

GUIDELINES FOR ACCREDITATION OF NEW MATERIALS AND TECHNIQUES

(Effective from 01.04.2026)

1. The Accreditation Committee, operating under the Highway Research Board of the Indian Roads Congress, grants approval of new materials and techniques covering construction and maintenance of highways, bridges and tunnels that are not covered by IRC, MoRTH or BIS codes, standards, specifications, or guidelines etc., for use on a trial basis. Accreditation Committee is composed of road and bridge experts from Central Road Research Institute (CRRI); Ministry of Road Transport & Highways (MoRTH); National Highways Authority of India (NHAI); National Highway Infrastructure Development Corporation Limited (NHIDCL); National Rural Road Development Agency (NRRDA); Central Public Works Department (CPWD); Border Roads Organization (BRO); Military Engineering Services (MES); State PWDs; Highways Research Station (HRS), Chennai; Gujarat Engineering Research Institute (GERI), Vadodara; IIT(s); NIT(s); National Highways Builders Federation (NHBF); Consulting Engineering Association of India (CEAI) and Resource Centre for Asphalt and Soil Training Academy (RASTA), Bengaluru and any other organization considered appropriate by Highway Research Board and headed by an eminent serving/retired expert/road administrator as decided by Highway Research Board. The tenure of the Accreditation Committee will be 3 years.
2. The Committee accords accreditation to new materials and techniques with the aim to do experiment with accredited new materials, new technology and products, developed in India and/or abroad and performance tested as per recognized International/National Specifications/Standards, on a trial basis to gain confidence in their usage over a reasonable period so that Indian Standards/Specifications can be developed based on performance evaluation. Ministry of Road Transport & Highways vide their circular no. RW/NH- 34049/01/2020-S&R (P&B) dated 20.09.2024 has specified use of such materials and techniques within 2% of project cost of a National Highway project. Other organisations may develop similar cost limit for use of accredited materials and techniques in road/bridge/tunnel project.
3. The manufacturer / promoter / vendor, intending accreditation of new materials or techniques developed by it, has to submit application addressed to Secretary General, IRC containing the following:
 - i) Firm details, Company Registration Certificate/Trademark Certificate, patent details of the material/technique, if any, PAN & GST No. of the firm
 - ii) Product (material/technique) name
 - iii) Location of manufacturing facility and availability in India and abroad
 - iv) Physical and chemical composition of the product (material)
 - v) Product output specifications in line with National/ International Specifications

- vi) Projects where the proposed product (material/technique) was used in India or abroad
- vii) Evaluation report of the product (material/technique) including laboratory test reports from Central Road Research Institute (CRRI) / Government laboratory/Indian Institute of Technology / National Institute of Technology
- viii) Execution details/ methodology along with the details of the machinery to be used, if any, or the proposed product
- ix) Quality assurance and quality control protocol of the product for field application along with acceptance criteria
- x) Specific area of applicability/specific prerequisites, if any, for application of the product
- xi) Information on expected durability of the product (material/technique) in comparison to the durability of the conventional product(s) which the new product proposes to replace
- xii) Cost effectiveness supported by calculation comparing presently available / conventional material/technique with the proposed product
- xiii) Limitations of the product clearly indicating the condition(s) in which product is not expected to be used
- xiv) **Non- refundable processing fee of**
 - (a) ₹ 5,00,000 /- (including GST) for fresh product (with 3 years Validity);
 - (b) ₹ 5,00,000 /- (including GST) for first renewal (with 2 years Validity); and
 - (c) ₹ 10,00,000 /- (including GST) for second/third renewal (with 2 years Validity).

for each product, by Demand Draft drawn in favour of Secretary General, IRC payable at New Delhi

- xv) Proposed plan for field performance evaluation:

IRC Secretariat will examine the proposal, prepare a summary evaluation sheet with respect to all the points mentioned in para-3 above and circulate it to the Accreditation Committee at least 3 clear days before the meeting of the Accreditation Committee.

