

Complete revision of ‘Environment Impact Assessment Technique for Road Project’

~ corresponding to consideration document procedures, etc.

following assessment law amendment ~

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1. Background of revised technical methods (amendment of assessment law)

‘Environment Impact Assessment Technique for Road Project’ (hereinafter called technical methods) is a guide book to be referred to in selecting items (environmental items) and studying the methods for survey, prediction and assessment when road business operators conduct environment impact assessment (assessment). Based on the revision of the assessment law and its technical guide, ministerial regulations (enforcement in April, 2013), the technical methods were completely revised accordingly, the outline of each item showed in the figure is presented herein.

Two procedures were newly obligated in the amended assessment law. First, environmental consideration (SEA system in the report of Central Environment Council (February 22, 2010)) at earlier stage than the previous assessment (EIA) was obligated as consideration document procedures. In addition, report and announcement of surveys during/after construction, etc. in conducting the project after assessment was obligated as report procedures.

To correspond to such obligations newly made and to reflect the latest scientific knowledge and related system revision, the technical methods were completely revised using the previous outcomes of related studies in cooperation with Landscape and Ecology Division, and Geology and Geotechnical Research Group of Public Works Research Institute. At the time of revision, deliberation of the investigative committee consisting of learned persons from various environmental fields (Chairperson: Tetsuo YAI, Professor of Tokyo Institute of Technology) was made and opinions of Regional Development Bureau, etc. were asked. The revised technical methods were compiled in Technical Note of NILIM No.714 and Technical Note of Public Works Research Institute No.4254.

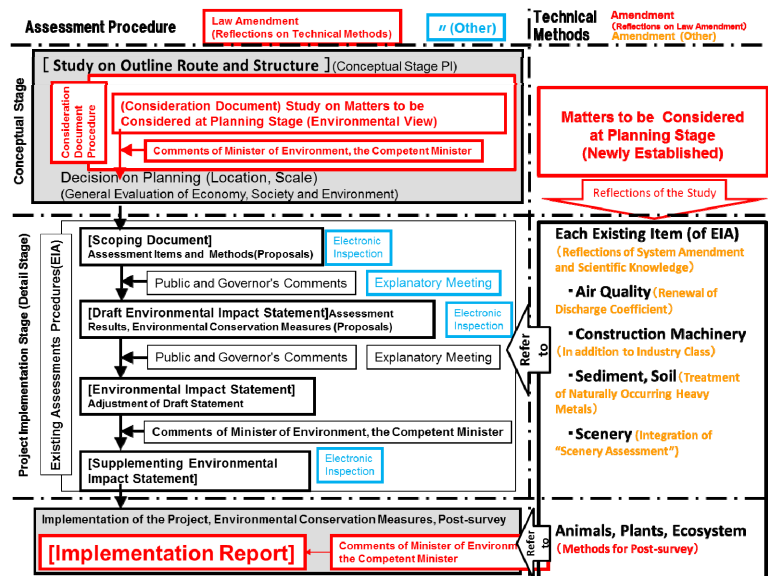


Figure: Assessment law revision and technical methods revision

2. Main revised points

(1) Newly established ‘Matters to be considered at planning stage’

It has been obligated that business operators conduct a ‘Study on matters to be considered at planning stage.’ In case of road projects, this is to compile environmental consideration when studying outline routes and structures at a conceptual stage in a form like EIA such as ‘understanding characteristics of the project and the region’, ‘selection of matters to be considered at planning stage (environmental items)’ and ‘results of survey, prediction and assessment’.

A chapter on ‘Matters to be considered at planning stage’ was newly incorporated in the technical methods as a common content organizing all environmental items. Using analysis results in this Division regarding the process and the environment assessment methods of PI case at conceptual stage of the road projects, etc., a simple procedure to assess environmental impacts by the positional relation between the object to be considered about environmental impacts (examination object) and outline routes • structures (multiple plans) based on existing papers was presented. With regard

A Case of Utilizing Results

to air • noise, etc., city areas • schools • hospitals, etc. are the examination objects (assessment objects) and as to animals • plants, locations where important species are observed and reported and their required habitat • growing environment, etc. are the examination objects (assessment objects). In addition, items such as avoidance and decrease conditions which should be studied in detail in EIA were to be organized.

Moreover, as for the natural environment in particular, utilizing the result of the study on available existing information and the possible consideration methods when outline routes and structure are studied, a concrete idea of survey, prediction and assessment was set forth in the reference materials (Technical Note of NILIM No. 720) separately.

Furthermore, additional comments to each item of existing EIA were made to the effect that the gathered information as described above will be utilized and the result of the study will be reflected.

(2) Materialization of methods for surveys during/after consideration

In order to conduct more appropriately future surveys during/after consideration which is subject to an official announcement based on the revised assessment law, methods for the surveys are added to ‘animals • plants • ecological system’ which account for the majority of practical examples. Utilizing the result etc. of analyzing cases of the surveys(transplanting and relocation of animals, consideration toward raptors under construction, etc.), clarification of maintenance targets, the level of details of survey corresponding to the purpose and approximate survey period, etc. were explained.

3. Official announcement and utilization of the technical methods

Completely revised technical methods were officially announced in the following.

<http://www.nilim.go.jp/lab/dcg/kadai/kadai1/gijutsu.htm>

The methods described in the technical methods have so far been employed in most items of every road assessment and utilization of revised technical methods will be expected in assessment including new procedures after the law revision.