

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics

C.F.R. T. 23, Ch. I, Subch. G, Pt. 650, Refs & Annos
Currentness

Authority: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Credits

Source: [53 FR 32616](#), Aug. 26, 1988; [59 FR 37938](#), July 26, 1994; [67 FR 63542](#), Oct. 15, 2002; [80 FR 41368](#), July 14, 2015, unless otherwise noted.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics Subpart A. Location and Hydraulic Design of Encroachments on Flood Plains

C.F.R. T. 23, Ch. I, Subch. G, Pt. 650, Subpt. A, Refs & Annos
[Currentness](#)

Credits

Source: [44 FR 67580](#), Nov. 26, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart A. Location and Hydraulic Design of Encroachments on Flood Plains (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.101

§ 650.101 Purpose.

Currentness

To prescribe Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) policies and procedures for the location and hydraulic design of highway encroachments on flood plains, including direct Federal highway projects administered by the FHWA.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Notes of Decisions (4)

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart A. Location and Hydraulic Design of Encroachments on Flood Plains (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.103

§ 650.103 Policy.

Currentness

It is the policy of the FHWA:

- (a) To encourage a broad and unified effort to prevent uneconomic, hazardous or incompatible use and development of the Nation's flood plains,
- (b) To avoid longitudinal encroachments, where practicable,
- (c) To avoid significant encroachments, where practicable,
- (d) To minimize impacts of highway agency actions which adversely affect base flood plains,
- (e) To restore and preserve the natural and beneficial flood-plain values that are adversely impacted by highway agency actions,
- (f) To avoid support of incompatible flood-plain development,
- (g) To be consistent with the intent of the Standards and Criteria of the National Flood Insurance Program, where appropriate, and
- (h) To incorporate "A Unified National Program for Floodplain Management" of the Water Resources Council into FHWA procedures.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Notes of Decisions (4)

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.105

§ 650.105 Definitions.

Currentness

- (a) Action shall mean any highway construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, repair, or improvement undertaken with Federal or Federal-aid highway funds or FHWA approval.
- (b) Base flood shall mean the flood or tide having a 1-percent chance of being exceeded in any given year.
- (c) Base flood plain shall mean the area subject to flooding by the base flood.
- (d) Design Flood shall mean the peak discharge, volume if appropriate, stage or wave crest elevation of the flood associated with the probability of exceedance selected for the design of a highway encroachment. By definition, the highway will not be inundated from the stage of the design flood.
- (e) Encroachment shall mean an action within the limits of the base flood plain.
- (f) Floodproof shall mean to design and construct individual buildings, facilities, and their sites to protect against structural failure, to keep water out or to reduce the effects of water entry.
- (g) Freeboard shall mean the vertical clearance of the lowest structural member of the bridge superstructure above the water surface elevation of the overtopping flood.
- (h) Minimize shall mean to reduce to the smallest practicable amount or degree.
- (i) Natural and beneficial flood-plain values shall include but are not limited to fish, wildlife, plants, open space, natural beauty, scientific study, outdoor recreation, agriculture, aquaculture, forestry, natural moderation of floods, water quality maintenance, and groundwater recharge.
- (j) Overtopping flood shall mean the flood described by the probability of exceedance and water surface elevation at which flow occurs over the highway, over the watershed divide, or through structure(s) provided for emergency relief.
- (k) Practicable shall mean capable of being done within reasonable natural, social, or economic constraints.

(l) Preserve shall mean to avoid modification to the functions of the natural flood-plain environment or to maintain it as closely as practicable in its natural state.

(m) Regulatory floodway shall mean the flood-plain area that is reserved in an open manner by Federal, State or local requirements, i.e., unconfined or unobstructed either horizontally or vertically, to provide for the discharge of the base flood so that the cumulative increase in water surface elevation is no more than a designated amount (not to exceed 1 foot as established by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) for administering the National Flood Insurance Program).

(n) Restore shall mean to reestablish a setting or environment in which the functions of the natural and beneficial flood-plain values adversely impacted by the highway agency action can again operate.

(o) Risk shall mean the consequences associated with the probability of flooding attributable to an encroachment. It shall include the potential for property loss and hazard to life during the service life of the highway.

(p) Risk analysis shall mean an economic comparison of design alternatives using expected total costs (construction costs plus risk costs) to determine the alternative with the least total expected cost to the public. It shall include probable flood-related costs during the service life of the facility for highway operation, maintenance, and repair, for highway-aggravated flood damage to other property, and for additional or interrupted highway travel.

(q) Significant encroachment shall mean a highway encroachment and any direct support of likely base flood-plain development that would involve one or more of the following construction-or flood-related impacts:

(1) A significant potential for interruption or termination of a transportation facility which is needed for emergency vehicles or provides a community's only evacuation route.

(2) A significant risk, or

(3) A significant adverse impact on natural and beneficial flood-plain values.

(r) Support base flood-plain development shall mean to encourage, allow, serve, or otherwise facilitate additional base flood-plain development. Direct support results from an encroachment, while indirect support results from an action out of the base flood plain.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.107

§ 650.107 Applicability.

Currentness

(a) The provisions of this regulation shall apply to all encroachments and to all actions which affect base flood plains, except for repairs made with emergency funds (23 CFR part 668) during or immediately following a disaster.

(b) The provisions of this regulation shall not apply to or alter approvals or authorizations which were given by FHWA pursuant to regulations or directives in effect before the effective date of this regulation.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

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23 C.F.R. § 650.109

§ 650.109 Public involvement.

Currentness

Procedures which have been established to meet the public involvement requirements of 23 CFR part 771 shall be used to provide opportunity for early public review and comment on alternatives which contain encroachments.

Credits

[[44 FR 67580](#), Nov. 26, 1979, as amended at [47 FR 47239](#), Oct. 25, 1982; [52 FR 32669](#), Aug. 28, 1987; [53 FR 11065](#), April 5, 1988]

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart A. Location and Hydraulic Design of Encroachments on Flood Plains (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.111

§ 650.111 Location hydraulic studies.

Currentness

(a) National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) maps or information developed by the highway agency, if NFIP maps are not available, shall be used to determine whether a highway location alternative will include an encroachment.

(b) Location studies shall include evaluation and discussion of the practicability of alternatives to any longitudinal encroachments.

(c) Location studies shall include discussion of the following items, commensurate with the significance of the risk or environmental impact, for all alternatives containing encroachments and for those actions which would support base flood-plain development:

- (1) The risks associated with implementation of the action,
- (2) The impacts on natural and beneficial flood-plain values,
- (3) The support of probable incompatible flood-plain development,
- (4) The measures to minimize flood-plain impacts associated with the action, and
- (5) The measures to restore and preserve the natural and beneficial flood-plain values impacted by the action.

(d) Location studies shall include evaluation and discussion of the practicability of alternatives to any significant encroachments or any support of incompatible flood-plain development.

(e) The studies required by § 650.111 (c) and (d) shall be summarized in environmental review documents prepared pursuant to 23 CFR part 771.

(f) Local, State, and Federal water resources and flood-plain management agencies should be consulted to determine if the proposed highway action is consistent with existing watershed and flood-plain management programs and to obtain current information on development and proposed actions in the affected watersheds.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

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23 C.F.R. § 650.113

§ 650.113 Only practicable alternative finding.

Currentness

(a) A proposed action which includes a significant encroachment shall not be approved unless the FHWA finds that the proposed significant encroachment is the only practicable alternative. This finding shall be included in the final environmental document (final environmental impact statement or finding of no significant impact) and shall be supported by the following information:

- (1) The reasons why the proposed action must be located in the flood plain,
- (2) The alternatives considered and why they were not practicable, and
- (3) A statement indicating whether the action conforms to applicable State or local flood-plain protection standards.

(b) [Reserved]

Credits

[48 FR 29274, June 24, 1983]

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Notes of Decisions (1)

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart A. Location and Hydraulic Design of Encroachments on Flood Plains (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.115

§ 650.115 Design standards.

Currentness

(a) The design selected for an encroachment shall be supported by analyses of design alternatives with consideration given to capital costs and risks, and to other economic, engineering, social and environmental concerns.

(1) Consideration of capital costs and risks shall include, as appropriate, a risk analysis or assessment which includes:

(i) The overtopping flood or the base flood, whichever is greater, or

(ii) The greatest flood which must flow through the highway drainage structure(s), where overtopping is not practicable. The greatest flood used in the analysis is subject to state-of-the-art capability to estimate the exceedance probability.

(2) The design flood for encroachments by through lanes of Interstate highways shall not be less than the flood with a 2-percent chance of being exceeded in any given year. No minimum design flood is specified for Interstate highway ramps and frontage roads or for other highways.

(3) Freeboard shall be provided, where practicable, to protect bridge structures from debris- and scour-related failure.

(4) The effect of existing flood control channels, levees, and reservoirs shall be considered in estimating the peak discharge and stage for all floods considered in the design.

(5) The design of encroachments shall be consistent with standards established by the FEMA, State, and local governmental agencies for the administration of the National Flood Insurance Program for:

(i) All direct Federal highway actions, unless the standards are demonstrably inappropriate, and

(ii) Federal-aid highway actions where a regulatory floodway has been designated or where studies are underway to establish a regulatory floodway.

(b) Rest area buildings and related water supply and waste treatment facilities shall be located outside the base flood plain, where practicable. Rest area buildings which are located on the base flood plain shall be floodproofed against damage from the base flood.

(c) Where highway fills are to be used as dams to permanently impound water more than 50 acre-feet (6.17×10^4 cubic metres) in volume or 25 feet (7.6 metres) deep, the hydrologic, hydraulic, and structural design of the fill and appurtenant spillways shall have the approval of the State or Federal agency responsible for the safety of dams or like structures within the State, prior to authorization by the Division Administrator to advertise for bids for construction.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

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23 C.F.R. § 650.117

§ 650.117 Content of design studies.

Currentness

(a) The detail of studies shall be commensurate with the risk associated with the encroachment and with other economic, engineering, social or environmental concerns.

(b) Studies by highway agencies shall contain:

(1) The hydrologic and hydraulic data and design computations,

(2) The analysis required by § 650.115(a), and

(3) For proposed direct Federal highway actions, the reasons, when applicable, why FEMA criteria (44 CFR 60.3, formerly 24 CFR 1910.3) are demonstrably inappropriate.

(c) For encroachment locations, project plans shall show:

(1) The magnitude, approximate probability of exceedance and, at appropriate locations, the water surface elevations associated with the overtopping flood or the flood of § 650.115(a)(1)(ii), and

(2) The magnitude and water surface elevation of the base flood, if larger than the overtopping flood.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics Subpart B. Erosion and Sediment Control on Highway Construction Projects

C.F.R. T. 23, Ch. I, Subch. G, Pt. 650, Subpt. B, Refs & Annos
[Currentness](#)

Credits

Source: [39 FR 36332](#), Oct. 9, 1974, unless otherwise noted.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.201

§ 650.201 Purpose.

Currentness

The purpose of this subpart is to prescribe policies and procedures for the control of erosion, abatement of water pollution, and prevention of damage by sediment deposition from all construction projects funded under title 23, United States Code.

Credits

[[59 FR 37939](#), July 26, 1994]

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart B. Erosion and Sediment Control on Highway Construction Projects (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.203

§ 650.203 Policy.

Currentness

It is the policy of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) that all highways funded in whole or in part under title 23, United States Code, shall be located, designed, constructed and operated according to standards that will minimize erosion and sediment damage to the highway and adjacent properties and abate pollution of surface and ground water resources. Guidance for the development of standards used to minimize erosion and sediment damage is referenced in § 650.211 of this part.

Credits

[59 FR 37939, July 26, 1994]

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart B. Erosion and Sediment Control on Highway Construction Projects (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.205

§ 650.205 Definitions.

