



## Wisconsin Department of Transportation

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DATE: 09/09/2014  
**REVISED 07/23/2015**

TO: WisDOT Certified Bridge Inspectors and Program Managers

FROM: Richard Marz, P.E.  
Chief Structures Maintenance Engineer  
Bureau of Structures

SUBJECT: Technical Memorandum  
Inspection and Documentation of Load Posted Bridge Structures

IMPLEMENTATION: This memorandum applies to all bridges in the State and is effective immediately.  
(This policy clarifies but does not replace the Wisconsin Structures Inspection Manual requirements)

### GUIDELINES:

This memorandum describes the requirements for inspection and documentation of load posted bridges in Wisconsin. Please note that there is no longer a Load Posted inspection type; Routine inspections (set at risk-based frequencies shown below) supplant this inspection type.

For **all state and local owned bridges**, the following shall be required:

#### 1) **Routine Inspections**

- a. For structures that:
  - are posted at less than 40 tons, or
  - have a National Bridge Inventory (NBI) file value for **Deck (Item 58)**, Superstructure (Item 59), Substructure (Item 60), or Culvert (Item 62) of 4 or less

These structures **shall have a Routine inspection frequency of 12 months.**

- b. For load posted structures that do not fall into the above categories, they shall **have a Routine inspection performed every 24 months**, though a more frequent cycle can be set by the Regional or Local Program Manager.

**Though a drop to 4 or less in the National Bridge inventory (NBI) file value for Deck (Item 58) itself does not require a shorter routine inspection frequency, the Bridge Inspection Program Manager shall evaluate the frequency required to sufficiently monitor the deck and wearing surface. If a structure is inspected more frequently to monitor deck condition**

deterioration, that inspection shall be entered into Wisconsin's Highway Structures Information System (HSIS).

When the Deck (Item 58) drops to a 3 or less, a structural evaluation may be required to determine if the load carrying capacity of the bridge is impacted.

**2) Load Posting Verification Activity** – For structures that have a load posting at any level, form DT2122 – Bridge Load Posting Field Verification must be on record in the Highway Structures Information System (HSI) and must display the current signage. This form can be filled out during the Routine inspection, or can be filled out independent of the inspection process. There are no inspector qualifications required to fill out this form.

A new form is required when (1) a form is not on file or (2) when the load posting has changed. If there is a discrepancy between the field posting and the values specified in HSI, the Regional or Local Program Manager shall work with the Load Rating Unit in the Bureau of Structures to rectify the discrepancy.

The form shall be uploaded directly into HSI (by checking the *Load Posting Verification Activity*) by the inspector and a notification sent to the Load Rating Unit.

#### QUESTIONS:

For information on the technical contents of this memorandum, please contact David Genson at (608)-266-3722 or Rick Marz at (608)-266-8195.