

**THE DEPARTMENT
OF TRANSPORT**

ROOM
ST CHRISTOPHER HOUSE
SOUTHWARK STREET LONDON SE1 0TE
TELEX 21352
TELEPHONE 01-928 7999 EXT
GTN 2813

Your Ref:

Our reference

BE 1/7/06

Date

17 April 1990

The Chief Executive
County Councils) in
District Councils) England
London Borough Councils
Common Council of the City of
London

CIRCULAR ROADS 1/90

Dear Sir

TECHNICAL APPROVAL OF HIGHWAY STRUCTURES ON LOCAL AUTHORITY ROADS

1. This Circular describes the revised procedure to be adopted for the technical approval of highway structures on local authority roads. It will also apply to the Industrial Development Act (1982), New Town and Development Corporation schemes. Circular Roads 2/80, Technical Approval of Structures for TPP Schemes, and Paragraph 7 of Circular Roads 29/75, Bridges of Sub-standard Carrying Capacity, are hereby superseded.
2. The Department will no longer act as Technical Approval Authority (TAA) for local authority highway structures. Each local authority shall be responsible for its own schemes, although a local authority may select another local authority or a firm of consulting engineers to act as TAA on its behalf. Original approval in principle submissions and certificates should be retained by the local authority and certificates are not required to be sent to the Department. The local authority should act as TAA where a developer will hand over the structure on completion to the local authority.
3. Technical approval procedures should generally follow those contained in Departmental Standard BD 2/89, Technical Approval of Highway Structures on Motorways and Other Trunk Roads, in conjunction with Advice Note BA 32/89.
4. The Department will continue to act as TAA for highway structures funded as part of grant aided schemes which will be trunked on completion.
5. While the Department is willing to give advice of a general nature on the interpretation of its Standards, it will not deal with queries on specific schemes which are a matter for the TAA. Departures and aspects not covered by Standards will be the responsibility of the local authority.
6. The routeing aspects for high and heavy load grids are to be agreed with the Department's Regional Office for all highway structures but the Department will not be involved in technical approval.
7. For highway tunnels separate approval in principle and certification procedures apply. Any proposal to build a tunnel should be referred to the Department as early as possible for advice on the appropriate standards and procedures. The Department will be the TAA for tunnel schemes.
8. Where submission to the Royal Fine Art Commission is proposed by the highway authority for structures in environmentally sensitive areas the Department's Architect/Planner will be available to advise, if requested, on aesthetic and procedural aspects.

9. Overall these proposals are expected to have nil cost and manpower implications for local authorities although there might be some additional resource requirements for certain smaller offices such as those run by many London Boroughs.

10. These revised procedures will be implemented from 1st April 1990 and schemes already being processed by the Department as TAA will be completed according to current procedures.

11. Enquiries about the content of this Circular should be made to Engineering Unit, DHPSS, Room 4/34, St Christopher House, Southwark Street, London SE1 0TE (Tel No: 01-921 7999 Ext 4570).

12. Requests for further copies should be addressed to NGAM, Room 1/05, 2 Monck Street, London SW1P 2BQ (Tel No: 01-276 2703).

Yours faithfully

P H DAWE
Head of Bridges Engineering Division