Currentness

Erosion control measures and practices are actions that are taken to inhibit the dislodging and transporting of soil particles by water or wind, including actions that limit the area of exposed soil and minimize the time the soil is exposed.

Permanent erosion and sediment control measures and practices are installations and design features of a construction project which remain in place and in service after completion of the project.

Pollutants are substances, including sediment, which cause deterioration of water quality when added to surface or ground waters in sufficient quantity.

Sediment control measures and practices are actions taken to control the deposition of sediments resulting from surface runoff.

Temporary erosion and sediment control measures and practices are actions taken on an interim basis during construction to minimize the disturbance, transportation, and unwanted deposition of sediment.

Credits

[[59 FR 37939](#), July 26, 1994]

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; [85 FR 5335](#).

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23 C.F.R. § 650.207

§ 650.207 Plans, specifications and estimates.

Currentness

(a) Emphasis shall be placed on erosion control in the preparation of plans, specifications and estimates.

(b) All reasonable steps shall be taken to insure that highway project designs for the control of erosion and sedimentation and the protection of water quality comply with applicable standards and regulations of other agencies.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.209

§ 650.209 Construction.

Currentness

- (a) Permanent erosion and sediment control measures and practices shall be established and implemented at the earliest practicable time consistent with good construction and management practices.
- (b) Implementation of temporary erosion and sediment control measures and practices shall be coordinated with permanent measures to assure economical, effective, and continuous control throughout construction.
- (c) Erosion and sediment control measures and practices shall be monitored and maintained or revised to insure that they are fulfilling their intended function during the construction of the project.
- (d) Federal-aid funds shall not be used in erosion and sediment control actions made necessary because of contractor oversight, carelessness, or failure to implement sufficient control measures.
- (e) Pollutants used during highway construction or operation and material from sediment traps shall not be stockpiled or disposed of in a manner which makes them susceptible to being washed into any watercourse by runoff or high water. No pollutants shall be deposited or disposed of in watercourses.

Credits

[[59 FR 37939](#), July 26, 1994]

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

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23 C.F.R. § 650.211

§ 650.211 Guidelines.

Currentness

(a) The FHWA adopts the AASHTO Highway Drainage Guidelines, Volume III, “Erosion and Sediment Control in Highway Construction,” 1992,¹ as guidelines to be followed on all construction projects funded under title 23, United States Code. These guidelines are not intended to preempt any requirements made by or under State law if such requirements are more stringent.

(b) Each State highway agency should apply the guidelines referenced in paragraph (a) of this section or apply its own guidelines, if these guidelines are more stringent, to develop standards and practices for the control of erosion and sediment on Federal-aid construction projects. These specific standards and practices may reference available resources, such as the procedures presented in the AASHTO “Model Drainage Manual,” 1991.²

(c) Consistent with the requirements of section 6217(g) of the Coastal Zone Act Reauthorization Amendments of 1990 (Pub.L. 101–508, 104 Stat. 1388–299), highway construction projects funded under title 23, United States Code, and located in the coastal zone management areas of States with coastal zone management programs approved by the United States Department of Commerce, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, should utilize “Guidance Specifying Management Measures for Sources of Nonpoint Source Pollution in Coastal Waters,” 84–B–92–002, U.S. EPA, January 1993.³ State highway agencies should refer to this Environmental Protection Agency guidance document for the design of projects within coastal zone management areas.

Credits

[59 FR 37939, July 26, 1994]

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Footnotes

1 This document is available for inspection from the FHWA headquarters and field offices as prescribed by 49 CFR part 7, appendix D. It may be purchased from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials offices at Suite 225, 444 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001.

2 This document is available for inspection from the FHWA headquarters and field offices as prescribed by 49 CFR part 7, appendix D. It may be purchased from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials offices at Suite 225, 444 North Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001.

3 This document is available for inspection and copying as prescribed by 49 CFR part 7, appendix D.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics Subpart C. National Bridge Inspection Standards

C.F.R. T. 23, Ch. I, Subch. G, Pt. 650, Subpt. C, Refs & Annos
[Currentness](#)

Credits

Source: [69 FR 74436](#), Dec. 14, 2004, unless otherwise noted.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart C. National Bridge Inspection Standards (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.301

§ 650.301 Purpose.

Currentness

This subpart sets the national standards for the proper safety inspection and evaluation of all highway bridges in accordance with [23 U.S.C. 151](#).

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Notes of Decisions (3)

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23 C.F.R. § 650.303

§ 650.303 Applicability.

Currentness

The National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) in this subpart apply to all structures defined as highway bridges located on all public roads.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.305

§ 650.305 Definitions.

Effective: January 25, 2010

Currentness

Terms used in this subpart are defined as follows:

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Manual. “The Manual for Bridge Evaluation,” First Edition, 2008, published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (incorporated by reference, see § 650.317).

Bridge. A structure including supports erected over a depression or an obstruction, such as water, highway, or railway, and having a track or passageway for carrying traffic or other moving loads, and having an opening measured along the center of the roadway of more than 20 feet between undercopings of abutments or spring lines of arches, or extreme ends of openings for multiple boxes; it may also include multiple pipes, where the clear distance between openings is less than half of the smaller contiguous opening.

Bridge inspection experience. Active participation in bridge inspections in accordance with the NBIS, in either a field inspection, supervisory, or management role. A combination of bridge design, bridge maintenance, bridge construction and bridge inspection experience, with the predominant amount in bridge inspection, is acceptable.

Bridge inspection refresher training. The National Highway Institute “Bridge Inspection Refresher Training Course”¹ or other State, local, or federally developed instruction aimed to improve quality of inspections, introduce new techniques, and maintain the consistency of the inspection program.

Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual (BIRM). A comprehensive FHWA manual on programs, procedures and techniques for inspecting and evaluating a variety of in-service highway bridges. This manual may be purchased from the U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402 and from National Technical Information Service, Springfield, Virginia 22161, and is available at the following URL: <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/bripub.htm>.

Complex bridge. Movable, suspension, cable stayed, and other bridges with unusual characteristics.

Comprehensive bridge inspection training. Training that covers all aspects of bridge inspection and enables inspectors to relate conditions observed on a bridge to established criteria (see the Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual for the recommended material to be covered in a comprehensive training course).

Critical finding. A structural or safety related deficiency that requires immediate follow-up inspection or action.

Damage inspection. This is an unscheduled inspection to assess structural damage resulting from environmental factors or human actions.

Fracture critical member (FCM). A steel member in tension, or with a tension element, whose failure would probably cause a portion of or the entire bridge to collapse.

Fracture critical member inspection. A hands-on inspection of a fracture critical member or member components that may include visual and other nondestructive evaluation.

Hands-on. Inspection within arms length of the component. Inspection uses visual techniques that may be supplemented by nondestructive testing.

Highway. The term “highway” is defined in [23 U.S.C. 101\(a\)\(11\)](#).

In-depth inspection. A close-up, inspection of one or more members above or below the water level to identify any deficiencies not readily detectable using routine inspection procedures; hands-on inspection may be necessary at some locations.

Initial inspection. The first inspection of a bridge as it becomes a part of the bridge file to provide all Structure Inventory and Appraisal (SI & A) data and other relevant data and to determine baseline structural conditions.

Legal load. The maximum legal load for each vehicle configuration permitted by law for the State in which the bridge is located.

Load rating. The determination of the live load carrying capacity of a bridge using bridge plans and supplemented by information gathered from a field inspection.

National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET). The NICET provides nationally applicable voluntary certification programs covering several broad engineering technology fields and a number of specialized subfields. For information on the NICET program certification contact: National Institute for Certification in Engineering Technologies, 1420 King Street, Alexandria, VA 22314–2794.

Operating rating. The maximum permissible live load to which the structure may be subjected for the load configuration used in the rating.

Professional engineer (PE). An individual, who has fulfilled education and experience requirements and passed rigorous exams that, under State licensure laws, permits them to offer engineering services directly to the public. Engineering licensure laws vary from State to State, but, in general, to become a PE an individual must be a graduate of an engineering program accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology, pass the Fundamentals of Engineering exam, gain four years of experience working under a PE, and pass the Principles of Practice of Engineering exam.

Program manager. The individual in charge of the program, that has been assigned or delegated the duties and responsibilities for bridge inspection, reporting, and inventory. The program manager provides overall leadership and is available to inspection team leaders to provide guidance.

Public road. The term “public road” is defined in [23 U.S.C. 101\(a\)\(27\)](#).

Quality assurance (QA). The use of sampling and other measures to assure the adequacy of quality control procedures in order to verify or measure the quality level of the entire bridge inspection and load rating program.

Quality control (QC). Procedures that are intended to maintain the quality of a bridge inspection and load rating at or above a specified level.

Routine inspection. Regularly scheduled inspection consisting of observations and/or measurements needed to determine the physical and functional condition of the bridge, to identify any changes from initial or previously recorded conditions, and to ensure that the structure continues to satisfy present service requirements.

Routine permit load. A live load, which has a gross weight, axle weight or distance between axles not conforming with State statutes for legally configured vehicles, authorized for unlimited trips over an extended period of time to move alongside other heavy vehicles on a regular basis.

Scour. Erosion of streambed or bank material due to flowing water; often considered as being localized around piers and abutments of bridges.

Scour critical bridge. A bridge with a foundation element that has been determined to be unstable for the observed or evaluated scour condition.

Special inspection. An inspection scheduled at the discretion of the bridge owner, used to monitor a particular known or suspected deficiency.

State transportation department. The term “State transportation department” is defined in [23 U.S.C. 101\(a\)\(34\)](#).

Team leader. Individual in charge of an inspection team responsible for planning, preparing, and performing field inspection of the bridge.

Underwater diver bridge inspection training. Training that covers all aspects of underwater bridge inspection and enables inspectors to relate the conditions of underwater bridge elements to established criteria (see the Bridge Inspector's Reference Manual section on underwater inspection for the recommended material to be covered in an underwater diver bridge inspection training course).

Underwater inspection. Inspection of the underwater portion of a bridge substructure and the surrounding channel, which cannot be inspected visually at low water by wading or probing, generally requiring diving or other appropriate techniques.

Credits

[[74 FR 68379](#), Dec. 24, 2009]

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Footnotes

¹ The National Highway Institute training may be found at the following URL: <http://www.nhi.fhwa.dot.gov/>

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart C. National Bridge Inspection Standards (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.307

§ 650.307 Bridge inspection organization.

Currentness

(a) Each State transportation department must inspect, or cause to be inspected, all highway bridges located on public roads that are fully or partially located within the State's boundaries, except for bridges that are owned by Federal agencies.

(b) Federal agencies must inspect, or cause to be inspected, all highway bridges located on public roads that are fully or partially located within the respective agency responsibility or jurisdiction.

(c) Each State transportation department or Federal agency must include a bridge inspection organization that is responsible for the following:

(1) Statewide or Federal agencywide bridge inspection policies and procedures, quality assurance and quality control, and preparation and maintenance of a bridge inventory.

(2) Bridge inspections, reports, load ratings and other requirements of these standards.

(d) Functions identified in paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this section may be delegated, but such delegation does not relieve the State transportation department or Federal agency of any of its responsibilities under this subpart.

(e) The State transportation department or Federal agency bridge inspection organization must have a program manager with the qualifications defined in § 650.309(a), who has been delegated responsibility for paragraphs (c)(1) and (2) of this section.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart C. National Bridge Inspection Standards (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.309

§ 650.309 Qualifications of personnel.

Currentness

(a) A program manager must, at a minimum:

- (1) Be a registered professional engineer, or have ten years bridge inspection experience; and
- (2) Successfully complete a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course.

