

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.

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

**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. Areas of the bridge to be closely monitored based on previous inspection findings or found to be of concern during the current regular inspection must be inspected using in-depth inspection procedures, either during the current regular inspection or as a follow-up in-depth inspection.

**Routine permit load.** A live load, higher than the legal load, authorized to move along side 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.** A bridge, whose foundation has been determined to be unstable for the assessed, observed or calculated scour condition.

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

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

**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.

#### **§ 650.307 Bridge inspection organization.**

(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 agency wide bridge inspection policies and procedures, quality assurance, and bridge inventory.

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

(d) Each State transportation department may delegate bridge inspections, reports, load ratings and other requirements of these standards to public authorities. Delegation does not relieve the State transportation department of any of its responsibilities under this subpart. Delegation must be made according to State law or a fully executed agreement, which clearly states in writing the roles and responsibilities of all agencies and entities involved.

(e) Each organizational unit with the responsibilities identified in paragraphs (c)(1) or (2) of this section, including each organizational unit of an Agency with delegated authority to perform bridge inspections, reports, load ratings and other requirements of these standards, must be led by a program manager with qualifications defined in § 650.309.

#### **§ 650.309 Qualifications of personnel.**

(a) A program manager must possess, at a minimum, the following qualifications:

(1) Be a registered professional engineer, or have ten years bridge inspection experience; and,

(2) Successfully completed a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course prior to or within 12 months of becoming a Program Manager. Previous FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training is also acceptable.

(b) A team leader must possess, at a minimum, the following qualifications:

(1) Have the qualifications specified in paragraph (a) of this section, or

(2) Have all of the following:

(i) A bachelor's degree in professional engineering from a college or university accredited by the Engineering Accreditation Committee of the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology (EAC/ABET);

(ii) Successfully passed the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying (NCEES) Fundamentals of Engineering examination;

(iii) Two years of bridge inspection experience; and

(iv) Successfully completed a FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course, or

(3) Have five years bridge inspection experience and have successfully completed a FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course; or

(4) 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 a FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course.

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

(d) Program managers and team leaders must complete FHWA approved bridge inspection refresher training every five years.

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

#### **§ 650.311 Inspection frequency.**

(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. The program manager determines the level and frequency to which these bridges are inspected considering such factors as age, traffic characteristics, and known deficiencies.

(3) State or Federal agencies may inspect certain types of bridges at greater than twenty-four month intervals, not to exceed forty-eight months, with the FHWA's approval. This may be appropriate when past inspection findings and analysis justifies the increased inspection interval.

(b) Underwater inspections.

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