



INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

Driving Indiana's Economic Growth

Bridge Inspection Memorandum No. 26-11 Bridge Inspection Manual Part 3 Updates

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TO: All Inspection Personnel and Consultants

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

SUBJECT: Bridge Inspection Manual Part 3: Load Rating

EFFECTIVE: Immediately

To ensure that the INDOT Statewide Bridge Inspection Program complies with FHWA National Bridge Inspection **Compliance Metric 14: Inspection Procedures – Post or Restrict**, the following updates have been incorporated into Part 3: Load Rating of the Bridge Inspection Manual:

- **3-2.0 Reference Material** has been updated to reference the Indiana MUTCD.
- **3-4.05 Posting, Restriction, and Closure Notification** now provides guidance for documenting any exception to the Indiana MUTCD requirements.
- **3-4.04 Closure Requirements** and **3-5.03(04) Posting Value** restate the requirements of MBE Sections 6A.8.1 and 6B.7.1.
- **3-5.01(04) Load Rating Method, Item 6. Field Evaluation and Documented Engineering Judgment** has been expanded to clarify what is reported for B.LR.04 Load Rating Method versus what constitutes a posting decision. Additional guidance is included to define when Engineering Judgment may be used.

In addition to Metric 14 compliance requirements, **Part 3 has been fully re-structured** to align terminology with FHWA Specifications for the National Bridge Inventory (SNBI) and clarify how INDOT reports data to the SNBI.

- **3-4.0 Procedure** has been revised to differentiate State and Local procedures distinguishing what is required by the Code of Federal Regulations for State and Local agencies, what is performed to inform State decision making, and what is recommended for Local agencies.
- **3-4.01 Modeling Guidelines & Assumptions** has been completed.
- **3-4.02(02) Design Review for New, Replacement, or Rehabilitated Structures** now requires that all applicable construction phases be evaluated.
- **3-4.03(07) Change in Condition** separates load rating requirements for bridges with a substructure condition rating (SNBI B.C.03) of 4 or less based on level of risk.

- **3-5.01(08) Routine Permit Loads – B.LR.08** introduces Indiana’s Oversize Overweight Permitting System and describes how issuance of Routine (Annual) Permits affects B.LR.08 coding for State bridges.
- **3-5.02 Load Posting Status** provides factors that should be considered before determining whether a bridge posting is warranted.
- **3-5.02(02) Posting Status Change Date – B.PS.02** clarifies how posting deficiencies must be reported, including those resolved within 30 days of discovery.
- **3-5.03(01) Legal Load Configuration – B.EP.01** introduces the IN Tandem legal load rating factor. Currently, INDOT requires the Alternate Military load rating to be documented in BRADIN. Starting December 12, 2025, INDOT scaled the Alternate Military rating factor to compute load capacity and safe posting load for IN Tandem values for all bridges. Following an upcoming BRADIN release, LREs will be required to compute and document the IN Tandem values directly.
- **3-5.03(03) Posting Type, Item 4 Advance Warning Posting** has been updated to clarify that distance plaques are required for both State and Local bridges. For State bridges, the advance warning sign assembly must include the same signage posted at the bridge, along with the W16-3aP plaque. Local agencies may use either the W16-3aP plaque or the W16-9P plaque.
- **3-6.04 Permitting Data** now includes documentation requirements.
- **3-7.02 Permitting** adds quality control procedures related to permitting.