

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, FISHERIES AND FOOD
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**ROADS TO MOUNTAIN AND HILL PASTURES MINIMUM SPECIFICATION FOR GRAVEL
ROADS AND ACCESS**

The receiving of this specification does not imply approval of a grant application. However, if written approval is issued, then this specification becomes part of the contract between the applicant and the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food.

This is a minimum specification. Where the word “SHALL” is used, then that standard (at least) must be followed in grant-aided buildings. Where a procedure is “RECOMMENDED”, this is advice only on good practice.

Note that all references to other Department Specifications are to the current edition of that specification [available on the Department of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food Website (www.agriculture.gov.ie) under Farm buildings]. Similarly, references to Standards are to the current edition of the Irish, British or European Standard, as appropriate.

1. Safety

APPLICANT’S RESPONSIBILITY FOR SAFETY

Applicants are reminded that they have a duty under the Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work Act 2005 to provide a safe working environment on the farm, including farm buildings, for all people who may work on that farm. There is a further duty to ensure that any contractor, or person hired to do building work, provides and/or works in a safe environment during construction. It is the farmer’s responsibility to provide a construction stage project supervisor.

SAFETY DURING CONSTRUCTION

Farmer/Applicant Responsibility: Certain construction dangers may be encountered in the course of building or conversion work. Neither the Minister or any official of the Department will be in any way liable for any damage, loss or injury to persons, animals or property in the event of any occurrence related to the development and the applicant shall fully indemnify the Minister or any official of the Minister in relation to any such damage, loss or injury howsoever occurring during the development works.

Dangers: If any or all of the work is undertaken by the applicant/farmer he/she should seek competent advice and undertake all temporary work required to ensure the stability of excavations, superstructure, stanchion foundations and wall foundations, also to divert any drains, springs or surface water away from the works, and to guard against possible wind damage, or any other foreseeable risk.

Power lines: Farm buildings shall not be constructed under or nearer than 10m to an overhead power supply. If advice is required, or if power lines need to be diverted, it is the applicant’s responsibility to contact, in writing, the local ESB supervisor before construction commences, and then to follow the ESB conditions.

Danger to children: It is the applicant’s responsibility to prevent children from playing or spending time in the vicinity of any building work.

2. GRAVEL ROADS

2.1 Preparation of Site

All topsoil and soft material shall be excavated to a minimum depth of 150mm or down to a solid stratum and the excavated material shall be suitably disposed of. Where slopes are unavoidable they should be kept to a minimum and be as uniform as possible. Provisions shall be made for drainage of the site. In the case of roads, such culverts and drains as may be required for the stability of the roadway or the drainage of adjacent land shall be provided.

2.2 Foundation

The foundation shall consist of 150mm of well-compacted hardcore gravel or dryfilling, laid to produce a smooth surface, with gradients corresponding closely to those required in the finished roadway.

2.3 Rubble or Gravel roads

Preparation of site and placing of hardcore foundation shall be as set out under 1.0 and 1.1 above. The foundation shall be covered evenly with not less than 75mm clean course gravel and well consolidated.

2.4 Roadway Widths

Farm roads shall be from 2.75m to 3.6m wide. Vehicular access to the farmyard from a public road may be 3.6m wide but in the event of such road being longer than 200m it shall be constructed to a width of 3.2m, with a section 12m long widened to 4.5m to form a lay-by every 200m. Roadway fences shall be set back at least 1.0m from the edge of the road.

3. MOUNTAIN AND HILL ACCESS ROADS

3.1 Site

The site shall be prepared as set out in 1.1 above. Sharp bends shall be avoided. Surface water shall be diverted to the edges and channelled off at suitable points.

3.2 Roadway

The roadway shall consist of 150mm of well compacted hardcore or dryfilling, laid to produce a uniform surface, slightly raised in the centre and sloping towards each side. The hardcore shall be fully blinded with suitable material to give a closed and well-bound finish.

3.3 Road Width

Mountain and Hill roads shall be 2.75m minimum and not more than 3.6m wide.

Notes Re Safety

1. Entrance gates off a public road should open inward and should be recessed to an extent that permits the parking of vehicles and trailed equipment totally clear of the carriageway with the gate in the closed position.
2. Gradients of roadways should be kept to a minimum in the immediate vicinity of entrance.
3. Measures shall be taken to prevent the discharge of surface water run-off or the deposition of mud or other debris on public roads.