

The Danish Road Standards – A Unique Cooperation with the Entire Industry

Presentation by: Head of Department, Per Antvorskov, Danish Road Directorate

The Danish road standards constitute the entire base of the road industry for planning, designing, constructing, and operating the road infrastructure in Denmark.

The road standards are prepared via a unique cooperation across the entire industry. Overall, from municipalities, the Danish Road Directorate, consultants, contractors, universities, the police etc., around 200 specialists contribute to the production of entirely new and updated Road Standards documents – including both the actual Road Standards and the Tender Specifications.

In practical terms, the Road Standard work today is conducted through the setting up of 17 Road Standards Groups, which hold the responsibility for each of their technical field. The number of Road Standards Groups changes every now and then, as they reflect the current needs of the industry.

The road standards organisation is contained within the department “Innovation, Standards & International Affairs” in the Danish Road Directorate. Here, we receive great interest for participating in the Road Standards work. This is partly due to the fact that members get the opportunity of contributing to the actual Road Standards, and partly due to them getting the opportunity to participate in the professional network of Road Standard groups, which facilitate the discussing of technical subjects with colleagues from the rest of the industry. Therefore, our task in “Innovation, Standards & International Affairs” is to ensure, among other things, a broad professional background in the different Road Standards groups.

Even though the preparing of individual Road Standard documents is based on specified limits, there is still the possibility of adjusting the work process. Some documents are thus prepared with contributions from the entire Road Standards group, while others are prepared by smaller ad hoc groups – where frequently external members are invited, who possess strong specialist knowledge. The ad hoc groups are in use, particularly, in the event of very specific technical issues, or if a speeding up of the process is desired.

It applies to all Road Standards Groups that when they prepare documents, it is for the benefit of the entire industry. In order to take into account the demands from especially municipalities, i.a. Tender Specifications have been prepared for the use of minor procurements as well as a wide array of collections of examples, where inspiration and good ideas may easily be found.

Generally speaking, we are working on making the Road Standards easier to understand and apply. In this connection, it is important to point out that the Road Standards largely consist of recommendations and best practice, and only to a smaller extent, consist of legal requirements.

The presentation will give a general introduction to the Danish Road Standards work – including the unique cooperation with the entire road industry.

The presentation has been submitted by the Road Standards Secretariat in the Danish Road Directorate

*Per Antvorskov, Head of Department, pnt@vd.dk, +45 7244 3123
Carsten Niebuhrs Gade 43, DK-1577 Copenhagen V*