



BRIDGE ADVISORY
Construction & Technology Division
Bridge Operations Section

BRIDGE ADVISORY NUMBER: BA-2011-03

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SUBJECT: Credentials for all Qualified Team Leaders

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The NBIS regulations define the qualifications for team leaders, underwater bridge inspection divers, and individuals charged with completing load ratings. To insure these individuals meet the NBIS requirements, all MDOT and Local Agency bridge owners are required to maintain a file which contains credential information for each inspector completing inspection for their structures.

These files should be organized by individual and should contain copies of the following:

Profession Engineer License

Certificates for completion of:

- FHWA-NHI-130054 Engineering Concepts for Bridge Inspectors (non-PE)
- FHWA-NHI-130055 Safety Inspection of In-Service Bridges
- FHWA-NHI-130091 Underwater Bridge Inspection
- FHWA-NHI-130078 Fracture Critical Inspection Techniques for Steel Bridges

Documentation for Years of Bridge Inspection Experience (non-PE)

Active participation in bridge inspections in accordance with the NBIS, in either a field inspection, supervisory, or management role.

In addition to the minimum requirements meeting the NBIS Regulations copies of the following should be added to the file as each individual completes recurrent training activities:

Certificate for completion of:

- FHWA-NHI-130053 Bridge Inspection Refresher Training
- FHWA-NHI-130078 Fracture Critical Inspection Techniques for Steel Bridges
- FHWA-NHI 130088 Bridge Construction Inspection
- FHWA-NHI 135047 Stream Stability and Scour at Highway Bridges for
Bridge Inspectors
- FHWA-NHI-135046 Stream Stability and Scour at Highway Bridges
- FHWA-NHI-135048 Countermeasure Design for Bridge Scour and Stream
Instability

The Bridge Owner should maintain these files for all individuals actively completing bridge inspections or load ratings for their agency. These files will be reviewed during MDOT and FHWA quality assurance reviews. These files should be maintained for a minimum of five years after the individual is no longer completing these services.

NBIS Rules and Regulations (<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/nbis.htm>)

§ 650.309 Qualifications of personnel.

(a) A program manager must, at a minimum:

- (1) Be a registered professional engineer, or have ten years bridge inspection experience; and
- (2) Successfully complete a Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course.

(b) There are five ways to qualify as a team leader. A team leader must, at a minimum:

- (1) Have the qualifications specified in paragraph (a) of this section; or
- (2) Have five years bridge inspection experience and have successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course; or
- (3) Be certified as a Level III or IV Bridge Safety Inspector under the National Society Professional Engineer's program for National Certifications in Engineering Technologies (NICET) and have successfully completed an FHWA approval comprehensive bridge inspection training course, or
- (4) Have all of the following:
 - (i) A bachelor's degree in engineering from a college or university accredited by or determined as substantially equivalent by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology.
 - (ii) Successfully passed the National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying Fundamentals of Engineering examinations;
 - (iii) Two years of bridge inspection experience; and
 - (iv) Successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course, or

(5) Have all of the following:

- (i) An associate's degree in engineering or engineering technology from a college or university accredited by or determined as substantially equivalent by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology;
- (ii) Four years of bridge inspection experience; and
- (iii) Successfully completed an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course.

(c) The individual charged with the overall responsibility for load rating bridges must be a registered professional engineer.

(d) An underwater bridge diver must complete an FHWA approved comprehensive bridge inspection training course *or* other FHWA approved underwater diver bridge inspection training course.