(b) There are five ways to qualify as a team leader. A team leader must, at a minimum:

- (1) Have the qualifications specified in paragraph (a) of this section; or
- (2) Have five years bridge inspection experience and have successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course; or
- (3) Be certified as a Level III or IV Bridge Safety Inspector under the National Society of Professional Engineer's program for National Certification in Engineering Technologies (NICET) and have successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course, or
- (4) Have all of the following:
 - (i) A bachelor's degree in engineering from a college or university accredited by or determined as substantially equivalent by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology;
 - (ii) Successfully passed the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Fundamentals of Engineering examination;
 - (iii) Two years of bridge inspection experience; and
 - (iv) Successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course, or

(5) Have all of the following:

(i) An associate's degree in engineering or engineering technology from a college or university accredited by or determined as substantially equivalent by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology;

(ii) Four years of bridge inspection experience; and

(iii) Successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course.

(c) The individual charged with the overall responsibility for load rating bridges must be a registered professional engineer.

(d) An underwater bridge inspection diver must complete an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course or other FHWA approved underwater diver bridge inspection training course.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart C. National Bridge Inspection Standards (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.311

§ 650.311 Inspection frequency.

Currentness

(a) Routine inspections.

(1) Inspect each bridge at regular intervals not to exceed twenty-four months.

(2) Certain bridges require inspection at less than twenty-four-month intervals. Establish criteria to determine the level and frequency to which these bridges are inspected considering such factors as age, traffic characteristics, and known deficiencies.

(3) Certain bridges may be inspected at greater than twenty-four month intervals, not to exceed forty-eight-months, with written FHWA approval. This may be appropriate when past inspection findings and analysis justifies the increased inspection interval.

(b) Underwater inspections.

(1) Inspect underwater structural elements at regular intervals not to exceed sixty months.

(2) Certain underwater structural elements require inspection at less than sixty-month intervals. Establish criteria to determine the level and frequency to which these members are inspected considering such factors as construction material, environment, age, scour characteristics, condition rating from past inspections and known deficiencies.

(3) Certain underwater structural elements may be inspected at greater than sixty-month intervals, not to exceed seventy-two months, with written FHWA approval. This may be appropriate when past inspection findings and analysis justifies the increased inspection interval.

(c) Fracture critical member (FCM) inspections.

(1) Inspect FCMs at intervals not to exceed twenty-four months.

(2) Certain FCMs require inspection at less than twenty-four-month intervals. Establish criteria to determine the level and frequency to which these members are inspected considering such factors as age, traffic characteristics, and known deficiencies.

(d) Damage, in-depth, and special inspections. Establish criteria to determine the level and frequency of these inspections.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

[Notes of Decisions \(3\)](#)

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.313

§ 650.313 Inspection procedures.

Currentness

- (a) Inspect each bridge in accordance with the inspection procedures in the AASHTO Manual (incorporated by reference, see § 650.317).
- (b) Provide at least one team leader, who meets the minimum qualifications stated in § 650.309, at the bridge at all times during each initial, routine, in-depth, fracture critical member and underwater inspection.
- (c) Rate each bridge as to its safe load-carrying capacity in accordance with the AASHTO Manual (incorporated by reference, see § 650.317). Post or restrict the bridge in accordance with the AASHTO Manual or in accordance with State law, when the maximum unrestricted legal loads or State routine permit loads exceed that allowed under the operating rating or equivalent rating factor.
- (d) Prepare bridge files as described in the AASHTO Manual (incorporated by reference, see § 650.317). Maintain reports on the results of bridge inspections together with notations of any action taken to address the findings of such inspections. Maintain relevant maintenance and inspection data to allow assessment of current bridge condition. Record the findings and results of bridge inspections on standard State or Federal agency forms.
- (e) Identify bridges with FCMs, bridges requiring underwater inspection, and bridges that are scour critical.
- (1) Bridges with fracture critical members. In the inspection records, identify the location of FCMs and describe the FCM inspection frequency and procedures. Inspect FCMs according to these procedures.
 - (2) Bridges requiring underwater inspections. Identify the location of underwater elements and include a description of the underwater elements, the inspection frequency and the procedures in the inspection records for each bridge requiring underwater inspection. Inspect those elements requiring underwater inspections according to these procedures.
 - (3) Bridges that are scour critical. Prepare a plan of action to monitor known and potential deficiencies and to address critical findings. Monitor bridges that are scour critical in accordance with the plan.
- (f) Complex bridges. Identify specialized inspection procedures, and additional inspector training and experience required to inspect complex bridges. Inspect complex bridges according to those procedures.

(g) Quality control and quality assurance. Assure systematic quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) procedures are used to maintain a high degree of accuracy and consistency in the inspection program. Include periodic field review of inspection teams, periodic bridge inspection refresher training for program managers and team leaders, and independent review of inspection reports and computations.

(h) Follow-up on critical findings. Establish a statewide or Federal agency wide procedure to assure that critical findings are addressed in a timely manner. Periodically notify the FHWA of the actions taken to resolve or monitor critical findings.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.315

§ 650.315 Inventory.

Currentness

(a) Each State or Federal agency must prepare and maintain an inventory of all bridges subject to the NBIS. Certain Structure Inventory and Appraisal (SI & A) data must be collected and retained by the State or Federal agency for collection by the FHWA as requested. A tabulation of this data is contained in the SI & A sheet distributed by the FHWA as part of the “Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges,” (December 1995) together with subsequent interim changes or the most recent version. Report the data using FHWA established procedures as outlined in the “Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges.”

(b) For routine, in-depth, fracture critical member, underwater, damage and special inspections enter the SI & A data into the State or Federal agency inventory within 90 days of the date of inspection for State or Federal agency bridges and within 180 days of the date of inspection for all other bridges.

(c) For existing bridge modifications that alter previously recorded data and for new bridges, enter the SI & A data into the State or Federal agency inventory within 90 days after the completion of the work for State or Federal agency bridges and within 180 days after the completion of the work for all other bridges.

(d) For changes in load restriction or closure status, enter the SI & A data into the State or Federal agency inventory within 90 days after the change in status of the structure for State or Federal agency bridges and within 180 days after the change in status of the structure for all other bridges.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.317

§ 650.317 Reference manuals.

Effective: January 25, 2010

Currentness

(a) The materials listed in this subpart are incorporated by reference in the corresponding sections noted. These incorporations by reference were approved by the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with [5 U.S.C. 552\(a\)](#) and 1 CFR part 51. These materials are incorporated as they exist on the date of the approval, and notice of any change in these documents will be published in the Federal Register. The materials are available for purchase at the address listed below, and are available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). These materials may also be reviewed at the Department of Transportation Library, 1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE., Washington, DC 20590, (202) 366-0761. For information on the availability of these materials at NARA call (202) 741-6030, or go to the following URL: http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html. In the event there is a conflict between the standards in this subpart and any of these materials, the standards in this subpart will apply.

(b) The following materials are available for purchase from the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Suite 249, 444 N. Capitol Street, NW., Washington, DC 20001, (202) 624-5800. The materials may also be ordered via the AASHTO bookstore located at the following URL: <http://www.transportation.org>.

(1) The Manual for Bridge Evaluation, First Edition, 2008, AASHTO, incorporation by reference approved for §§ [650.305](#) and [650.313](#).

(2) [Reserved]

Credits

[[74 FR 28442](#), June 16, 2009; [74 FR 68379](#), Dec. 24, 2009]

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics Subpart D. Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program

C.F.R. T. 23, Ch. I, Subch. G, Pt. 650, Subpt. D, Refs & Annos
[Currentness](#)

Credits

Source: [44 FR 15665](#), Mar. 15, 1979, unless otherwise noted.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.401

§ 650.401 Purpose.

Currentness

The purpose of this regulation is to prescribe policies and outline procedures for administering the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program in accordance with [23 U.S.C. 144](#).

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

[Notes of Decisions \(10\)](#)

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23 C.F.R. § 650.403

§ 650.403 Definition of terms.

Currentness

As used in this regulation:

(a) Bridge. A structure, including supports, erected over a depression or an obstruction, such as water, a highway, or a railway, having a track or passageway for carrying traffic or other moving loads, and having an opening measured along the center of the roadway of more than 20 feet between undercopings of abutments or spring lines of arches, or extreme ends of the openings for multiple boxes; it may include multiple pipes where the clear distance between openings is less than half of the smaller contiguous opening.

(b) Sufficiency rating. The numerical rating of a bridge based on its structural adequacy and safety, essentiality for public use, and its serviceability and functional obsolescence.

(c) Rehabilitation. The major work required to restore the structural integrity of a bridge as well as work necessary to correct major safety defects.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Notes of Decisions (4)

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.405

§ 650.405 Eligible projects.

Currentness

- (a) General. Deficient highway bridges on all public roads may be eligible for replacement or rehabilitation.
- (b) Types of projects which are eligible. The following types of work are eligible for participation in the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (HBRRP), hereinafter known as the bridge program.
- (1) Replacement. Total replacement of a structurally deficient or functionally obsolete bridge with a new facility constructed in the same general traffic corridor. A nominal amount of approach work, sufficient to connect the new facility to the existing roadway or to return the gradeline to an attainable touchdown point in accordance with good design practice is also eligible. The replacement structure must meet the current geometric, construction and structural standards required for the types and volume of projected traffic on the facility over its design life.
- (2) Rehabilitation. The project requirements necessary to perform the major work required to restore the structural integrity of a bridge as well as work necessary to correct major safety defects are eligible except as noted under ineligible work. Bridges to be rehabilitated both on or off the F-A System shall, as a minimum, conform with the provisions of 23 CFR part 625, Design Standards for Federal-aid Highways, for the class of highway on which the bridge is a part.
- (c) Ineligible work. Except as otherwise prescribed by the Administrator, the costs of long approach fills, causeways, connecting roadways, interchanges, ramps, and other extensive earth structures, when constructed beyond the attainable touchdown point, are not eligible under the bridge program.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Notes of Decisions (10)

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.407

§ 650.407 Application for bridge replacement or rehabilitation.

Currentness

(a) Agencies participate in the bridge program by conducting bridge inspections and submitting Structure Inventory and Appraisal (SI&A) sheet inspection data. Federal and local governments supply SI&A sheet data to the State agency for review and processing. The State is responsible for submitting the six computer card format or tapes containing all public road SI&A sheet bridge information through the Division Administrator of the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) for processing. These requirements are prescribed in [23 CFR 650.309](#) and [650.311](#), the National Bridge Inspection Standards.

(b) Inventory data may be submitted as available and shall be submitted at such additional times as the FHWA may request.

(c) Inventory data on bridges that have been strengthened or repaired to eliminate deficiencies, or those that have been replaced or rehabilitated using bridge replacement and/or other funds, must be revised in the inventory through data submission.

(d) The Secretary may, at the request of a State, inventory bridges, on and off the Federal-aid system, for historic significance.

Credits

[[44 FR 15665](#), Mar. 15, 1979, as amended at [44 FR 72112](#), Dec. 13, 1979]

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; [85 FR 5335](#).

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23 C.F.R. § 650.409

§ 650.409 Evaluation of bridge inventory.

Currentness

(a) Sufficiency rating of bridges. Upon receipt and evaluation of the bridge inventory, a sufficiency rating will be assigned to each bridge by the Secretary in accordance with the approved AASHTO¹ sufficiency rating formula. The sufficiency rating will be used as a basis for establishing eligibility and priority for replacement or rehabilitation of bridges; in general the lower the rating, the higher the priority.

(b) Selection of bridges for inclusion in State program. After evaluation of the inventory and assignment of sufficiency ratings, the Secretary will provide the State with a selection list of bridges within the State that are eligible for the bridge program. From that list or from previously furnished selection lists, the State may select bridge projects.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Footnotes

¹ American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, Suite 225, 444 North Capitol Street, NW, Washington, DC 20001.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.411

§ 650.411 Procedures for bridge replacement and rehabilitation projects.

