3.3 Snow- and Ice-Control Measures

■ Snow removal

Snow removal on roadways
To maintain the trafficability of national highways and principal prefectural roads and to promote interregional exchanges and living activities, snow removal on roadways is conducted around the clock.

Figure 7 – Three-lane snow removal

Snow removal on sidewalks
Snow removal on sidewalks is promoted around schools, railway stations, downtown, and social welfare facilities, to ensure the safety and reliability of walking spaces in winter.

Figure 8 – Sidewalk snow removal

Application of anti-freezing agents

Figure 9 – Application of anti-freezing agents

Since the ban on studded tires, extremely slippery road surfaces frequently have emerged in winter. Anti-freezing agents are efficiently applied to reduce traffic congestion and slip accidents.

■ Snow-control measures

Various facilities are constructed as countermeasures to avalanche and blowing snow.

Snowbreak woods
Snowbreak woods catch falling snow and hold it in snowdrifts within the woods or on their windward side to prevent snow from blowing onto roads on the downwind side.

Snow fences
These fences keep snow from blowing into drifts on the road. This improves sight visibility.

Avalanche control fences
These fences are constructed on avalanche-prone roadside slopes.

Snow sheds
These are constructed over roads so that avalanches will pass over them without endangering the safety of the roads.

Light-emitting delineator on the Asahikawa Airport Road (Hokkaido)
The delineator, which runs on eco-friendly solar energy, is easily recognized, and it improves the efficiency of snow-removal.

Snowbreak woods | Snow fence

Avalanche control fence | Snow shed

Figure 10. Snow-control facilities