



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

Bridge Inspection Memorandum No. 24-03 Verification of Bridge Weight Restrictions

October 15, 2024

TO: All Inspection Personnel and Consultants

FROM: /s/ Anthony Marino SPM
Anthony Marino, P.E.
Bridge Inspection State Program Manager
Bridge Management Division

SUBJECT: Verification of Bridge Weight Restrictions

REFERENCE: 23 CFR 650.313 (l), (p), (q)

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

As part of the annual bridge inspection program review, the INDOT Bridge Evaluation Department has discovered inconsistencies from random sampling of bridge assets between the Legal and Routine Permit Load requirements reported in BRADIN against the actual Commercial and Emergency Vehicle Weight Limit tonnage values posted at bridge assets in the field.

To ensure that the INDOT Statewide Bridge Inspection Program complies with the requirements for FHWA National Bridge Inspection Compliance Metric 14: Inspection Procedures – Post or Restrict, the following actions shall be taken for all Local Public Agency (LPA)-owned/maintained bridges:

1. Each county, through the county's current bridge inspection consulting firm responsible for the county's bridge inspection program, shall review all Legal and Routine Permit Safe Posting Loads reported in BRADIN for each bridge within the county's bridge asset inventory. The Safe Posting Loads reported in BRADIN for each bridge shall be compared and validated against the values coded for NBI Item 41: Structure Open, Posted, or Closed to Traffic and NBI Item 70: Bridge Posting.
2. All bridges that require installation of either Commercial Weight Limit signs or Emergency Vehicle Weight Limit signs (or both) shall have the weight limit tonnage values currently posted at all the bridge asset structures reviewed for accuracy and validated against the required Safe Posting Loads reported in BRADIN.
3. On behalf of each county, bridge inspection consulting firms shall submit an individual county summary report to the INDOT State Program Manager for Bridge Inspections for each county that they are responsible. Each county summary report shall include the following tabulated information for all bridges within the county's bridge asset inventory:

- a. NBI Number.
- b. Bridge Structure Number.
- c. NBI Item 41 coded value.
- d. NBI Item 70 coded value.
- e. Maximum allowable Commercial and Emergency Vehicle Weight Limit values (in Tons) as calculated per the load rating factors in BRADIN. If no weight limit is required, report "N".
- f. Actual Commercial and Emergency Vehicle Weight Limit values (in Tons) posted at each bridge end and nearest roadway intersections. If none in place, report "N"

Each county summary report shall be signed and dated by the consulting firm's QC/QA Officer attesting to the fact that the information provided has been properly completed and reviewed for accuracy in accordance with the firm's Quality Control and Quality Assurance Procedures for Bridge Inspection.

4. For all bridges that require the installation of weight limit posting signs, the responsible bridge inspection consulting firm shall ensure that current and clear photograph documentation showing all required weight limit signs installed at both bridge ends and advanced warning at the respective nearest roadway intersections, and in accordance with the MUTCD, are uploaded to the Photos tab within the **iTAMS Bridge Asset File** and correctly identified as "Load Posting" for the photo type.

Photographs of weight limit signs that are only attached to either the most recent bridge inspection report or critical finding report by itself are no longer considered sufficient by INDOT for Metric 14 compliance; current and clear weight limit signs must be uploaded and maintained in the Photos tab within the **iTAMS Bridge Asset File** for each bridge requiring weight limit restrictions.

5. A critical finding shall be submitted for any bridge missing required Commercial or Emergency Vehicle Weight Limit signs or displaying tonnage values that are greater than the maximum weight limit values allowable by the Safe Posting Loads reported in BRADIN.

INDOT Bridge Evaluation will coordinate with the INDOT Districts and the District Bridge Inspection Supervisors to ensure that all required Commercial and Emergency Vehicle weight limit requirements are satisfied for the State's bridge inventory.

These actions shall be completed by **January 31, 2025**.