Currentness

(a) Consideration shall be given to projects which will remove from service highway bridges most in danger of failure.

(b) Submission and approval of projects.

(1) Bridge replacement or rehabilitation projects shall be submitted by the State to the Secretary in accordance with 23 CFR part 630, subpart A Federal–Aid Programs, Approval and Authorization.

(2) Funds apportioned to a State shall be made available throughout each State on a fair and equitable basis.

(c)(1) Each approved project will be designed, constructed, and inspected for acceptance in the same manner as other projects on the system on which the project is located. It shall be the responsibility of the State agency to properly maintain, or cause to be properly maintained, any project constructed under this bridge program. The State highway agency shall enter into a formal agreement for maintenance with appropriate local government officials in cases where an eligible project is located within and is under the legal authority of such a local government.

(2) Whenever a deficient bridge is replaced or its deficiency alleviated by a new bridge under the bridge program, the deficient bridge shall either be dismantled or demolished or its use limited to the type and volume of traffic the structure can safely service over its remaining life. For example, if the only deficiency of the existing structure is inadequate roadway width and the combination of the new and existing structure can be made to meet current standards for the volume of traffic the facility will carry over its design life, the existing bridge may remain in place and be incorporated into the system.

Credits

[44 FR 15665, Mar. 15, 1979, as amended at 44 FR 72112, Dec. 13, 1979]

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart D. Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.413

§ 650.413 Funding.

Currentness

(a) Funds authorized for carrying out the Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program are available for obligation at the beginning of the fiscal year for which authorized and remain available for expenditure for the same period as funds apportioned for projects on the Federal-aid primary system.

(b) The Federal share payable on account of any project carried out under [23 U.S.C. 144](#) shall be 80 percent of the eligible cost.

(c) Not less than 15 percent nor more than 35 percent of the apportioned funds shall be expended for projects located on public roads, other than those on a Federal-aid system. The Secretary after consultation with State and local officials may, with respect to a State, reduce the requirement for expenditure for bridges not on a Federal-aid system when he determines that such State has inadequate needs to justify such expenditure.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.415

§ 650.415 Reports.

Currentness

The Secretary must report annually to the Congress on projects approved and current inventories together with recommendations for further improvements.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics Subpart E. National Tunnel Inspection Standards

C.F.R. T. 23, Ch. I, Subch. G, Pt. 650, Subpt. E, Refs & Annos
[Currentness](#)

Credits

Source: [80 FR 41368](#), July 14, 2015, unless otherwise noted.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.501

§ 650.501 Purpose.

Effective: August 13, 2015

[Currentness](#)

This subpart sets the national minimum standards for the proper safety inspection and evaluation of all highway tunnels in accordance with [23 U.S.C. 144\(h\)](#) and the requirements for preparing and maintaining an inventory in accordance with [23 U.S.C. 144\(b\)](#).

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart E. National Tunnel Inspection Standards (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.503

§ 650.503 Applicability.

Effective: August 13, 2015

[Currentness](#)

The National Tunnel Inspection Standards (NTIS) in this subpart apply to all structures defined as highway tunnels on all public roads, on and off Federal-aid highways, including tribally and federally owned tunnels.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.505

§ 650.505 Definitions.

Effective: August 13, 2015

[Currentness](#)

The following terms used in this subpart are defined as follows:

American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Manual for Bridge Evaluation. The term “AASHTO Manual for Bridge Evaluation” means the “Manual for Bridge Evaluation”, incorporated by reference in [§ 650.517](#).

At-grade roadway. The term “at-grade roadway” means paved or unpaved travel ways within the tunnel that carry vehicular traffic and are not suspended or supported by a structural system.

Bridge inspection experience. The term “bridge inspection experience” has the same meaning as in [§ 650.305](#).

Complex tunnel. The term “complex tunnel” means a tunnel characterized by advanced or unique structural elements or functional systems.

Comprehensive tunnel inspection training. The term “comprehensive tunnel inspection training” means the FHWA–approved training that covers all aspects of tunnel inspection and enables inspectors to relate conditions observed in a tunnel to established criteria.

Critical finding. The term “critical finding” has the same meaning as in [§ 650.305](#).

Damage inspection. The term “damage inspection” has the same meaning as in [§ 650.305](#).

End-of-course assessment. The term “end-of-course assessment” means a comprehensive examination given to students after the completion of a training course.

Federal-aid highway. The term “Federal-aid highway” has the same meaning as in [23 U.S.C. 101\(a\)\(5\)](#).

Functional systems. The term “functional systems” means non-structural systems, such as electrical, mechanical, fire suppression, ventilation, lighting, communications, monitoring, drainage, traffic signals, emergency response (including egress, refuge room spacing, or carbon monoxide detection), or traffic safety components.

Hands-on inspection. The term “hands-on inspection” has the same meaning as in [§ 650.305](#).

Highway. The term “highway” has the same meaning as in [23 U.S.C. 101\(a\)\(11\)](#).

In-depth inspection. The term “in-depth inspection” means a close-up inspection of one, several, or all tunnel structural elements or functional systems to identify any deficiencies not readily detectable using routine inspection procedures. In-depth inspections may occur more or less frequently than routine inspections, as outlined in the tunnel-specific inspection procedures.

Initial inspection. The term “initial inspection” means the first inspection of a tunnel to provide all inventory, appraisal, and other data necessary to determine the baseline condition of the structural elements and functional systems.

Inspection Date. The term “Inspection Date” means the date established by the Program Manager on which a regularly scheduled routine inspection begins for a tunnel.

Legal load. The terms “legal load means the maximum legal load for each vehicle configuration permitted by law for the State in which the tunnel is located.

Load rating. The term “load rating” means the determination of the safe vehicular live load carrying capacity within or above the tunnel using structural plans, and information gathered from an inspection. The results of the load rating may include the need for load posting.

Operating rating. The term “operating rating” has the same meaning as in [§ 650.305](#).

Portal. The term “portal” means the entrance and exit of the tunnel exposed to the environment; portals may include bare rock, constructed tunnel entrance structures, or buildings.

Procedures. The term “procedures” means the written documentation of policies, methods, considerations, criteria, and other conditions that direct the actions of personnel so that a desired end result is achieved consistently.

Professional Engineer (P.E.). The term “Professional Engineer (P.E.)” means an individual who has fulfilled education and experience requirements and passed examinations that, under State licensure laws, permits the individual to offer engineering services within areas of expertise directly to the public.

Program Manager. The term “Program Manager” means the individual in charge of the inspection program who has been assigned or delegated the duties and responsibilities for tunnel inspection, reporting, and inventory. The Program Manager provides overall leadership and guidance to inspection Team Leaders and load raters.

Public road. The term “public road” has the same meaning as in [23 U.S.C. 101\(a\)\(21\)](#).

Quality assurance (QA). The term “quality assurance (QA)” means the use of sampling and other measures to ensure the adequacy of quality control procedures in order to verify or measure the quality of the entire tunnel inspection and load rating program.

Quality control (QC). The term “quality control (QC)” means the procedures that are intended to maintain the quality of a tunnel inspection and load rating at or above a specified level.

Routine inspection. The term “routine inspection” means a regularly scheduled comprehensive inspection encompassing all tunnel structural elements and functional systems and consisting of observations and measurements needed to determine the physical and functional condition of the tunnel, to identify any changes from initial or previously recorded conditions, and to ensure that tunnel components continue to satisfy present service requirements.

Routine permit load. The term “routine permit load” means a vehicular load that has a gross weight, axle weight, or distance between axles not conforming with State laws for legally configured vehicles, and is authorized for unlimited trips over an extended period of time to move alongside other heavy vehicles on a regular basis.

Special inspection. The term “special inspection” means an inspection, scheduled at the discretion of the tunnel owner, used to monitor a particular known or suspected deficiency.

State transportation department (State DOT). The term “State transportation department (State DOT)” has the same meaning as in [23 U.S.C. 101\(a\)\(28\)](#).

Team Leader. The term “Team Leader” means the on-site individual in charge of an inspection team responsible for planning, preparing, performing, and reporting on tunnel inspections.

Tunnel. The term “tunnel” means an enclosed roadway for motor vehicle traffic with vehicle access limited to portals, regardless of type of structure or method of construction, that requires, based on the owner's determination, special design considerations that may include lighting, ventilation, fire protection systems, and emergency egress capacity. The term “tunnel” does not include bridges or culverts inspected under the National Bridge Inspection Standards (subpart C of this part).

Tunnel inspection experience. The term “tunnel inspection experience” means active participation in the performance of tunnel inspections in accordance with the National Tunnel Inspection Standards, in either a field inspection, supervisory, or management role.

Tunnel inspection refresher training. The term “tunnel inspection refresher training” means an FHWA–approved training course that aims to improve the quality of tunnel inspections, introduce new techniques, and maintain the consistency of the tunnel inspection program.

Tunnel Operations, Maintenance, Inspection and Evaluation (TOMIE) Manual. The term “Tunnel Operations, Maintenance, Inspection and Evaluation (TOMIE) Manual” means the “Tunnel Operations, Maintenance, Inspection and Evaluation (TOMIE) Manual” (incorporated by reference, see [§ 650.517](#)).

Tunnel-specific inspection procedures. The term “tunnel-specific inspection procedures” means the written documentation of the directions necessary to plan for, and conduct an inspection. Directions include coverage of inspection methods, frequency of each method, inspection equipment, access equipment, identification of tunnel elements, components and functional systems, traffic coordination, and specialized qualifications for inspecting personnel.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart E. National Tunnel Inspection Standards (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.507

§ 650.507 Tunnel inspection organization responsibilities.

Effective: August 13, 2015

[Currentness](#)

(a) Each State DOT shall inspect, or cause to be inspected, all highway tunnels located on public roads, on and off Federal-aid highways, that are fully or partially located within the State's boundaries, except for tunnels that are owned by Federal agencies or tribal governments.

(b) Each Federal agency shall inspect, or cause to be inspected, all highway tunnels located on public roads, on and off Federal-aid highways, that are fully or partially located within the respective agency's responsibility or jurisdiction.

(c) Each tribal government shall inspect, or cause to be inspected, all highway tunnels located on public roads, on and off Federal-aid highways, that are fully or partially located within the respective tribal government's responsibility or jurisdiction.

(d) Where a tunnel is jointly owned, all bordering States, Federal agencies, and tribal governments with ownership interests should determine through a joint formal written agreement the inspection responsibilities of each State, Federal agency, and tribal government.

(e) Each State that contains one or more tunnels subject to these regulations, or Federal agency or tribal government with a tunnel under its jurisdiction, shall include a tunnel inspection organization that is responsible for all of the following:

(1) Statewide, Federal agency-wide, or tribal government-wide tunnel inspection policies and procedures (both general and tunnel-specific), quality control and quality assurance procedures, and preparation and maintenance of a tunnel inventory.

(2) Tunnel inspections, written reports, load ratings, management of critical findings, and other requirements of these standards.

(3) Maintaining a registry of nationally certified tunnel inspectors that work in their State or for their Federal agency or tribal government that includes, at a minimum, a method to positively identify each inspector, documentation that the inspector's training requirements are up-to-date, the inspector's current contact information, and detailed information about any adverse action that may affect the good standing of the inspector.

(4) A process, developed under the direction of a Professional Engineer and approved by FHWA, to determine when an inspection Team Leader's qualifications must meet [§ 650.509\(b\)\(4\)](#) in order to adequately and appropriately lead an

inspection of a complex tunnel or a tunnel with distinctive features or functions. At a minimum, the process shall consider a tunnel's type of construction, functional systems, history of performance, and physical and operational conditions.

(f) A State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government may delegate functions identified in paragraphs (e)(1), (2), and (3) of this section through a formal written agreement, but such delegation does not relieve the State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government of any of its responsibilities under this subpart.