- 3.1 The technical representative of the manufacturer/ promoter/vendor is required to make a detailed presentation before the Accreditation Committee on the meeting date and explain/clarify the queries of the Committee.
- 3.2 If the Committee is satisfied about the performance and cost effectiveness of the product (material/technique), the Accreditation Certificate will be granted to the applicant for product (material/technique) to be used on trial basis for a period of three years.
- 3.3 For fresh accreditation of products already covered by IRC/ BIS

Specifications/ Standards, accreditation shall be accorded only if there are changes/enhancement in some properties of the product compared to such Specifications/Standards resulting in saving in time and/or cost increase in durability.

- 3.4 The Accreditation Certificate shall be issued together with its applicability/ limitations/expected performance/cost effectiveness and the suggested trial length/size.
- 3.5 It is the responsibility of manufacturer / promoter / vendor and the concerned **CLIENT** not to use the material/technique on trial basis in excess of trial length or size as given in Accreditation Certificate at a given location.
- 3.6 In case a proposal is rejected, the applicant shall be intimated along with clear reason(s)/justification(s). No refund of processing fees will be admissible.
4. For renewal of already accredited materials/techniques after three years, the manufacturer/promoter/vendor will have to apply to IRC along with details mentioned in para 4.1 below.
 - 4.1 For renewal of accreditation of a given product (material/technique), the manufacturer/promoter/vendor will have to apply, enclosing all documents mentioned in para 3 above. In addition, the manufacturer/ promoter/ vendor has to submit all the trial sections executed with the accredited material/technique, their field performance report along with performance report/feedback from the Client Department and/or Central Road Research Institute (CRR I) / Government Laboratory / Indian Institute of Technology/ National Institute of Technology. Accreditation Committee based on satisfactory field performance report/ feedback shall take a decision for renewal. In case there is no feedback about field performance or product not being used anywhere by any road department, the Chairman, Accreditation Committee is authorized to take final call about renewal on case-to- case basis. Validity of renewal of accreditation of new material/technique shall be 2 years.
 - 4.2 After first or subsequent renewal, the manufacturer/promoter/vendor shall submit time-series field performance data for a minimum period of five years, comprising field trial performance reports from the client (Chief Engineer or equivalent level officer) along with performance test reports from Central Road Research Institute (CRR I)/ Government Laboratory/ Indian Institute of Technology/ National Institute of Technology. Based on such evidence, the Accreditation Committee shall place the material/technique before IRC for development of appropriate Standards/Specifications for its use. The process of approval shall remain the same as for the original approval.
 - 4.3 While applying for second or subsequent renewal, the applicant may submit suggested amendments or draft provisions for inclusion in relevant IRC document(s), which may be referred to the concerned Technical Committee of IRC for consideration during formulation of Standards/Specifications.

5. Any new material or technique may be accredited by IRC under these guidelines for a maximum period of up to 7 years, comprising 3 years for fresh accreditation and two subsequent renewals of 2 years each. In exceptional circumstances, the total period of accreditation may be extended up to a maximum of 9 years, subject to valid justification. The Chairman of the Accreditation Committee shall be authorized to grant such relaxation beyond 7 years.
6. These guidelines shall come into force **with effect from 01.04.2026** and shall apply to all applications for accreditation and renewal of accreditation. The provisions contained herein shall apply **mutatis mutandis** to applications already received by IRC and under consideration as on this date. However, the limitation of maximum accreditation period of nine years introduced under these guidelines shall not apply for the purpose of processing such pending applications. Any subsequent renewal of accreditation granted in such cases shall be governed by these revised guidelines.

Note-1: In case, test reports / testing facility in India is not available, reports from Govt. Departments of developed country could be considered by the Accreditation Committee.

Note-2: The Checklist for submission is enclosed. General instructions about documentation and format of submission given in the Checklist shall be strictly followed.

Note-3: The processing fee prescribed for accreditation shall remain **non-refundable under all circumstances**, including cases where the Accreditation Committee concludes that the proposed product/material/technique does not qualify as a new material or technique within the scope of these guidelines, or where the product is already covered under existing IRC/BIS standards without demonstrating measurable enhancement in performance parameters. Submission of an application shall be deemed as acceptance by the applicant that the processing fee represents administrative and technical evaluation charges incurred by IRC and shall not be refundable irrespective of the outcome of evaluation.