

(2) Certain underwater structural members require inspection at less than sixty month intervals. The program manager determines 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) State or Federal agencies may inspect some underwater structural members at greater than sixty-month intervals, not to exceed seventy-two months, with the FHWA's 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. The program manager determines the level and frequency to which these members are inspected considering such factors as age, traffic characteristics, and known deficiencies.

(3) Nondestructive testing or other specialized techniques beyond visual inspection must follow the frequency specified in the FCM inspection plan discussed in § 650.313(f) and may exceed the twenty-four month interval.

(d) Damage, in-depth, and special inspections. The program manager determines the level and frequency of these inspections.

§ 650.313 Inspection procedures.

(a) Inspect each bridge in accordance with the inspection procedures in the AASHTO Manual.

(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, special and underwater inspection.

(c) Rate each highway bridge as to its safe load-carrying capacity in accordance with the AASHTO Manual. Post the bridge in conformity with the AASHTO Manual or in accordance with State law, if the maximum unrestricted legal load or routine permit load under State law exceeds the load allowed under the operating rating or equivalent rating factor.

(d) Prepare bridge files as described in the AASHTO manual. Maintain reports on the results of highway bridge inspections together with notations of any action taken pursuant to the findings of such inspections. Maintain the records in the bridge file for the life of the bridge. Record the findings and

results of bridge inspections on standard forms found in the Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges.¹

(e) The program manager must identify and maintain a list of bridges with FCMs, bridges requiring underwater inspection, bridges that are scour critical, and bridges that are vulnerable to seismic damage.

(f) Fracture critical bridges. For each fracture critical bridge, prepare an FCM inspection plan containing the location and description of FCMs, the inspection frequency, and the inspection procedures. Inspect FCMs according to the FCM inspection plan.

(g) Bridges requiring underwater inspections. Develop a plan containing a description of the underwater elements, the inspection frequency and the procedures. Inspect those bridges requiring underwater inspections according to the plan.

(h) Scour critical bridges. For each scour critical bridge, prepare an action plan to monitor and/or correct deficiencies. Scour critical bridges should be inspected after a major flood event.

(i) Bridges vulnerable to seismic damage. Establish a seismic damage vulnerability program to evaluate the adequacy of existing bridges to resist damage from earthquakes and an action plan to correct deficiencies.

(j) Complex bridges. For each complex bridge prepare an inspection plan that includes specialized inspection needs and additional inspector training and/or experience required. Inspect complex bridges according to the plan.

(k) Quality control/quality assurance program. Provide systematic quality control (QC) and quality assurance (QA) to maintain the accuracy and consistency of the inspection program. Include periodic field review of inspection teams, and the review of reports and computations by a person other than the originating individual. Submit documentation of the QC/QA Program to the FHWA for approval.

(l) Follow-up on critical findings. Establish a Statewide or Federal agency-wide procedure to assure that critical findings are addressed in a timely manner. Notify the FHWA of the actions taken to assure public safety.

¹ The "Recording and Coding Guide for the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation's Bridges," December 1995, FHWA Report No. FHWA-PD-96-001, is available at URL:<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/mtguide.pdf> and may be inspected and copied as prescribed at 49 CFR part 7.

§ 650.315 Inventory.

(a) Each State and 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 and 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 all types of inspection listed in § 650.313(b), enter SI&A data into the State or Federal agency inventory not to exceed 90 days for State and Federal agency bridges and within 180 days for all other bridges after the date of inspection.

(c) For existing bridge modifications that alter previously recorded data and for new bridges, enter SI&A data into the State or Federal agency inventory not to exceed 90 days for State and Federal agency bridges and within 180 days for all other bridges after the completion of the work.

(d) For changes in load restriction or closure status, enter SI&A data into the State or Federal agency inventory not to exceed 90 days for State and Federal agency bridges and within 180 days for all other bridges after the change in status.

§ 650.317 Reference Manuals.

The documents listed in this section are incorporated by reference with the approval of the Director of the Federal Register in accordance with 5 U.S.C. 552(a) and 1 CFR part 51 and are on file at the Office of the Federal Register in Washington, DC. They are available as noted in paragraph (c)(1) of this section.

(a) Manual for Condition Evaluation of Bridges, 1994 second edition, AASHTO. [See § 650.317 (c)(1)].

(b) 2001 Interim Revisions to the Manual for Condition Evaluation of Bridges, AASHTO. [See § 650.317 (c)(1)].

(c) Availability of documents incorporated by reference. The documents listed in § 650.317 are incorporated by reference and are on file and available for inspection at the Office of the Federal Register, 800 North Capitol Street, NW., Suite 700, Washington, DC. These documents may also be reviewed at the Department of Transportation Library, 400 Seventh