(g) The State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government tunnel inspection organization shall have a Program Manager with the qualifications listed in § 650.509(a), who has been delegated responsibility for paragraphs (e)(1), (2), and (3) of this section.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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23 C.F.R. § 650.509

§ 650.509 Qualifications of personnel.

Effective: August 13, 2015

[Currentness](#)

(a) A Program Manager shall, at a minimum:

- (1) Be a registered Professional Engineer, or have 10 years of tunnel or bridge inspection experience;
- (2) Be a nationally certified tunnel inspector;
- (3) Satisfy the requirements of paragraphs (a)(1) and (2) of this section by August 13, 2017; and
- (4) Be able to determine when a Team Leader's qualifications must meet the requirements of paragraph (b)(1)(i) of this section in accordance with the FHWA approved process developed in accordance with [§ 650.507\(e\)\(4\)](#).

(b) A Team Leader shall, at a minimum:

- (1) Meet at least one of the four qualifications listed in paragraphs (b)(1)(i) through (iv) of this section:
 - (i) Be a registered professional engineer and have six months of tunnel or bridge inspection experience.
 - (ii) Have 5 years of tunnel or bridge inspection experience.
 - (iii) Have all of the following:
 - (A) A bachelor's degree in engineering or engineering technology from a college or university accredited or determined as substantially equivalent by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.
 - (B) Successfully passed the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Fundamentals of Engineering examination.
 - (C) Two (2) years of tunnel or bridge inspection experience.

(iv) Have all of the following:

(A) An associate's degree in engineering or engineering technology from a college or university accredited or determined as substantially equivalent by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.

(B) Four years of tunnel or bridge inspection experience.

(2) Be a nationally certified tunnel inspector.

(3) Provide documentation supporting the satisfaction of paragraphs (b)(1) and (2) of this section to the Program Manager of each State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government for which they are performing tunnel inspections.

(4) Be a registered Professional Engineer and have six months of tunnel or bridge inspection experience if the Program Manager determines through the approved process developed under § 650.507(e)(4) that the tunnel being inspected is complex or has distinctive features or functions that warrant this level of qualifications.

(c) Load ratings shall be performed by, or under the direct supervision of, a registered Professional Engineer.

(d) Each State DOT, Federal agency, and tribal government shall determine inspection personnel qualifications for damage, cursory, and special inspections.

(e) A nationally certified tunnel inspector shall:

(1) Complete an FHWA–approved comprehensive tunnel inspection training course and score 70 percent or greater on an end-of-course assessment;

(2) Complete a cumulative total of 18 hours of FHWA–approved tunnel inspection refresher training over each 60 month period; and

(3) Maintain documentation supporting the satisfaction of paragraphs (e)(1) and (2) of this section, and, upon request, provide documentation of their training status and current contact information to the Tunnel Inspection Organization of each State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government for which they will be performing tunnel inspections.

(f) Acceptable tunnel inspection training includes the following:

(1) National Highway Institute training. NHI courses on comprehensive tunnel inspection training.

(2) FHWA approval of alternate training. A State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government may submit to FHWA a training course as an alternative to the NHI course. The FHWA shall approve alternative course materials and end-of-course assessments for national consistency and certification purposes. The Program Manager shall review the approved alternative training course every 5 years to ensure the material is current. Updates to approved course materials and end-of-course assessments shall be resubmitted to FHWA for approval.

(g) In evaluating the tunnel inspection experience requirements under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section, a combination of tunnel design, tunnel maintenance, tunnel construction, and tunnel inspection experience, with the predominant amount in tunnel inspection, is acceptable. Also, the following criteria should be considered:

(1) The relevance of the individual's actual experience, including the extent to which the experience has enabled the individual to develop the skills needed to properly lead a tunnel safety inspection.

(2) The individual's exposure to the problems or deficiencies common in the types of tunnels being inspected by the individual.

(3) The individual's understanding of the specific data collection needs and requirements.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart E. National Tunnel Inspection Standards (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.511

§ 650.511 Inspection interval.

Effective: August 13, 2015

Currentness

(a) Initial inspection. A State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government tunnel inspection organization shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, an initial inspection for each tunnel described in § 650.503 as follows:

(1) For existing tunnels, conduct a routine inspection of each tunnel according to the inspection guidance provided in the Tunnel Operations, Maintenance, Inspection and Evaluation (TOMIE) Manual (incorporated by reference, see § 650.517) by August 13, 2017.

(2) For tunnels completed after these regulations take effect, the initial routine inspection shall be conducted after all construction is completed and prior to opening to traffic, according to the inspection guidance provided in the Tunnel Operations, Maintenance, Inspection and Evaluation (TOMIE) Manual (incorporated by reference, see § 650.517).

(b) Routine inspections. A State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government tunnel inspection organization shall conduct, or cause to be conducted, routine inspections for each tunnel described in § 650.503 as follows:

(1) Establish for each tunnel the NTIS routine Inspection Date in a month and year (MM/DD/YYYY) format. This date should only be modified by the Program Manager in rare circumstances.

(2) Inspect each tunnel at regular 24-month intervals.

(3) For tunnels needing inspection more frequently than 24-month intervals, establish criteria to determine the level and frequency to which these tunnels are inspected, based on a risk analysis approach that considers such factors as tunnel age, traffic characteristics, geotechnical conditions, and known deficiencies.

(4) Certain tunnels may be inspected at regular intervals up to 48 months. Inspecting a tunnel at an increased interval may be appropriate when past inspection findings and analysis justifies the increased inspection interval. At a minimum, the following criteria shall be used to determine the level and frequency of inspection based on an assessed lower risk: Tunnel age, time from last major rehabilitation, tunnel complexity, traffic characteristics, geotechnical conditions, functional systems, and known deficiencies. A written request that justifies a regular routine inspection interval between 24 and 48 months shall be submitted to FHWA for review and comment prior to the extended interval being implemented.

(5) Inspect each tunnel in accordance with the established interval. The acceptable tolerance for inspection interval is within 2 months before or after the Inspection Date established in paragraph (b)(1) of this section in order to maintain that date. The actual month, day, and year of the inspection are to be reported in the National Tunnel Inventory.

(c) Damage, in-depth, and special inspections. The Program Manager shall establish criteria to determine the level and frequency of damage, in-depth, and special inspections. Damage, in-depth, and special inspections may use non-destructive testing or other methods not used during routine inspections at an interval established by the Program Manager. In-depth inspections should be scheduled for complex tunnels and for certain structural elements and functional systems when necessary to fully ascertain the condition of the element or system; hands-on inspection may be necessary at some locations.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart E. National Tunnel Inspection Standards (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.513

§ 650.513 Inspection procedures.

Effective: August 13, 2015

[Currentness](#)

Each State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government tunnel inspection organization, to carry out its inspection responsibilities, shall perform or cause to be performed all of the following:

(a) Inspect tunnel structural elements and functional systems in accordance with the inspection guidance provided in the Tunnel Operations, Maintenance, Inspection and Evaluation (TOMIE) Manual (incorporated by reference, see [§ 650.517](#)).

(b) Provide at least one Team Leader, who meets the minimum qualifications stated in [§ 650.509](#), at the tunnel at all times during each initial, routine, and in-depth inspection. The State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government shall report the nationally certified tunnel inspector identification for each Team Leader that is wholly or partly responsible for a tunnel inspection must be reported to the National Tunnel Inventory.

(c) Prepare and document tunnel-specific inspection procedures for each tunnel inspected and inventoried that shall:

(1) Take into account the design assumptions and the tunnel complexity; and

(2) Identify the—

(i) Tunnel structural elements and functional systems to be inspected;

(ii) Methods of inspection to be used;

(iii) Frequency of inspection for each method; and

(iv) Inspection equipment, access equipment, and traffic coordination needed.

(d) Establish requirements for functional system testing, direct observation of critical system checks, and testing documentation.

(e) For complex tunnels, identify specialized inspection procedures and additional inspector training and experience required to inspect complex tunnels. Inspect complex tunnels according to the specialized inspection procedures.

(f) Conduct tunnel inspections with qualified staff not associated with the operation or maintenance of the tunnel structure or functional systems.

(g) Rate each tunnel's safe vehicular load-carrying capacity in accordance with the Sections 6 or 8, AASHTO Manual for Bridge Evaluation (incorporated by reference, see § 650.517). A State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government shall conduct a load rating evaluation as soon as practical, but not later than three months after the completion of the inspection, if a change in condition is identified. Post or restrict the highways in or over the tunnel in accordance with Section 6, AASHTO Manual for Bridge Evaluation (incorporated by reference, see § 650.517), or in accordance with State law, when the maximum unrestricted legal loads or State routine permit loads exceed those allowed under the operating rating or equivalent rating factor. Postings shall be made as soon as possible but not later than 30 days after a valid load rating determines a need for such posting. At-grade roadways in tunnels are exempt from load rating. A State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government, shall maintain load rating calculations or input files with a summary of results as a part of the tunnel record.

(h) Prepare tunnel inspection documentation as described in the Tunnel Operations, Maintenance, Inspection and Evaluation (TOMIE) Manual (incorporated by reference, see § 650.517), and maintain written reports or electronic files on the results of tunnel inspections, together with notations of any action taken to address the findings of such inspections. Maintain relevant maintenance and inspection data to allow assessment of current tunnel condition. At a minimum, information collected will include data regarding basic tunnel information (e.g., tunnel location, posted speed, inspection reports, repair recommendations, and repair and rehabilitation work completed), tunnel and roadway geometrics, interior tunnel structural features, portal structure features, and tunnel systems information. When available, tunnel data collected shall include diagrams, photos, condition of each structural and functional system component, notations of any action taken to address the findings of such inspections, and the national tunnel inspector certification registry identification for each Team Leader responsible in whole or in part for the inspection.

(i) Use systematic quality control and quality assurance procedures to maintain a high degree of accuracy and consistency in the inspection program. Include periodic field review of inspection teams, data quality checks, and independent review of inspection reports and computations.

(j) Establish a Statewide, Federal agency-wide, or tribal government-wide procedure to ensure that critical findings are addressed in a timely manner. Notify FHWA within 24 hours of any critical finding and the activities taken, underway, or planned to resolve or monitor the critical finding. Update FHWA regularly or as requested on the status of each critical finding until it is resolved. Annually provide a written report to FHWA with a summary of the current status of the resolutions for each critical finding identified within that year or unresolved from a previous year.

(k) Provide information at least annually, or more frequently upon request, in cooperation with any FHWA review of State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government compliance with the NTIS. The FHWA will assess annually State DOT compliance using statistical assessments and well-defined measures based on the requirements of this subpart.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart E. National Tunnel Inspection Standards (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.515

§ 650.515 Inventory.

Effective: August 13, 2015

[Currentness](#)

(a) Preliminary inventory. Each State, Federal agency, or tribal government shall collect and submit the inventory data items described in the Specifications for the National Tunnel Inventory (incorporated by reference, see [§ 650.517](#)) for all tunnels subject to the NTIS by December 11, 2015.

(b) National Tunnel Inventory. Each State, Federal agency, or tribal government shall prepare, maintain, and make available to FHWA upon request, an inventory of all highway tunnels subject to the NTIS that includes the preliminary inventory information submitted in paragraph (a) of this section, reflects the findings of the most recent tunnel inspection conducted, and is consistent and coordinated with the Specifications for the National Tunnel Inventory.

(c) Data entry for inspections. For all inspections, each State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government shall enter the appropriate tunnel inspection data into its inventory within 3 months after the completion of the inspection.

(d) Data entry for tunnel modifications and new tunnels. For modifications to existing tunnels that alter previously recorded data and new tunnels, each State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government shall enter the appropriate data into its inventory within 3 months after the completion of the work.

