

RW/BNG/GENL/ROADSAFETY/112/2021
 Government of India
 MINISTRY OF ROAD TRANSPORT & HIGHWAYS
 (IBMS Cell)
 Transport Bhawan, 1, Parliament Street, New Delhi - 110 001

Dated 4th July 2025

To

1. The Chief Secretaries of all the State Government/ UTs
2. The Principal Secretaries/ Secretaries of all States/ UTs Public Works Department dealing with National Highways, other centrally sponsored schemes.
3. All Engineers-in-Chief and Chief Engineers of Public Works Department of States/UTs dealing with National Highways, other centrally sponsored schemes.
4. The Director General (Border Roads), Seema Sadak Bhawan, Ring Road, New Delhi-110 010.
5. The Chairman, National Highways Authority of India, G-5 & 6, Sector-10, Dwarka, New Delhi-110 075.
6. The Managing Director, NHIDCL, Tower A, World Trade Centre, Naurojni Nagar Market, Block G, Nauroji Nagar, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi New Delhi-110029


Sub: Inspection and Maintenance of Bridges/Structures falling on National Highways and Expressways

Madam/Sir,

Bridges/Structures are lifeline and critical link on National Highways and Expressways for unhindered movement of traffic. Maintaining serviceability and safety of bridges/structures during their life deserve highest priority from socio-techno-economic consideration. Further, maintenance of bridges/structures is equally important as that of construction and it is well understood that all civil engineering structure require regular maintenance and periodic repair or replacement of some components during their service life.

2. In light of the importance of bridges and structures, the IRC publication and Ministry circulars, issued in the past, have clearly emphasized the need of inspection of bridges/structures for determining requirement of repair and rehabilitation work in particular bridge/structure.

3. Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety vide letter dated 22.01.2025 has also directed to ensure that all bridges/culverts are safe and maintained as per prescribed norms.



4. It is reiterated that bridges/structures shall be inspected regularly by the Executive Agencies at their level or through the already engaged Authority Engineer, Independent Engineer, or Supervision Consultant, as per their respective scope—in accordance with IRC SP 35:2024, to ensure they remain in a safe condition. Type of inspections as per IRC SP 35 2024 are as under.

Routine Inspection (at least once in year, preferably twice in year i.e. before monsoon and after monsoon, twice in year i.e. before monsoon and after monsoon in hilly terrain)

Principal /Detailed Inspection - before opening to traffic/ at end of DLP/at three-year interval

Emergent/Special Inspection - in event of unusual occurrence

Underwater Inspection - Similar to Principal /Detailed Inspection for structure which remain under submergence or during the severe flood to ascertain the scour depth at five/ six-year interval

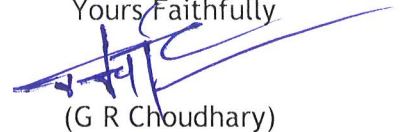
5. As per IRC SP 35 2024, Routine Inspection of Minor Bridges and Culverts shall be responsibility of junior level officer (Like below Executive Engineer/Project Director) while routine inspection of Major Bridges shall be responsibility of senior level officer (Executive Engineer/Project Director and above).

6. Based on routine or detailed inspections, the Regional Office of the Executing Agency, in consultation with the PIU/PMU/NH Division, may formulate an annual programme that includes detailed examinations of specific structures, as well as plans for their repair, rehabilitation, or replacement.

7. The content of this circular may please be brought to notice of all the concerned in your organization.

8. This issues with the approval of Competent Authority.

Yours Faithfully



(G R Choudhary)

Superintending Engineer [IBMS Cell]

Copy to:

1. AS (H)/ AS (NHIDCL)/ All CEs in the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
2. All ROs of the Ministry of Road Transport & Highways
3. Technical circular file of S&R (P&B) Section

4. NIC-for uploading on Ministry's website under "What's new"

Copy for information:

1. PS to Hon'ble Minister (RT&H)
2. PS to Hon'ble MOS (RT&H)
3. Secretary, Supreme Court Committee on Road Safety, Room No. 249, Vigyan Bhawan, Annexe, New Delhi 110011
4. PSO to Secretary (RT&H)
5. PSO to DG (RD) & SS
6. Sr. PPS to AS&FA
7. Sr. PPS to Pr. CCA, MoRT&H
8. Sr. PPS / PPS / PS to ADG-I/II/III/IV/V