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අධ්‍යක්ෂ ජනරාල් பணிப்பாளர் தாயகம் Director General	} 011-2584984	ෆැක්ස් பகஸ் Fax	} 011-2505890	ලිපිනය මුලස්ථාන Address	} 230, තැ.ක. 1138, බෞද්ධාලෝක මාවත, කොළඹ 07, ශ්‍රී ලංකාව 230, த.பெ.1138, பொத்தாலோகமாவத்தை, கொழும்பு 07, இலங்கை 230, P.O. Box 1138, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 07, Sri Lanka
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Asset Management Sub Department,
Land & Legal unit,

DEPARTMENTAL CIRCULAR NO: 08/2014 (Assets Management)

- All Directors of Irrigation in Head office,
- All Zonal Directors of Irrigation,
- All Directors of Irrigation in Ranges / Districts,
- All Divisional Irrigation Engineers.

Irrigation Reservation limits, procedure to protect and release the Departmental Lands

This circular is issued to re-define the limits of irrigation reservations and define the procedure to be adopted to protect the departmental lands. This will supersede all earlier instructions inconsistent with this circular.

1.0 Identification of Irrigation Reservations and limits

- 1.1 If there are well defined reservation limits included in original design plans of an Irrigation scheme, then such reservation limits are legalized and it should be well kept and should be well protected.
- 1.2 If there is gazette notification, which states the reservation limits of an Irrigation scheme, then that reservation limits are legalized and should be well kept and well protected.
- 1.3 If there are reservation boundary stones, marked by Survey Department, which still exist in the field, then that Reservation limits are legalized and should be well kept and well protected.
- 1.4 However in older schemes, where reservations have been cultivated and it is impossible to legally recover the full reservation width, and then reduced reservation limits are defined below.

2.0 Reservation limits associated with Irrigation structures

The reservations specified in this circular should be included in the O & M Manual and Standing Order of respective scheme.

2.1 Reservoir or Anicut Embankments (Bunds):

The purposes of the reservation are for stability of earthen dams, provision for maintenance and improvement works, provision of adequate downstream drainage, for monitoring seepage and for future modification or heightening of dam.

a. When the toe line is well defined,

Reservation limit = 4 h on the d/s measured from the toe line

Where, **h** = Height of dam / bund at that particular section

b. When the toe line cannot be located or defined,

Reservation limit should be obtained by estimating the toe-line from the center line of dam as follows:

For $h \geq 10\text{m}$ (33ft)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ bund top width + 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ h

For $h \leq 10\text{m}$ (33ft)
 $\frac{1}{2}$ bund top width + 2 h

2.2 Reservoir or Anicut Bed:

All areas falling below the BTL contour should be considered as reservoir or anicut bed reservation.

However, in cases of reservoirs / anicuts with large water spreads and in developed flat terrain reservation may be limited to,

- 0.5 m (1.6ft) above the HFL contour or,
- In hilly areas, additional 100m horizontal lengths away from the HFL contour.

Greater value of above two will be considered as the reservoir/anicut bed reservation.

2.3 Irrigation canals, drainage canals streams and O&M Roads:

Reservations are defined in the I.D. Technical Note No. 1, section 3 and in Drg. No. C 503 B-2 of 04.01.84. However in older schemes where reservations have been encroached or cultivated it is impossible to recover the full reservation width, reduced reservations limits as defined below may be adopted. These minimum widths should be strictly enforced.

2.3.1 Irrigation Canals

Item	Essential Minimum Reservation			Remarks
	Total (m)	Road Side (m)	Other Side (m)	
2.3.1.1 Canals with roads				
Main Canal (b > 12m)	40	25	15	This is measured from, center line of the canal. And center line can be located, in center of the bed width.
Main Canal (8m < b < 12m)	37	20	17	
Main Canal (b < 8m)	30	18	12	
Branch Canal (Smaller than above sizes)	20	12	8	
Distributary Canal	14	10	4	
Field channel	10	7	3	

Exception: In Single bank canals, pooling side reservation is up to 5m away from the maximum water spread area. Maximum water spread area is the area inundated when the canal is flowing with maximum discharge.

2.3.1.2 Canals without roads

Item	Essential Minimum Reservation		Remark
	Total (m)	For one side (m)	
Distributary Canal	8	4	This is measured from, center line of the canal for both sides.
Field channel	6	3	

2.3.2 Drainage System

Item	Essential Minimum Reservation		Remarks
	Total (m)	For one side (m)	
Turn out drain	3	1.5	
Secondary drain	6	3	

2.3.3 O&M Roads without canals

Item	Essential Minimum Reservation		Remarks
	Total (m)	For one side (m)	
Road 4m width	10	5	This is for roads without canals. If there is O&M road along the canal then above limits are to be considered.
Road 6m width	14	7	
Road 8m width	20	10	

Note: "b" stands for the bed width of the canal/drainage stream.

2.4 Irrigation Structures, Pump Houses, Diversion weirs, Flood & SWE bunds, Sea Outfall structures, Spill Tail Channels:

In cases where these are not already specified in designed plans or plans of acquired lands, following reservation limits may be adopted.

➤ **Irrigation Structures, Pump Houses, Diversion weirs & Sea Outfall structures**
 Director of Irrigation (District / Range) may appoint a committee & fix limits to individual locations, based on following guidelines and keep Head Office informed.

- ❖ Allow reasonable afflux for water pooling structures like regulators, small diversion weirs etc.
- ❖ Pooling side reservation should be at least 5m away from the maximum spread area
- ❖ Consider a reasonable afflux above the designed flood level (maximum of pump house for both upstream & downstream).