(e) Data entry for tunnel load restriction and closure changes. For changes in traffic load restriction or closure status, each State DOT, Federal agency, or tribal government shall enter the data into its inventory within 3 months after the change in status of the tunnel.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart E. National Tunnel Inspection Standards (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.517

§ 650.517 Incorporation by reference.

Effective: August 13, 2015

Currentness

(a) Certain material is incorporated by reference into this part with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register under [5 U.S.C. 552\(a\)](#) and 1 CFR part 51. To enforce any edition other than that specified in this section, the FHWA must publish notice of change in the Federal Register and the material must be available to the public. All approved material is available for inspection at 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590. For questions regarding the availability of this material at FHWA, call the FHWA Regulations Officer, Office of the Chief Counsel, HCC-10, 202-366-0761. This material is also available for inspection at the National Archives and Records Administration (NARA). For information on the availability of this material at NARA, call 202-741-6030 or go to http://www.archives.gov/federal_register/code_of_federal_regulations/ibr_locations.html.

(b) American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials (AASHTO), Suite 249, 444 N. Capitol Street NW., Washington, DC 20001, 800-231-3475, <https://bookstore.transportation.org>.

(1) “The Manual of Bridge Evaluation,” Section 6 “Load Rating” and Section 8 “Nondestructive Load Testing,” Second Edition, 2011, copyright 2011, incorporation by reference approved for §§ [650.505](#) and [650.513\(a\)](#).

(2) 2011 Interim Revisions to “The Manual of Bridge Evaluation,” Section 6 “Load Rating,” Second Edition, 2010, copyright 2011, incorporation by reference approved for §§ [650.505](#) and [650.513\(a\)](#).

(3) 2013 Interim Revisions to “The Manual of Bridge Evaluation,” Section 6 “Load Rating,” Second Edition, 2010, copyright 2013, incorporation by reference approved for §§ [650.505](#) and [650.513\(a\)](#).

(4) 2014 Interim Revisions to “The Manual of Bridge Evaluation,” Section 6 “Load Rating,” Second Edition, 2010, copyright 2013, incorporation by reference approved for §§ [650.505](#) and [650.513\(a\)](#).

(5) 2015 Interim Revisions to “The Manual of Bridge Evaluation,” Section 6 “Load Rating,” Second Edition, 2010, copyright 2014, incorporation by reference approved for §§ [650.505](#) and [650.513\(a\)](#).

(c) Office of Bridges and Structures, Federal Highway Administration, U.S. Department of Transportation, 1200 New Jersey Avenue SE., Washington, DC 20590.

(1) FHWA–HIF–15–005, “Tunnel Operations, Maintenance, Inspection and Evaluation (TOMIE) Manual,” 2015 edition, available in electronic format at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/inspection/tunnel/>. Incorporation by reference approved for §§ 650.505, 650.511(a), and 650.513(a) and (h).

(2) FHWA–HIF–15–006, “Specifications for National Tunnel Inventory,” 2015 edition, available in electronic format at <http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/inspection/tunnel/>. Incorporation by reference approved for § 650.515(a) and (b).

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart F. [Reserved]

C.F.R. T. 23, Ch. I, Subch. G, Pt. 650, Subpt. F
Currentness

Source: [57 FR 60728](#), Dec. 22, 1992, unless otherwise noted.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics Subpart G. Discretionary Bridge Candidate Rating Factor

C.F.R. T. 23, Ch. I, Subch. G, Pt. 650, Subpt. G, Refs & Annos
[Currentness](#)

Credits

Source: [48 FR 52296](#), Nov. 17, 1983, unless otherwise noted.

Current through January 30, 2020; [85 FR 5335](#).

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart G. Discretionary Bridge Candidate Rating Factor (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.701

§ 650.701 Purpose.

Currentness

The purpose of this regulation is to describe a rating factor used as part of a selection process of allocation of discretionary bridge funds made available to the Secretary of Transportation under [23 U.S.C. 144](#).

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart G. Discretionary Bridge Candidate Rating Factor (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.703

§ 650.703 Eligible projects.

Currentness

(a) Deficient highway bridges on Federal-aid highway system roads may be eligible for allocation of discretionary bridge funds to the same extent as they are for bridge funds apportioned under [23 U.S.C. 144](#), provided that the total project cost for a discretionary bridge candidate is at least \$10 million or twice the amount of [23 U.S.C. 144](#) funds apportioned to the State during the fiscal year for which funding for the candidate bridge is requested.

(b) After November 14, 2002 only candidate bridges not previously selected with a computed rating factor of 100 or less and ready to begin construction in the fiscal year in which funds are available for obligation will be eligible for consideration.

(c) Projects from States that have transferred Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation funds to other funding categories will not be eligible for funding the following fiscal year.

Credits

[[67 FR 63542](#), Oct. 15, 2002]

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart G. Discretionary Bridge Candidate Rating Factor (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.705

§ 650.705 Application for discretionary bridge funds.

Currentness

Each year through its field offices, the FHWA will issue an annual call for discretionary bridge candidate submittals including updates of previously submitted but not selected projects. Each State is responsible for submitting such data as required for candidate bridges. Data requested will include structure number, funds needed by fiscal year, total project cost, current average daily truck traffic and a narrative describing the existing bridge, the proposed new or rehabilitated bridge and other relevant factors which the State believes may warrant special consideration.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart G. Discretionary Bridge Candidate Rating Factor (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.707

§ 650.707 Rating factor.

Currentness

(a) The following formula is to be used in the selection process for ranking discretionary bridge candidates.

$$\text{Rating Factor (RF)} = \frac{\text{SR}}{\text{N}} \times \frac{\text{TPC}}{\text{ADT}'} \times \left[1 + \frac{\text{Unobligated HBRRP Balance}}{\text{Total HBRRP Funds Received}} \right]$$

The lower the rating factor, the higher the priority for selection and funding.

(b) The terms in the rating factor are defined as follows:

(1) SR is Sufficiency Rating computed as illustrated in appendix A of the Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges, USDOT/FHWA (latest edition); (If SR is less than 1.0, use SR=1.0);

(2) ADT is Average Daily Traffic in thousands taking the most current value from the national bridge inventory data;

(3) ADTT is Average Daily Truck Traffic in thousands (Pick up trucks and light delivery trucks not included). For load posted bridges, the ADTT furnished should be that which would use the bridge if traffic were not restricted. The ADTT should be the annual average volume, not peak or seasonal;

(4) N is National Highway System Status. N=1 if not on the National Highway System. N=1.5 if bridge carries a National Highway System road;

(5) The last term of the rating factor expression includes the State's unobligated balance of funds received under [23 U.S.C. 144](#) as of June 30 preceding the date of calculation, and the total funds received under [23 U.S.C. 144](#) for the last four fiscal years ending with the most recent fiscal year of the FHWA's annual call for discretionary bridge candidate submittals; (if unobligated HBRRP balance is less than \$10 million, use zero balance);

(6) TPC is Total Project Cost in millions of dollars;

(7) HBRRP is Highway Bridge Replacement and Rehabilitation Program;

(8) ADT' is ADT plus ADTT.

(c) In order to balance the relative importance of candidate bridges with very low (less than one) sufficiency ratings and very low ADT's against candidate bridges with high ADT's, the minimum sufficiency rating used will be 1.0. If the computed sufficiency rating for a candidate bridge is less than 1.0, use 1.0 in the rating factor formula.

(d) If the unobligated balance of HBRRP funds for the State is less than \$10 million, the HBRRP modifier is 1.0. This will limit the effect of the modifier on those States with small apportionments or those who may be accumulating funds to finance a major bridge.

Credits

[[48 FR 53407](#), Nov. 28, 1983; [67 FR 63542](#), Oct. 15, 2002]

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart G. Discretionary Bridge Candidate Rating Factor (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.709

§ 650.709 Special considerations.

Currentness

(a) The selection process for new discretionary bridge projects will be based upon the rating factor priority ranking. However, although not specifically included in the rating factor formula, special consideration will be given to bridges that are closed to all traffic or that have a load restriction of less than 10 tons. Consideration will also be given to bridges with other unique situations, and to bridge candidates in States that have not previously been allocated discretionary bridge funds. In addition, consideration will be given to candidates that receive additional funds or contributions from local, State, county, or private sources, but not from Federal sources which reduce the total Federal cost or Federal share of the project. These funds or contributions may be used to reduce the total project cost for use in the rating factor formula.

(b) The need to administer the program from a balanced national perspective requires that the special cases set forth in paragraph (a) of this section and other unique situations be considered in the discretionary bridge candidate evaluation process.

(c) Priority consideration will be given to the continuation and completion of projects previously begun with discretionary bridge funds which will be ready to begin construction in the fiscal year in which funds are available for obligation.

Credits

[67 FR 63543, Oct. 15, 2002]

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics Subpart H. Navigational Clearances for Bridges

C.F.R. T. 23, Ch. I, Subch. G, Pt. 650, Subpt. H, Refs & Annos
[Currentness](#)

Credits

Source: [52 FR 28139](#), July 28, 1987, unless otherwise noted.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart H. Navigational Clearances for Bridges (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.801

§ 650.801 Purpose.

Currentness

The purpose of this regulation is to establish policy and to set forth coordination procedures for Federal-aid highway bridges which require navigational clearances.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

End of Document

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart H. Navigational Clearances for Bridges (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.803

§ 650.803 Policy.

[Currentness](#)

It is the policy of FHWA:

- (a) To provide clearances which meet the reasonable needs of navigation and provide for cost-effective highway operations,
- (b) To provide fixed bridges wherever practicable, and
- (c) To consider appropriate pier protection and vehicular protective and warning systems on bridges subject to ship collisions.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

End of Document

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart H. Navigational Clearances for Bridges (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.805

§ 650.805 Bridges not requiring a USCG permit.

Currentness

(a) The FHWA has the responsibility under [23 U.S.C. 144\(h\)](#) to determine that a USCG permit is not required for bridge construction. This determination shall be made at an early stage of project development so that any necessary coordination can be accomplished during environmental processing.

(b) A USCG permit shall not be required if the FHWA determines that the proposed construction, reconstruction, rehabilitation, or replacement of the federally aided or assisted bridge is over waters (1) which are not used or are not susceptible to use in their natural condition or by reasonable improvement as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce and (2) which are (i) not tidal, or (ii) if tidal, used only by recreational boating, fishing, and other small vessels less than 21 feet in length.

(c) The highway agency (HA) shall assess the need for a USCG permit or navigation lights or signals for proposed bridges. The HA shall consult the appropriate District Offices of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers if the susceptibility to improvement for navigation of the water of concern is unknown and shall consult the USCG if the types of vessels using the waterway are unknown.

(d) For bridge crossings of waterways with navigational traffic where the HA believes that a USCG permit may not be required, the HA shall provide supporting information early in the environmental analysis stage of project development to enable the FHWA to make a determination that a USCG permit is not required and that proposed navigational clearances are reasonable.

(e) Since construction in waters exempt from a USCG permit may be subject to other USCG authorizations, such as approval of navigation lights and signals and timely notice to local mariners of waterway changes, the USCG should be notified whenever the proposed action may substantially affect local navigation.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart H. Navigational Clearances for Bridges (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.807

§ 650.807 Bridges requiring a USCG permit.

Currentness

(a) The USCG has the responsibility (1) to determine whether a USCG permit is required for the improvement or construction of a bridge over navigable waters except for the exemption exercised by FHWA in § 650.805 and (2) to approve the bridge location, alignment and appropriate navigational clearances in all bridge permit applications.

(b) A USCG permit shall be required when a bridge crosses waters which are: (1) tidal and used by recreational boating, fishing, and other small vessels 21 feet or greater in length or (2) used or susceptible to use in their natural condition or by reasonable improvement as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce. If it is determined that a USCG permit is required, the project shall be processed in accordance with the following procedures.

