

REGULATIONS FOR WORK WITH EARTH MOVING MACHINES AT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE REPUBLIC OF BULGARIA

A. A permit for work with earth moving machines is given as an exception. This permit should specify the boundaries and the area of the site where the earth moving machines would be used.

B. All archaeological sites where work with earth moving machines is permitted, are subject of special records. These sites are being periodically controlled during the archaeological excavations by the Committee of Field Control at the Field Council of the Institute of Archaeology and Museum.

C. The obligatory permanent supervision and control of an earth moving machine during its work is being realized at least by two members of the archaeological team.

D. Before work with earth moving machines, all members of the archaeological team as well as the laborers and the machine minders should be briefed of the labor protection precautions.

I. EXCAVATIONS OF TUMULI BY MEANS OF EARTH MOVING EQUIPMENT

1. A prerequisite for the excavations is the drawing up of a topographic plan of the tumulus and its immediate area; when the research activities include a tumulus cemetery, all tumuli should be plotted on the plan, including these, which are not going to be excavated.

2. A prerequisite is the geophysical analysis of the tumulus' cover as well as of the immediate area of the tumulus.

3. When a tumulus construction is recorded, it is necessary to proceed as follows:

a. the machines should not tread on this part of the tumulus' cover, which contains the construction;

b. it is not allowed to excavate the approach to this construction by means of earth moving machines;

c. this construction together with all its constituent parts should be excavated by hand only; only the already excavated earth could be moved with machines.

4. After the geophysical analyses, an examination for secondary archaeological features in the tumulus' cover is required, by trenches at least 1.5 m deep, which should be excavated by hand only.

5. Should secondary archaeological features be recorded (by geophysical analyses or test trenches), they should be excavated by hand only.

6. The graphical and photographic records of all field research phases are requisite.

7. During the excavations, a central stratigraphic profile and additional profiles are required, which also should be recorded according to the Regulations for Field Archaeological Research in the Republic of Bulgaria.

8. All excavated archaeological features should be recorded three-dimensionally (horizontally as well as vertically), in relation to one or more permanent benchmarks, common to the whole site; these benchmarks should be related to the elevation and co-ordinate system of the Republic of Bulgaria.

9. During the excavation of the tumulus' cover, the method of its accumulation and its origins should be determined; its origins should be determined by a qualified sedimentologist.

10. All the earth, which is excavated with machines, should be constantly examined by hand (but not only with metal detectors) for presence of archaeological material.

11. After the excavations of the tumulus, its cover should be restored.

II. EXCAVATIONS OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES, WHICH ARE NOT TUMULI, BY MEANS OF EARTH MOVING MACHINES

1. It is prerequisite to determine geophysically and by test trenches the nature of the layer, which would be moved by machines.

2. Earth moving machines could be uses for removing of the following:

layers consisting of already excavated earth;

modern layers over archaeological deposits;

river alluvium;

humus;

plow zone, which contains disturbed cultural deposits besides humus, under the condition that the whole earth excavated with a machine is examined and all archaeological material is collected.

Concluding clauses:

1. These regulations were prepared by a committee chaired by Dr. Lyudmil Vagalinski (Senior Research Associate), and with the following members: Dr. Nikolay Sirakov (Senior Research Associate), Dr. Stefan Alexandrov (Senior Research Associate), Dr. Metodi Daskalov (Research Associate), Dr. Georgi Nehrizov. These regulations were passed at a session of the Council of Field Research at the IAM on May 15, 2006, and come into operation immediately.
2. Each director of a field archaeological research who is allowed to use earth moving machines, is required before that to sign a copy of these regulations by means of which to acknowledge the adherence to their requirements.