➤ **Flood & SWE bunds:**

Reservation limit = 2 h for one side of the bund, measured from the toe.

Where, **h** = Height of Flood or SWE bund at that particular section

➤ **Spill Tail Channels :**

Bed width (b)	Reservation
Minor channels $b \leq 3m$	1m (3ft) for each bank measured from edge of the maximum water surface
Medium channels $3m < b \leq 16m$	3m (10ft) for each bank measured from edge of the maximum water surface
Major channel $b \geq 16m$	5m (16ft) for each bank measured from edge of the maximum water surface

2.5 Streams & Rivers

Bed width (b)	Reservation (According to the Land Manual)
Minor rivers $b \leq 15ft (4.5m)$	66ft (1 Chain / 20m) for each bank measured from bank
Medium rivers $15ft(4.5m) < b \leq 50ft (15m)$	132ft (2 Chains / 40m) for each bank measured from bank
Major rivers $b \geq 50ft (15m)$	198ft (3 Chains / 60m) for each bank measured from bank

However, in some rivers in urban areas, where reservations have been developed or cultivated and encroached, it is impossible to legally recover the full reservation width, then Director of Irrigation (Range) along with respective Divisional Secretary shall appoint a committee including Central Environment Authority, Urban Development Authority, Forest Department (if needed), Wild Life Department (if needed), Coast Conservation Department (if needed) and other relevant agencies to fix limits to suit individual locations in the river and keep Head of the Department informed. Those limits will be in force to particular river/stream and to particular river stretch.

This reduced minimum reservations limits should be strictly enforced, after written confirmation of Director General of Irrigation.

3.0 Land Reserved for Irrigation Department Use.

3.1 In addition to the above reservations for structural considerations, lands have been set apart for the use of the Irrigation Department to establish Camps, Depots, Maintenance units, metal & gravel quarries etc. within the respective schemes. It is equally important to administer and protect these lands by the Department for the purposes for which they have been so reserved.

3.2 Each Division should be asked to prepare a map showing the reservation of this category available in their respective Divisions and schemes to a suitable scale.

3.3 Releases of this type of lands to outside agencies whenever there is a request or local demand for any other purpose, should be done only when the conditions in section 5 hereof has been fulfilled.

4.0 Action to be taken for the protection and administration of the Reservations.

4.1 Where the reservations as maintained now conform to the requirements stipulated in Section 2 above, they should continue to be so maintained.

4.2 Where the reservation limits as available and maintained now falls short of these limits DI (District/Range) must take action in consultation with the District Secretary/ Divisional Secretary to recover / acquire the land.

4.3 Where the desired reservations are private land, and where they are deemed absolutely necessary for the safety and protection of Irrigation work, the acquisition proceedings should be commenced to acquire them for the State.

4.4 The reservation should be surveyed and formalized in the field with buried monuments spaced at 100m intervals along straight sections and at points of intersection for changes in alignment. The monuments will be 0.15m x 0.15m x 1.0m of precast concrete containing reinforcement bars centered length wise.

Where feasible barbed wire fencing or live fencing, particularly demarcating reservoir embankment reservations should be provided.

4.5 In order to safeguard these reservations from further encroachments or allocations, it is necessary to depict such irrigation reservation in F.V.PP. and F.T.PP. Action should be pursued with the Survey Department to get this done.

5.0 Release of Irrigation Reservations to other users.

5.1 Whenever there is a request or a local demand for the releases of Irrigation Department held reservation, such requests should be entertained only when it is absolutely confirmed that the Department does not need the land any longer or for future use from the point of view of possible structural modifications, improvements, augmentation proposals, rehabilitation & future expansion needs etc.

5.2 As regards land adjacent to irrigation works & structures, such releases should be agreed to only when the conditions in section 5.1 are satisfied and after a review of the safety of the works.

5.3 Where excess land is available, and where they are needed to remain under the care of the Department for any purpose described above, a Development plan should be prepared and kept for reference.

5.4 Personal approval of Director General of Irrigation, should be received for all instances when lands are ceded to other parties.

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5.5 Procedures to be applied for the release of state lands to other users by District Secretary, specially Irrigation Department held reservations are laid down in the Ministry of Land & Lands Development No 01/200 of 11.02.1985 (Copy attached)

5.6 Procedure to release departmental lands and buildings is mentioned in the Asset Management Circular No 01/2008 of 05.03.2008 (Copy attached)

6.0 Encroachments.

6.1 Constant vigilance and prompt remedial action is necessary to keep the Irrigation Reservations free from encroachments.

6.2 Regularizations of encroachments should be agreed to only when it is definitely advisable and harmless from a technical point of view. In all other instances they should be prevented.

6.3 Where any encroachment is found to be definitely detrimental to the safety and proper O & M of Irrigation works, specific the actions should be initiated and continued to free the reservations from such obstructions.

Eng. Badra Kamaladasa

Eng. Badra Kamaladasa

Director General of Irrigation.

Eng. BADRA KAMALADASA
Director General of Irrigation
Irrigation Department

Copy to: Bauddhaloka Mawatha
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1. Secretary, Ministry of Irrigation & Water Resources Management - for kind information please
2. Addl. DGI (System Management) - for kind information please
3. Addl. DGI (Investigation, Planning & Designs) - for kind information please
4. Addl. DGI (Construction & Development) - for kind information please
5. Addl. DG (Admin) - for kind information please
6. Chief Financial Officer - for kind information please
7. Director of Irrigation (ITI) - for kind information please