(c) The HA shall initiate coordination with the USCG at an early stage of project development and provide opportunity for the USCG to be involved throughout the environmental review process in accordance with 23 CFR part 771. The FHWA and Coast Guard have developed internal guidelines which set forth coordination procedures that both agencies have found useful in streamlining and expediting the permit approval process. These guidelines include (1) USCG/FHWA Procedures for Handling Projects which Require a USCG Permit¹ and (2) the USCG/FHWA Memorandum of Understanding on Coordinating The Preparation and Processing of Environmental Projects.²

(d) The HA shall accomplish sufficient preliminary design and consultation during the environmental phase of project development to investigate bridge concepts, including the feasibility of any proposed movable bridges, the horizontal and vertical clearances that may be required, and other location considerations which may affect navigation. At least one fixed bridge alternative shall be included with any proposal for a movable bridge to provide a comparative analysis of engineering, social, economic and environmental benefit and impacts.

(e) The HA shall consider hydraulic, safety, environmental and navigational needs along with highway costs when designing a proposed navigable waterway crossing.

(f) For bridges where the risk of ship collision is significant, HA's shall consider, in addition to USCG requirements, the need for pier protection and warning systems as outlined in FHWA Technical Advisory 5140.19, Pier Protection and Warning Systems for Bridges Subject to Ship Collisions, dated February 11, 1983.

(g) Special navigational clearances shall normally not be provided for accommodation of floating construction equipment of any type that is not required for navigation channel maintenance. If the navigational clearances are influenced by the needs of such equipment, the USCG should be consulted to determine the appropriate clearances to be provided.

(h) For projects which require FHWA approval of plans, specifications and estimates, preliminary bridge plans shall be approved at the appropriate level by FHWA for structural concepts, hydraulics, and navigational clearances prior to submission of the permit application.

(i) If the HA bid plans contain alternative designs for the same configuration (fixed or movable), the permit application shall be prepared in sufficient detail so that all alternatives can be evaluated by the USCG. If appropriate, the USCG will issue a permit for all alternatives. Within 30 days after award of the construction contract, the USCG shall be notified by the HA of the alternate which was selected. The USCG procedure for evaluating permit applications which contain alternates is presented in its Bridge Administration Manual (COMDT INST M16590.5).³ The FHWA policy on alternates, [Alternate Design for Bridges; Policy Statement](#), was published at [48 FR 21409](#) on May 12, 1983.

AUTHORITY: [23 U.S.C. 119](#), [144](#), and [315](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

Footnotes

- 1 This document is an internal directive in the USCG Bridge Administration Manual, Enclosure 1a, COMDT INST M16590.5, change 2 dated Dec. 1, 1983. It is available for inspection and copying from the U.S. Coast Guard or the Federal Highway Administration as prescribed in 49 CFR part 7, appendices B and D.
- 2 FHWA Notice 6640.22 dated July 17, 1981, is available for inspection and copying as prescribed in 49 CFR part 7, appendix D.
- 3 United States Coast Guard internal directives are available for inspection and copying as prescribed in 49 CFR part 7, appendix B.

Code of Federal Regulations Title 23. Highways Chapter I. Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation Subchapter G. Engineering and Traffic Operations Part 650. Bridges, Structures, and Hydraulics (Refs & Annos) Subpart H. Navigational Clearances for Bridges (Refs & Annos)

23 C.F.R. § 650.809

§ 650.809 Movable span bridges.

Currentness

A fixed bridge shall be selected wherever practicable. If there are social, economic, environmental or engineering reasons which favor the selection of a movable bridge, a cost benefit analysis to support the need for the movable bridge shall be prepared as a part of the preliminary plans.

AUTHORITY: 23 U.S.C. 119, 144, and 315.

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.

End of Document

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United States Code Annotated Title 23. Highways (Refs & Annos) Chapter 1. Federal-Aid Highways (Refs & Annos)

23 U.S.C.A. § 144

§ 144. National bridge and tunnel inventory and inspection standards

Currentness

(a) Findings and declarations.--

(1) Findings.--Congress finds that--

(A) the condition of the bridges of the United States has improved since the date of enactment of the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century ([Public Law 105-178](#); 112 Stat. 107), yet continued improvement to bridge conditions is essential to protect the safety of the traveling public and allow for the efficient movement of people and goods on which the economy of the United States relies; and

(B) the systematic preventative maintenance of bridges, and replacement and rehabilitation of deficient bridges, should be undertaken through an overall asset management approach to transportation investment.

(2) Declarations.--Congress declares that it is in the vital interest of the United States--

(A) to inventory, inspect, and improve the condition of the highway bridges and tunnels of the United States;

(B) to use a data-driven, risk-based approach and cost-effective strategy for systematic preventative maintenance, replacement, and rehabilitation of highway bridges and tunnels to ensure safety and extended service life;

(C) to use performance-based bridge management systems to assist States in making timely investments;

(D) to ensure accountability and link performance outcomes to investment decisions; and

(E) to ensure connectivity and access for residents of rural areas of the United States through strategic investments in National Highway System bridges and bridges on all public roads.

(b) National bridge and tunnel inventories.--The Secretary, in consultation with the States and Federal agencies with jurisdiction over highway bridges and tunnels, shall--

(1) inventory all highway bridges on public roads, on and off Federal-aid highways, including tribally owned and Federally owned bridges, that are bridges over waterways, other topographical barriers, other highways, and railroads;

(2) inventory all tunnels on public roads, on and off Federal-aid highways, including tribally owned and Federally owned tunnels;

(3) classify the bridges according to serviceability, safety, and essentiality for public use, including the potential impacts to emergency evacuation routes and to regional and national freight and passenger mobility if the serviceability of the bridge is restricted or diminished;

(4) based on that classification, assign each a risk-based priority for systematic preventative maintenance, replacement, or rehabilitation; and

(5) determine the cost of replacing each structurally deficient bridge identified under this subsection with a comparable facility or the cost of rehabilitating the bridge.

(c) General bridge authority.--

(1) **In general.**--Except as provided in paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, the General Bridge Act of 1946 (33 U.S.C. 525 et seq.) shall apply to bridges authorized to be replaced, in whole or in part, by this title.

(2) **Exception.**--Section 502(b) of the General Bridge Act of 1946 (33 U.S.C. 525(b)) and section 9 of the Act of March 3, 1899 (33 U.S.C. 401), shall not apply to any bridge constructed, reconstructed, rehabilitated, or replaced with assistance under this title, if the bridge is over waters that--

(A) are not used and are not susceptible to use in the natural condition of the water or by reasonable improvement as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce; and

(B) are--

(i) not tidal; or

(ii) if tidal, used only by recreational boating, fishing, and other small vessels that are less than 21 feet in length.

(d) Inventory updates and reports.--

(1) **In general.**--The Secretary shall--

(A) annually revise the inventories authorized by subsection (b); and

(B) submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the inventories.

(2) Inspection report.--Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of the MAP-21, each State and appropriate Federal agency shall report element level data to the Secretary, as each bridge is inspected pursuant to this section, for all highway bridges on the National Highway System.

(3) Guidance.--The Secretary shall provide guidance to States and Federal agencies for implementation of this subsection, while respecting the existing inspection schedule of each State.

(4) Bridges not on National Highway System.--The Secretary shall--

(A) conduct a study on the benefits, cost-effectiveness, and feasibility of requiring element-level data collection for bridges not on the National Highway System; and

(B) submit to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate a report on the results of the study.

(e) Bridges without taxing powers.--

(1) In general.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, any bridge that is owned and operated by an agency that does not have taxing powers and whose functions include operating a federally assisted public transit system subsidized by toll revenues shall be eligible for assistance under this title, but the amount of such assistance shall in no event exceed the cumulative amount which such agency has expended for capital and operating costs to subsidize such transit system.

(2) Insufficient assets.--Before authorizing an expenditure of funds under this subsection, the Secretary shall determine that the applicant agency has insufficient reserves, surpluses, and projected revenues (over and above those required for bridge and transit capital and operating costs) to fund the bridge project or activity eligible for assistance under this title.

(3) Crediting of non-Federal funds.--Any non-Federal funds expended for the seismic retrofit of the bridge may be credited toward the non-Federal share required as a condition of receipt of any Federal funds for seismic retrofit of the bridge made available after the date of the expenditure.

(f) Replacement of destroyed bridges and ferry boat service.--

(1) In general.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law, a State may use the funds apportioned under [section 104\(b\)](#)
(2) to construct any bridge that replaces--

(A) any low water crossing (regardless of the length of the low water crossing);

(B) any bridge that was destroyed prior to January 1, 1965;

(C) any ferry that was in existence on January 1, 1984; or

(D) any road bridge that is rendered obsolete as a result of a Corps of Engineers flood control or channelization project and is not rebuilt with funds from the Corps of Engineers.

(2) **Federal share.**--The Federal share payable on any bridge construction carried out under paragraph (1) shall be 80 percent of the cost of the construction.

(g) Historic bridges.--

(1) **Definition of historic bridge.**--In this subsection, the term “historic bridge” means any bridge that is listed on, or eligible for listing on, the National Register of Historic Places.

(2) **Coordination.**--The Secretary shall, in cooperation with the States, encourage the retention, rehabilitation, adaptive reuse, and future study of historic bridges.

(3) **State inventory.**--The Secretary shall require each State to complete an inventory of all bridges on and off Federal-aid highways to determine the historic significance of the bridges.

(4) Eligibility.--

(A) **In general.**--Subject to subparagraph (B), reasonable costs associated with actions to preserve, or reduce the impact of a project under this chapter on, the historic integrity of a historic bridge shall be eligible as reimbursable project costs under [section 133](#) if the load capacity and safety features of the historic bridge are adequate to serve the intended use for the life of the historic bridge.

(B) **Bridges not used for vehicle traffic.**--In the case of a historic bridge that is no longer used for motorized vehicular traffic, the costs eligible as reimbursable project costs pursuant to this chapter shall not exceed the estimated cost of demolition of the historic bridge.

(5) **Preservation.**--Any State that proposes to demolish a historic bridge for a replacement project with funds made available to carry out this section shall first make the historic bridge available for donation to a State, locality, or responsible private entity if the State, locality, or responsible entity enters into an agreement--

(A) to maintain the bridge and the features that give the historic bridge its historic significance; and

(B) to assume all future legal and financial responsibility for the historic bridge, which may include an agreement to hold the State transportation department harmless in any liability action.

(6) Costs incurred.--

(A) **In general.--**Costs incurred by the State to preserve a historic bridge (including funds made available to the State, locality, or private entity to enable it to accept the bridge) shall be eligible as reimbursable project costs under this chapter in an amount not to exceed the cost of demolition.

(B) **Additional funding.--**Any bridge preserved pursuant to this paragraph shall not be eligible for any other funds authorized pursuant to this title.

(h) National bridge and tunnel inspection standards.--

(1) Requirement.--

(A) **In general.--**The Secretary shall establish and maintain inspection standards for the proper inspection and evaluation of all highway bridges and tunnels for safety and serviceability.

(B) **Uniformity.--**The standards under this subsection shall be designed to ensure uniformity of the inspections and evaluations.

(2) Minimum requirements of inspection standards.--The standards established under paragraph (1) shall, at a minimum--

(A) specify, in detail, the method by which the inspections shall be carried out by the States, Federal agencies, and tribal governments;

(B) establish the maximum time period between inspections;

(C) establish the qualifications for those charged with carrying out the inspections;

(D) require each State, Federal agency, and tribal government to maintain and make available to the Secretary on request--

(i) written reports on the results of highway bridge and tunnel inspections and notations of any action taken pursuant to the findings of the inspections; and

(ii) current inventory data for all highway bridges and tunnels reflecting the findings of the most recent highway bridge and tunnel inspections conducted; and

(E) establish a procedure for national certification of highway bridge inspectors and tunnel inspectors.

