

NEW RELEASE

OVERVIEW OF WINTER MAINTENANCE CONTRACTS

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Winter maintenance has become a public service activity of vital importance to meet the present needs of the population and the economy in countries facing severe winter weather conditions.

This public service need can be met in different ways. However, the missions to be accomplished are similar regardless of the organization adopted. Whether they are provided comprehensively by public administration or rely on the private sector to a greater or lesser degree, it is essential that the activities delegated to each partner be clearly defined by contractual relationships.

This report prepared by the World Road Association (PIARC) Technical Committee C3.4 *Winter Maintenance* provides an overview of existing practices regarding winter maintenance contracts in different countries. The objective was to better understand the development of these contracts with the goal of reflecting upon those which are best adapted and economically viable.

Contract types are classified into four categories:

Type I: Planner, main contractor and operator functions are all managed and undertaken by one entity.

Type II: Planner and main contractor are one entity assigning work to another party – the operator.

Type III: The planner assigns main contractor and operator functions to the same entity.

Type IV: The planner, main contractor and operator are all separate entities.

Analysis of responses to the questionnaire examines topics including, but not limited to: relationships between the different stakeholders, supply of materials, conditions for bidding, contractor selection criteria, terms of contracts, type of bidding process, type of contractor, modes of compensation and control procedures.

Maintaining the viability of road networks through winter conditions is an increasingly complex exercise relying on clearly defined objectives which translate to levels of service. The report makes proposals for improved contracting on various topics.

Within winter maintenance, it is indispensable to identify actions and decisions clearly. The report outlines the activities and decisions as well as the phasing of processes. Bad weather thresholds, dimensioning, exceptional procedures and which actions are to be activated are discussed. Threshold criteria and climatology knowledge are covered. The definition and sharing of clear objectives and deliverables within contracting are also discussed, as well as implementation of control procedures.

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