 days strength as given in the relevant standards. In case low strengths are indicated, timely action should be undertaken to ascertain the cause of poor quality as well as to prevent the use of such sub-standard cements on the works. If after conducting the necessary tests the cements are found to be sub-standard, the matter, should be brought to the notice of the State Civil Supplies Department, with copies to this Ministry and the concerned Controller of Cement under whose direction the cement has been released, for taking up necessary remedial action.