(3) State compliance with inspection standards.--The Secretary shall, at a minimum--

(A) establish, in consultation with the States, Federal agencies, and interested and knowledgeable private organizations and individuals, procedures to conduct reviews of State compliance with--

(i) the standards established under this subsection; and

(ii) the calculation or reevaluation of bridge load ratings; and

(B) establish, in consultation with the States, Federal agencies, and interested and knowledgeable private organizations and individuals, procedures for States to follow in reporting to the Secretary--

(i) critical findings relating to structural or safety-related deficiencies of highway bridges and tunnels; and

(ii) monitoring activities and corrective actions taken in response to a critical finding described in clause (i).

(4) Reviews of State compliance.--

(A) **In general.**--The Secretary shall annually review State compliance with the standards established under this section.

(B) **Noncompliance.**--If an annual review in accordance with subparagraph (A) identifies noncompliance by a State, the Secretary shall--

(i) issue a report detailing the issues of the noncompliance by December 31 of the calendar year in which the review was made; and

(ii) provide the State an opportunity to address the noncompliance by--

(I) developing a corrective action plan to remedy the noncompliance; or

(II) resolving the issues of noncompliance not later than 45 days after the date of notification.

(5) Penalty for noncompliance.--

(A) In general.--If a State fails to satisfy the requirements of paragraph (4)(B) by August 1 of the calendar year following the year of a finding of noncompliance, the Secretary shall, on October 1 of that year, and each year thereafter as may be necessary, require the State to dedicate funds apportioned to the State under [sections 119](#) and [133](#) after the date of enactment of the MAP-21 to correct the noncompliance with the minimum inspection standards established under this subsection.

(B) Amount.--The amount of the funds to be directed to correcting noncompliance in accordance with subparagraph (A) shall--

(i) be determined by the State based on an analysis of the actions needed to address the noncompliance; and

(ii) require approval by the Secretary.

(6) Update of standards.--Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of the MAP-21, the Secretary shall update inspection standards to cover--

(A) the methodology, training, and qualifications for inspectors; and

(B) the frequency of inspection.

(7) Risk-based approach.--In carrying out the revisions required by paragraph (6), the Secretary shall consider a risk-based approach to determining the frequency of bridge inspections.

(i) Training program for bridge and tunnel inspectors.--

(1) In general.--The Secretary, in cooperation with the State transportation departments, shall maintain a program designed to train appropriate personnel to carry out highway bridge and tunnel inspections.

(2) Revisions.--The training program shall be revised from time to time to take into account new and improved techniques.

(j) Bundling of bridge projects.--

(1) Purpose.--The purpose of this subsection is to save costs and time by encouraging States to bundle multiple bridge projects as 1 project.

(2) Eligible entity defined.--In this subsection, the term “eligible entity” means an entity eligible to carry out a bridge project under [section 119](#) or [133](#).

(3) Bundling of bridge projects.--An eligible entity may bundle 2 or more similar bridge projects that are--

(A) eligible projects under [section 119](#) or [133](#);

(B) included as a bundled project in a transportation improvement program under [section 134\(j\)](#) or a statewide transportation improvement program under [section 135](#), as applicable; and

(C) awarded to a single contractor or consultant pursuant to a contract for engineering and design or construction between the contractor and an eligible entity.

(4) Itemization.--Notwithstanding any other provision of law (including regulations), a bundling of bridge projects under this subsection may be listed as--

(A) 1 project for purposes of [sections 134](#) and [135](#); and

(B) a single project.

(5) Financial characteristics.--Projects bundled under this subsection shall have the same financial characteristics, including--

(A) the same funding category or subcategory; and

(B) the same Federal share.

(6) Engineering cost reimbursement.--The provisions of [section 102\(b\)](#) do not apply to projects carried out under this subsection.

(k) Availability of funds.--In carrying out this section--

(1) the Secretary may use funds made available to the Secretary under [sections 104\(a\)](#) and [503](#);

(2) a State may use amounts apportioned to the State under [section 104\(b\)\(1\)](#) and [104\(b\)\(2\)](#);

(3) an Indian tribe may use funds made available to the Indian tribe under [section 202](#); and

(4) a Federal agency may use funds made available to the agency under [section 503](#).

CREDIT(S)

(Added [Pub.L. 91-605, Title II, § 204\(a\)](#), Dec. 31, 1970, 84 Stat. 1741; amended [Pub.L. 93-87, Title II, § 204](#), Aug. 13, 1973, 87 Stat. 284; [Pub.L. 93-643](#), § 113, Jan. 4, 1975, 88 Stat. 2286; [Pub.L. 95-599, Title I, § 124\(a\)](#), Nov. 6, 1978, 92 Stat. 2702; [Pub.L. 96-106](#), §§ 7, 8(a), Nov. 9, 1979, 93 Stat. 797; [Pub.L. 97-327](#), § 5(c), Oct. 15, 1982, 96 Stat. 1612; [Pub.L. 97-424, Title I, §§ 121\(a\), 122\(a\)](#), Jan. 6, 1983, 96 Stat. 2111, 2112; [Pub.L. 100-17, Title I, §§ 123\(a\) to \(d\)\(1\), \(3\), \(e\), \(f\)\(2\)](#), 128, 133(b)(11), Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 161 to 163, 167, 172; [Pub.L. 102-240, Title I, § 1028\(a\) to \(f\)](#), Dec. 18, 1991, 105 Stat. 1967, 1968; [Pub.L. 103-220](#), § 1, Mar. 17, 1994, 108 Stat. 100; [Pub.L. 104-59, Title III, §§ 318, 325\(b\)](#), Nov. 28, 1995, 109 Stat. 588, 592; [Pub.L. 105-178, Title I, §§ 1109](#), 1115(f)(3), June 9, 1998, 112 Stat. 141; [Pub.L. 105-206, Title IX, § 9002\(i\)](#), July 22, 1998, 112 Stat. 836; [Pub.L. 108-88](#), § 2(b)(5), Sept. 30, 2003, 117 Stat. 1111; [Pub.L. 108-202](#), § 2(b)(3), Feb. 29, 2004, 118 Stat. 478; [Pub.L. 108-224](#), § 2(b)(2), Apr. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 627; [Pub.L. 108-263](#), § 2(b)(2), June 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 698; [Pub.L. 108-280](#), § 2(b)(2), July 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 876; [Pub.L. 108-310](#), § 2(b)(5), Sept. 30, 2004, 118 Stat. 1145; [Pub.L. 109-14](#), § 2(b)(3), May 31, 2005, 119 Stat. 324; [Pub.L. 109-20](#), § 2(b)(2), July 1, 2005, 119 Stat. 346; [Pub.L. 109-35](#), § 2(b)(2), July 20, 2005, 119 Stat. 379; [Pub.L. 109-37](#), § 2(b)(2), July 22, 2005, 119 Stat. 394; [Pub.L. 109-40](#), § 2(b)(2), July 28, 2005, 119 Stat. 410; [Pub.L. 109-59, Title I, § 1114](#), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1172; [Pub.L. 110-244, Title I, § 101\(m\)\(1\)](#), June 6, 2008, 122 Stat. 1575; [Pub.L. 112-141, Div. A, Title I, § 1111\(a\)](#), July 6, 2012, 126 Stat. 445; [Pub.L. 114-94, Div. A, Title I, § 1111](#), Dec. 4, 2015, 129 Stat. 1344.)

23 U.S.C.A. § 144, 23 USCA § 144

Current through P.L. 116-91. Some statute sections may be more current, see credits for details.

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United States Code Annotated Title 23. Highways (Refs & Annos) Chapter 4. Highway Safety (Refs & Annos)

23 U.S.C.A. § 409

§ 409. Discovery and admission as evidence of certain reports and surveys

Effective: August 10, 2005

[Currentness](#)

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, reports, surveys, schedules, lists, or data compiled or collected for the purpose of identifying, evaluating, or planning the safety enhancement of potential accident sites, hazardous roadway conditions, or railway-highway crossings, pursuant to [sections 130, 144, and 148](#) of this title or for the purpose of developing any highway safety construction improvement project which may be implemented utilizing Federal-aid highway funds shall not be subject to discovery or admitted into evidence in a Federal or State court proceeding or considered for other purposes in any action for damages arising from any occurrence at a location mentioned or addressed in such reports, surveys, schedules, lists, or data.

CREDIT(S)

(Added [Pub.L. 100-17, Title I, § 132\(a\)](#), Apr. 2, 1987, 101 Stat. 170; amended [Pub.L. 102-240, Title I, § 1035\(a\)](#), Dec. 18, 1991, 105 Stat. 1978; [Pub.L. 104-59, Title III, § 323](#), Nov. 28, 1995, 109 Stat. 591; [Pub.L. 109-59, Title I, § 1401\(a\)\(3\)\(C\)](#), Aug. 10, 2005, 119 Stat. 1225.)

23 U.S.C.A. § 409, 23 USCA § 409

Current through P.L. 116-91. Some statute sections may be more current, see credits for details.

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Code of Federal Regulations Title 49. Transportation Subtitle B. Other Regulations Relating to Transportation
Chapter II. Federal Railroad Administration, Department of Transportation Part 237. Bridge Safety Standards
(Refs & Annos) Subpart E. Bridge Inspection

49 C.F.R. § 237.109

§ 237.109 Bridge inspection records.

Effective: September 13, 2010

[Currentness](#)

(a) Each track owner to which this part applies shall keep a record of each inspection required to be performed on those bridges under this part.

(b) Each record of an inspection under the bridge management program prescribed in this part shall be prepared from notes taken on the day(s) the inspection is made, supplemented with sketches and photographs as needed. Such record will be dated with the date(s) the physical inspection takes place and the date the record is created, and it will be signed or otherwise certified by the person making the inspection.

(c) Each bridge management program shall specify that every bridge inspection report shall include, as a minimum, the following information:

(1) A precise identification of the bridge inspected;

(2) The date on which the physical inspection was completed;

(3) The identification and written or electronic signature of the inspector;

(4) The type of inspection performed, in conformance with the definitions of inspection types in the bridge management program;

(5) An indication on the report as to whether any item noted thereon requires expedited or critical review by a railroad bridge engineer, and any restrictions placed at the time of the inspection;

(6) The condition of components inspected, which may be in a condition reporting format prescribed in the bridge management program, together with any narrative descriptions necessary for the correct interpretation of the report; and

(7) When an inspection does not encompass the entire bridge, the portions of the bridge which were inspected shall be identified in the report.

(d) An initial report of each bridge inspection shall be placed in the location designated in the bridge management program within 30 calendar days of the completion of the inspection unless the complete inspection report is filed first. The initial report shall include the information required by paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(5) of this section.

(e) A complete report of each bridge inspection, including as a minimum the information required in paragraphs (c)(1) through (c)(6) of this section, shall be placed in the location designated in the bridge management program within 120 calendar days of the completion of the inspection.

(f) Each bridge inspection program shall specify the retention period and location for bridge inspection records. The retention period shall be no less than two years following the completion of the inspection. Records of underwater inspections shall be retained until the completion and review of the next underwater inspection of the bridge.

(g) If a bridge inspector, supervisor, or engineer discovers a deficient condition on a bridge that affects the immediate safety of train operations, that person shall report the condition as promptly as possible to the person who controls the operation of trains on the bridge in order to protect the safety of train operations.

AUTHORITY: [49 U.S.C. 20102–20114](#); [Public Law 110–432](#), Div. A, Sec. 417; [28 U.S.C. 2461](#), note; and [49 CFR 1.89](#).

Current through January 30, 2020; 85 FR 5335.