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**Environmental Management of
Road Maintenance
-with Emphasis on “Green Procurement”**

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ABSTRACT

Maintenance of roads exerts an impact on the environment in different ways, for example through pollution of air, land and water, noise and vibrations, damage of natural and cultural environment, consumption of natural resources, and results in waste. There are several policy instruments that can be used in order to improve the environment. Examples of these are taxes, procurement, standardisation and eco-labelling.

Procurement of road maintenance with environmental requirements (so called "green" procurement) is currently used within the Swedish National Road Administration (SNRA). Procurement of road maintenance with environmental requirements has to consider some factors in order to be relevant. First, the environmental problems which have been identified in connection with road maintenance. Second the environmental objectives which have been stated on different levels, supra-national, national, regional and local.

The aim of this study is to examine how road maintenance can be managed in order to adapt it to a more environmental perspective. The research is based on the results of a literature review, a content analysis and a case study. Environmental requirements have been identified and the performance by the contractors has been investigated in the study.

The conclusions of the study are that road maintenance can be environmentally managed through procurement with environmental requirements. There is a correspondence between the environmental requirements in the procurements and known environmental problems and the national environmental quality objectives. The study shows that there are no definite lines of demarcation between different means of control, several means of control can overlap each other. Procurement for example can not be a policy instrument all by itself, it interacts with other policy instruments. Procurement with environmental requirements has to be co-ordinated with other plans and procedures for example waste management plans and Environmental Impact Assessments for roads. In order to make procurement with environmental requirements a well functioning policy instrument for road maintenance the follow-up of the requirements must be improved.

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