

Government of India  
Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change  
(Forest Conservation Division)

Indira Paryavaran Bhawan,  
Aliganj, Jorbagh Road,  
New Delhi-110003

**Dated: 9th October, 2020**  
November

To  
The Principal Secretary (Forests),  
All State Governments/UT Administrations

**Sub: Retaining of guidelines dated 14.09.2004 and 30.04.2005 permitting repair and maintenance of roads constructed prior to 1980 – reg.**

Sir,

I am directed to refer to this Ministry's letter no.5-2/2017-FC dated 28<sup>th</sup> March, 2019 regarding Handbook of Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980 by consolidating all previous guidelines issued by the ministry. Representations have been received from the States to incorporate guidelines dated 14.09.2004 and 30.04.2005 in the revised Handbook for the sake of more clarity in the works related to repair and maintenance of roads constructed prior to 1980. In this connection, I am directed to inform that the matter has been examined in the Ministry and competent authority in the Ministry has approved that roads constructed on forest land prior to 25.10.1980 (date of enactment of FC Act, 1980), falling outside the Protected Areas, may be repaired and maintained and also black topping of the same may be done with prior permission of the State Forest Department subject to fulfillment of following conditions:

- i. No breaking up of forest land or felling of tree shall be allowed;
- ii. While black topping, adequate precautions should be undertaken by the User Agency to avoid any damage to flora and fauna. Fire for melting of coal tar and mixing shall be lit at a safe distance from the trees/vegetation and avoiding dry/hot seasons. Fuelwood, if required, shall be purchased in advance from the Depot of Forest Development Corporations;
- iii. No crushing/breaking of stones shall be allowed inside forest areas. Readymade materials shall be used for up-gradation of such roads. No labour camp shall be allowed on the forest land
- iv. No widening of the road is allowed. Both sides of the upgraded road shall be reinforced with brick/stone works, and vegetative measures to check soil erosion at the project cost in consultation with the Divisional Forest Officer;
- v. Any other condition the Divisional Forest Officer may impose from time to time in the interest of forest conservation and protection.

Yours faithfully,

(Sandeep sharma)  
Assistant Inspector General of Forests

Copy to:

1. The Principal Chief Conservator of Forests, All State Govts/UT Administrations
2. The Dy DGF (Central), All Regional Offices of the MoEF&CC
3. The APCCF & Nodal Officer (FCA), O/o the PCCF, All State/UT Governments
4. Monitoring Cell, FC Division, MoEF, New Delhi
5. Guard File

**Signature Not Verified**

Digitally signed by SANDEEP  
SHARMA  
Date: 2020.11.09 13:34:48 IST

