



MES BUILDERS ASSOCIATION OF INDIA (REGD.)

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2023-2025

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Ref No : MBI/E-in-C/ 09 /2026

Date : 28th February 2026

Dte of Contract Management
Engineer-in-Chief's Branch
Kashmir House
Rajaji Marg
DHQ PO, New Delhi-110011

Subject : TIMEFRAME FOR PROCESSING PAYMENT OF RAR TO CONTRACTORS

Respected Sir,

1. It is with profound appreciation and encouragement that we observe the Department's progressive initiatives toward digitization of several time intensive procedures associated with contractors' payment. These transformative measures, particularly the implementation of the eMB system are indeed laudable and reflect a visionary commitment toward enhancing transparency, efficiency and seamless execution of contracts.

2. It is an incontrovertible fact that timely processing and disbursement of Running Accounts Receipts (RARs) and final bills serve as a significant morale booster for contractors. Prompt payments not only strengthen financial liquidity but also foster confidence, thereby encouraging wholehearted participation in tendering processes and ensuring the smooth and expeditious execution of works.

3. In light of the above, we respectfully submit certain observations regarding the existing provisions governing the processing of RARs, which we believe merit reconsideration to align with the Department's commendable efforts to mitigate payment delays an issue that has been recurrent in nature. As per Section 18 of the Manual of Contracts 2020, the stipulated timeframe for processing of RARs is as under :-

- (a) For contracts valued below Rs 50 Lacs -20 days.
- (b) For contracts valued at Rs 50 Lacs and above -10 days.

4. Furthermore, vide amendment No 37 dated 24 March 2015 to GCC IAFW-2249 Clause 64, the periodicity for submission of RARs has been prescribe as under :-

- (a) 30 days for works below Rs 50 Lacs
- (b) 15 days for works above Rs 50 Lacs

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However, no corresponding timeframe has been explicitly stipulated for the processing of such RARs which inadvertently leads to procedural ambiguities and consequential delays.

5. We most respectfully place the following realities for your kind and sympathetic consideration :-

(a) Contractors are mandated to furnish a Performance Guarantee amounting to 5% of the contract value immediately upon acceptance of the tender and prior to commencement of work.

(b) Additionally, contractors are subjected to retention provisions approximating 5% on work executed and nearly 15% on materials brought to site.

(c) Critical construction inputs such as steel, cement and electrical items which constitute a substantial component of B/R and E/M contracts are procured largely against advance payments and often entail considerable delivery lead times.

(d) The Performance Security is released only after completion of the Defect Liability period of two years and subsequent settlement of the final bill.

6. In view of the substantial initial financial outlay and prolonged capital blockage faced by contractors, expeditious processing of RARs becomes not merely desirable but indispensable for sustaining operational viability and ensuring uninterrupted progress of works.

7. Accordingly, we most humbly and earnestly request consideration of the following proposals :-

(a) The periodicity for submission of RARs for all contracts, irrespective of value, may kindly be rationalized and amended to 15 days uniformly in consonance with spirit of IAFW-2249.

(b) A definitive and concise timeframe for processing of RARs preferably within 03 to 05 days may be explicitly incorporated in the Manual of Contracts akin to suitable enabling provisions under IAFW-2249.

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(c) The electrical and IT infrastructure supporting the eMB system and RAR processing may be further fortified with adequate redundancies and backup mechanisms to ensure uninterrupted and time bound payment cycles.

8. We remain confident that the above observations and suggestions will receive your benevolent and pragmatic consideration. Such progressive measures would greatly assist both the builders and the Department in achieving timely execution, financial discipline and enhanced user satisfaction.

Yours faithfully,

(G.S. Mago)
President, HQ MES BAI

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