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Group : 7, 12

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Works Bureau Technical Circular No. 19/2001

Metallic Site Hoardings and Signboards

Scope

This Circular establishes the revised policy requiring the use of metallic site hoardings and signboards, in order to reduce the amount of timber used on construction sites.

Effective Date

2. This Circular shall take effect immediately .

Effect on Existing Circulars

3. This Circular supersedes Works Bureau Technical Circular (WBTC) No. 19/99 and shall be read in conjunction with WBTC No. 32/92 entitled "The Use of Tropical Hardwood on Construction Sites".

Background

4. Site hoardings and signboards had traditionally been built of hardwood. Under WBTC No. 32/92, we prohibited the use of hardwood for site hoardings, falsework and shoring of trenches and pits in all contracts tendered as from 1 March 1993.

5. Since then, many alternatives to hardwood such as metal frames and metal sheet coverings, softwood framing and softwood veneered plywood and composite boards have been used for these purposes.

6. Metallic alternatives to timber (softwood, softwood veneered plywood, composite boards etc.) are now readily available in the market and have been widely used for site hoardings and signboards. These metallic alternatives are more sustainable and environmentally friendly than timber and can be re-used many times and thereafter recycled for other uses. Furthermore, the wider use of these re-usable and recyclable materials can help to reduce the amount of construction and demolition (C&D) waste generated from construction sites.

7. It is now recognized that metallic site hoardings or signboards jointed with nuts and bolts allow easier recovery of components for reuse, with less wastage than if they are jointed by welding or similar methods.

Policy

8. To reduce the amount of C&D waste generated from construction sites, all contracts shall specify the use of metal in all components of site hoardings and signboards. Furthermore, works departments shall specify a bolts and nuts jointing method in drawings and/or specifications for site hoardings and signboards where hoardings and signboards are to be erected, unless bolts and nuts jointing method are considered not feasible due to technical or safety reasons.

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