

### RATING AND RE-RATING OF TIMBER BRIDGES

**PURPOSE:** To establish a formal policy and procedure for rating and re-rating bridges which contain timber spans.

**SCOPE:** This Directive applies to all timber bridges on all highways, roads, and streets in the State of Louisiana.

**POLICY:** It is the policy of this department that when a bridge which contains timber spans is inspected by DOTD District Bridge Inspectors, that each timber span shall be evaluated to determine:

1. Whether the current calculated ratings (Inventory, Operating, and Posting Vehicle) are consistent with the currently observed condition of the structure.
2. That a current Timber Rating Form is on file for that structure, and that the rating is not more than four (4) years old.

**PROCEDURE:** As part of the field bridge inspection process for timber bridges, a copy of the latest Timber Rating Form and computer output shall be reviewed to determine if the currently calculated load carrying capacity for that timber bridge span(s) is consistent with the currently observed condition of the structure. When it is determined that the condition of the bridge has changed (e.g. additional deterioration is found, repairs have been made to the structure, etc.) a new Timber Rating Form shall be prepared depicting the current condition of the structure. When it is determined that the condition of the bridge has not changed, the date of the latest Timber Rating shall be checked. If the date is more than four (4) years old, a new Timber Rating Form shall be prepared depicting the current condition of the structure. The new Timber Rating Form(s) shall be attached to and become a part of the regular bridge inspection report for that bridge, and submitted to Headquarters Bridge Maintenance Section through normal channels.

Instructions for assessing, measuring and recording the necessary condition data can be found in the current edition of the PONTIS Bridge Inspection Manual in Appendix D.

In critical situations, the Timber Rating Form and the Inspection Report can be faxed or hand delivered to the Headquarters Bridge Maintenance Section for

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further evaluation and processing. Upon completion of the evaluation by the Bridge Maintenance Section, the results of the Timber Rating will be handed or faxed to the District Maintenance Engineer.

All Timber Ratings must be reviewed, stamped and signed by a licensed Professional Engineer.

**RESPONSIBILITY:** The DOTD District ADA of Operations shall be responsible for the implementation of this policy.

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** This policy shall become effective immediately upon receipt.

SES

Recommend Approval  
Bridge Inspection Engineer (SEC. 51)

DRM

Recommend Approval  
Structures and Facilities Administrator (SEC. 51)

Vincent C. Latino Jr.

Approved  
Vincent C. Latino Jr., P.E.  
Chief Maintenance Engineer