



Sharing Knowledge, Winter Maintenance Seminar Riga 2005

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Seminar on Safe and Efficient Winter Maintenance Practices

Riga, Latvia, September 22 and 23, 2005

The seminar aims to:
present an overview of the situation of Winter Maintenance,
understand needs and difficulties of Latvia and neighbour countries,
confirm the objectives and work program set for TC 3.4.

Main focus on management of winter maintenance, contracting, safety and environmental aspects.

150 participants representing 21 country.

Session Management and Standards

Baltic Region (Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania) with population 7.1 milln. people has 58 thousand km of state roads. It is located in eastern part of the Europe. Winter weather conditions are very changing, influenced by Atlantic cyclones and Arctic anticyclones. Winter lasts five month in a year.

Transformation of road management from Soviet socialism style to market oriented during last 15 years. The performance specifications of road WM standard in Baltic countries are set on the same bases and principles as in Sweden and Finland.

Summary report of Nordic experience, issue RWIS Siting Guidelines from Minnesota, USA and draft version of the second edition of the Snow & Ice Data Book were presented.

Session Contracting

Three different contracting models in the Baltic states:

- Lithuania has 11 state enterprises, one year negotiated contracts;**
- Latvia has contracted out 100% maintenance works in open tender, four 5 year contracts von by state owned joint stock companies;**
- Estonia has contracted out 63% from maintenance (56% by private), but 37% of maintenance is done by state agency.**

TC 3.4 issue Survey Report on Contracting.

Winter Maintenance as a Part of the Finnish Area Maintenance Contract.

Session Road Safety and Environmental Aspects

Wrong speed – the main cause of accidents in winter. Obligate winter tires and pressure to pedestrians to use reflectors or flashlights.

Minimization of the negative impact of use deicing chemicals main task for road authorities and contractors in Baltic countries.

Wet salt (NaCl) technology is main for roads with high traffic. Sand-salt mix in low temperatures.

Contractors performance monitoring, new tools for salt distribution control on the road, experiments of pre wetting salt with hot water and sugar (glucose, fructose) brine and heated sand use on low volume roads were reported in presentations from Nordic countries.

Technical tour

Visit of sections European roads E67 VIA BALTICA and E77 Kaliningrad – St. Petersburg was organized on second day of the seminar. Information about Latvian state road condition and maintenance management was presented during trip. Participants visited two maintenance bases, new one - Neceri near Riga bypass owned by SJSC "Central Region Roads " and Cesis owned by SJSK "Midland Roads". Information exchange between experts and local maintenance staff was interesting for both sides.

Video report about Latvian experience of training machinery operators by competition was presented.

Conclusions

Chlorides (Na and Ca) are and will be the basic de-icing chemical for roads with high traffic volume in region.

Existing Road Weather Information Systems in Baltic countries do not serves information for precise use of de-icing chemicals, serious improvements are needed in near future.

Some anti skid treatments without usage of chlorides must be tested on low volume roads.

The Riga seminar has demonstrated high interest for regional meetings, gathering world known experts and local professionals.

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