

## Chapter Trans 212

STANDARDS FOR THE INSPECTION  
OF BRIDGES IN WISCONSIN

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**Trans 212.01 Purpose.** The purpose of this chapter is to interpret and implement s. 84.17(3), Stats., and to provide standards for the continuing inspection of bridges in this state.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.

**Trans 212.02 Definitions.** (1) "AASHTO manual" means the *Manual for Maintenance Inspection of Bridges 1978*, 3rd edition 1979, published by the American association of state highway and transportation officials, 444 North Capitol Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20001. This manual is on file at the offices of the division of highways and transportation facilities, Wisconsin department of transportation, of the secretary of state and of the revisor of statutes.

(2) "Bridge" means a structure, including supports, erected over a depression or an obstruction, such as water, a highway, or a railway, having a track or passageway for carrying traffic or other moving loads, and having an opening measured along the center of the roadway of more than 20 feet between the undercoping of abutments or spring lines of arches, or extreme ends of the openings for multiple boxes. It may include multiple pipes where the clear distance between openings is less than half of the smaller contiguous opening.

(3) "Department" means the Wisconsin department of transportation.

(4) "Inspection" means the examination of a bridge, the evaluation of the physical condition observed, and the report of the observations and evaluations on a bridge inspection report form adopted by the department.

Note: The bridge inspection report forms referred to in this subsection are: (1) "Annual Bridge Inspection Report," #E-M-30, and (2) "Supplemental Information to Annual Bridge Inspection," #E-M-36. Copies of these report forms may be obtained from the department.

(5) "Inventory" means the gathering and reporting of all information required on the bridge inventory form adopted by the department.

(6) "Rating" means determining the safe load-carrying capacity of a bridge.

(7) "Posting" means the placement of regulatory signs at a bridge indicating the safe load-carrying capacity of the bridge.

(8) "Bridge inspector's training manual" means the *Bridge Inspector's Training Manual 70*, 1979, published by the federal highway administra-

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tion and available from the superintendent of documents, U.S. government printing office, Washington, D.C. 20402. This manual is on file at the offices of the division of highways and transportation facilities, Wisconsin department of transportation, of the secretary of state and of the revisor of statutes.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.

**Trans 212.03 Application of chapter.** The bridge inspection and inventory standards in this chapter apply to all highway bridges which either lie within or cross the borders of the state of Wisconsin. Bridges carrying only railroad traffic and bridges used only by pedestrians, bicycles, and recreational vehicles are excluded from the application of this chapter.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.

**Trans 212.04 Responsibility for inspection.** The responsibility for the continuing inspection program shall be as follows:

(1) The department shall inspect highway bridges on the state trunk highway system and all other bridges for which the department has been assigned maintenance responsibility.

(2) Each local authority or other authority having jurisdiction over a non-department maintained bridge shall inspect the highway bridges on highways under its jurisdiction.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.

**Trans 212.05 Qualification of personnel.** Individuals involved in the inspection of bridges as required by this chapter shall meet the minimum requirements set forth in the AASHTO manual.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.

**Trans 212.06 Frequency of inspections.** (1) State-owned or state-maintained bridges shall be inspected annually.

(2) Locally owned bridges shall be inspected at regular intervals not to exceed 2 years.

(3) Interim inspections at intervals other than those specified in subs. (1) and (2) shall be conducted as found necessary by the maintenance authority on bridges that are posted, bridges subjected to excessive runoff that may cause scour, and bridges that have known deficiencies.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.

**Trans 212.07 Frequency of inventory.** An inventory shall be maintained for each bridge. Changes in inventory data or postings for existing bridges shall be reported to the appropriate department official or officials when the bridges are inspected and when significant changes occur. The inventory of a new bridge shall be obtained upon completion of its construction and the information shall be submitted to the department at that time for use in maintaining the statewide bridge file.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.

**Trans 212.08 Inspection.** The items to be inspected on each bridge include, but are not limited to, the items specified on the bridge inspection Register, August, 1984, No. 344

report form. The bridge inspector's training manual shall be used as a guide to additional items to be inspected in special cases.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.

**Trans 212.09 Ratings.** Each bridge required to be inspected under this chapter shall be rated to determine its safe load-carrying capacity. Significant changes in the condition of a bridge shall be reported to the department as soon as possible. When the significant change affects the rating of the bridge, the bridge shall be rerated by the maintenance authority. Ratings shall be determined in accordance with the AASHTO manual.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.

**Trans 212.10 Posting.** When it is determined that the maximum legal load under state law exceeds the load permitted on a bridge as described in the AASHTO manual, the bridge shall be posted for weight limits.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.

**Trans 212.11 Reporting.** The reporting of bridge inspections shall be as follows:

(1) Bridges for which the department has inspection responsibility shall be reported for maintenance purposes each year. The department personnel responsible for these bridge inspections shall submit the inspection reports for updating the statewide bridge file to the appropriate department official or officials by February 1 of each odd year.

(2) Each authority having jurisdiction over a bridge for which the department has no inspection responsibility shall report the results of all its bridge inspections to the county highway commissioner of the county in which the authority is located by January 1 of each odd year.

(3) Each county highway commissioner shall report the results of all non-state maintained bridge inspections in his or her county to the appropriate department official or officials. Reports for all local bridges that are not a department responsibility shall be submitted to the department by February 1 of each odd year.

(4) The department shall inform the county highway commissioners of revisions to the file data generated by the reports for bridges in their county as soon as practicable after the department's receipt of the reports generating the file data revisions.

(5) After February 1 of each odd year, the department shall compile a list of any local governments which have not submitted the reports required by subs. (2) and (3) and shall submit this list to the senate and the assembly committees concerned with transportation issues.

History: Cr. Register, February, 1982, No. 314, eff. 3-1-82.