



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
MANILA

24 January 2000

DEPARTMENT ORDER)

SUBJECT: Tree Planting along National Roads

NO. 15
Series of 2000

In accordance with the program of the Government to enhance the quality of the environment, the planting of trees along national roads shall be made a standard component of all DPWH road construction and improvement projects, and shall, therefore, be included in the engineering design, program of work, estimates, budget, and bidding and contract documents of these projects.

For this purpose, tree planting along national roads shall conform to the following requirements:

1. Tree planting shall be done in accordance with the provisions prescribed in Item 611, entitled "Tree Planting" of the 1995 DPWH Standard Specifications for Highways, Bridges and Airports, Volume II, including the description of tree planting, its material requirements, construction methods, method of measurements and basis of payments. The trees to be used for this purpose shall be of the varieties the root systems of which grow downward rather than sideward. This is to avoid situations where the roots spread sideward and consequently destroy the road and sidewalk slabs.
2. Trees shall be planted in a neat row, within the road right-of-way (ROW) and as close as possible to the ROW limit, with sufficient allowance so that the trees when fully grown will not encroach on the adjoining property or touch electric and other overhead utility lines.
3. The center-to-center spacing between trees shall be 10-20 meters (m). For road sections with a generally north-south alignment, the trees on one side of the road shall be staggered vis-à-vis the trees on the other side of the road. This arrangement will help to ensure that enough sunlight will fall on the road and thus help to keep the road dry even during the rainy season.
4. For roads without curbs, the trees shall be planted with a minimum clear distance of 0.60 m beyond the edge of the shoulder, but in no case less than 3.0 m from the edge of the pavement.
5. For roads with curbs, particularly in urban areas, the trees shall be planted with a minimum setback of 1.00 m beyond the face of the curb.

6. Where there are longitudinal drainage canals, the trees shall be planted on the outer side of such canals.
7. On roadway curves and intersections, the pertinent design standards on sight distance shall be observed.
8. Non-traversable hazards (ravine, waiting shed, etc.) along the line of trees shall be provided with appropriate barriers, e.g., guardrails, and clearly marked, so that these do not pose hazards to motorists.
9. The contractor concerned shall undertake and be responsible for the maintenance of the planted trees during the contract warranty period of the road project covered by his contract. The contractor's maintenance work shall comply with the provisions of Item 611.3.10 (Watering and Maintenance) in the 1995 DPWH Standard Specifications.
10. The tree planting under this Department Order shall be undertaken not only along national roads programmed for construction or improvement, but also along existing national roads, especially those outside developed urban areas where there are no trees or only a few trees have been planted. For such existing roads, the required tree planting shall be undertaken by the District Engineering Office concerned.
11. The tree planting under this Department Order shall be undertaken in both contractual projects and projects by administration.
12. The maintenance of trees along national roads shall be faithfully undertaken as an integral part of the regular road maintenance program and shall be included in the reports therefor as a regular work item under Activity No. 209 of the Highway Maintenance Activity Standards.

This Order shall take effect immediately.


GREGORIO R. VIGILAR
Secretary