



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

100 North Senate Avenue
Room N642
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204

Eric Holcomb, Governor
Joe McGuinness, Commissioner

Bridge Inspection Memorandum No. 18-03

October 23, 2018

TO: All Inspection Personnel and Consultants

FROM: /s/Jeremy Hunter
Jeremy Hunter
Director
Bridge Design Division

SUBJECT: Using Engineering Judgment for Load Rating

REVISES: *Indiana Bridge Inspection Manual, Part 3, Section 3-5.02*

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

The *Indiana Bridge Inspection Manual* Part 3, Load Rating has been updated to include additional guidance on using engineering judgment for load rating.

Load ratings are required for all publically owned bridges in Indiana. In situations where no plans or details available and physical measurement of the structural members is not possible, load rating based on engineering judgement may be used in lieu of analytical methods. Typically, the use of engineering judgment only applies to concrete structures. Steel structural members on most bridges can be measured and/or tested to determine section and material properties.

Engineering judgement load rating relies on the Load Rating Engineer's ability to consider all available information on the design and current condition of a bridge in order to assign rating factors that are consistent with that evidence. Load ratings must be determined for all applicable design, legal, and permit vehicles described in *Indiana Bridge Inspection Manual*, Part 3, Section 3-4.0.

Contact Jeremy Hunter with questions and comments at (317) 233-2096 or by email at jhunter@indot.in.gov.