

National Environmental Policy Act

The agency has analyzed this proposed action for the purpose of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (42 U.S.C. 4321) and has determined that this proposed action would not have any effect on the quality of the environment.

Executive Order 13211 (Energy Effects)

We have analyzed this proposed rule under Executive Order 13211, Actions Concerning Regulations That Significantly Affect Energy Supply, Distribution, or Use. We have determined that it is not a significant energy action under that order, because although it is a significant regulatory action under Executive Order 12866 it is not likely to have a significant adverse effect on the supply, distribution, or use of energy.

Regulation Identification Number

A regulation identification number (RIN) is assigned to each regulatory action listed in the Unified Agenda of Federal Regulations. The Regulatory Information Service Center publishes the Unified Agenda in April and October of each year. The RIN contained in the heading of this document can be used to cross reference this action with the Unified Agenda.

List of Subjects in 23 CFR Part 650

Bridges, Grant Programs—transportation, Highways and roads, Reporting and recordkeeping requirements.

Issued on: September 2, 2003.

Mary E. Peters,

Federal Highway Administrator.

In consideration of the foregoing, the FHWA proposes to amend, title 23, Code of Federal Regulations, part 650, subpart C, as set forth below:

PART 650—BRIDGES, STRUCTURES, AND HYDRAULICS

1. The authority citation for part 650 continues to read as follows:

Authority: 23 U.S.C. 109 (a) and (h), 144, 151, 315, and 319; 23 CFR 1.32; 49 CFR 1.48(b), E.O. 11988 (3 CFR, 1977 Comp. p. 117); Department of Transportation Order 5650.2 dated April 23, 1979 (44 FR 24678); section 161 of Public Law 97–424, 96 Stat. 2097, 3135; section 4(b) of Public Law 97–134, 95 Stat. 1699; 33 U.S.C. 401, 491 *et seq.*, 511 *et seq.*; and section 1057 of Public Law 102–240, 105 Stat. 2002.

2. Revise subpart C to read as follows:

Subpart C—National Bridge Inspection Standards

Sec.

650.301 Purpose.
650.303 Applicability.
650.305 Definitions.
650.307 Bridge inspection organization.
650.309 Qualifications of personnel.
650.311 Inspection frequency.
650.313 Inspection procedures.
650.315 Inventory.
650.317 Reference Manuals.

Subpart C—National Bridge Inspection Standards

§ 650.301 Purpose.

This regulation sets the national standards for the proper safety inspection and evaluation of all highway bridges in accordance with 23 U.S.C. 151.

§ 650.303 Applicability.

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

§ 650.305 Definitions.

Terms used in this regulation are defined as follows:

American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials (AASHTO) Manual. “Manual for Condition Evaluation of Bridges,” 1994, second edition, published by the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials. [A copy of the AASHTO Manual may be obtained upon payment in advance by writing to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials, 444 N. Capitol Street, NW., Suite 249, Washington, DC 20001. The AASHTO Manual may also be ordered via the AASHTO bookstore located at <http://www.aashto.org/aashto/home.nsf/FrontPage>.]

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 vehicular 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, maintenance, construction and bridge inspection experience, with the predominant amount being bridge inspection, is acceptable.

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 bookstore, Room 118, Federal Building, 1000 Liberty Avenue, Pittsburgh, PA 15222.

Complex bridge. Movable, suspension, cable stayed, prestressed concrete segmental, long span arches and other bridges with unusual or complex designs.

Comprehensive bridge inspection training. A minimum of 80 hours of 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).

Damage inspection. An unscheduled inspection to assess structural damage resulting from environmental factors or human actions.

Fracture critical inspection. A detailed, visual, close-up, hands-on inspection that may include other non-destructive evaluation of fracture critical members.

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

Hands-on. Inspection of bridge components conducted with the inspector being within arms length of the component. Inspection is performed using visual techniques that are supplemented by nondestructive testing.

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

Initial inspection. The first inspection of a bridge as it becomes a part of the bridge file to provide all Structural 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).