

Guidance for Bridge Inspection Interval Review

Transition to Extended Bridge Inspection Intervals

In a one-time data update, on December 30, 2022, any bridges that met the eligibility requirements for an extended inspection interval were placed on a 48-month interval by NDOT. This document provides guidance for bridge owners to use for maintaining inspection interval compliance.

Extended Bridge Inspection Interval Eligibility

Criteria that qualify bridges for extended inspection intervals as per the Nebraska Bridge Inspection Program and in with 23 CFR Part § 650.311 are described in “Nebraska Bridge Inspection Intervals” available on the NDOT Bridge Inspection webpage: <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/bridge/>.

Inspection Interval Reporting

NDOT will include the maximum inspection interval for which a structure is eligible on the Upcoming Bridge Inspection Reports that are sent quarterly beginning on 1/1/2023. Columns are included in this report to show the existing inspection interval and the maximum inspection interval.

The Upcoming Bridge Inspection map has been updated to include a layer to display bridges that are eligible for 48-month intervals and not on a 48-month interval and a filter has been added to display upcoming inspections by “Inspection Interval Eligibility”.

Modifying and Maintaining Extended Bridge Inspection Intervals

As time passes, some bridges will no longer meet the requirements for an extended inspection interval due to age or change in condition. Prior to sending Upcoming Inspection Reports, NDOT will perform quarterly eligibility reviews and place any bridges that no longer meet the requirements for a 48-month inspection interval onto 24-month interval. Owners will not be notified of these updates, but the Upcoming Inspection Report will show both the Eligible and the Actual inspection frequency.

Similarly, some bridges will have conditions improved through replacement or repairs and eventually become eligible for extended inspection intervals. These bridges will be indicated on the Upcoming Bridge Inspection Report and on the Upcoming Bridge Inspection Map. The option to update the inspection interval to 48-months will be the responsibility of the owner and will not be done automatically by NDOT. If inspection interval (NBI Item 91) is not updated by the owner, then the inspection due date will be on a 24-month interval.

How to modify a bridge inspection interval

If a bridge is eligible for a 48-month interval, but currently on a 24-month interval it will be due for inspection at the end of the 24-month interval unless NBI Item 91 is updated from 24 to 48 months.

To update Item 91 there are two options:

1. In BrM, create a New Inspection with Primary Type of “Special – In Office” and none of the “Types of Inspection Performed” selected. Then go to BrM > Inspection > Insp Schedule > Schedule and manually update Item 91 from 24 to 48 months. Once this is done, the Next Date of inspection will automatically recalculate when the changes are saved.
2. Contact NDOT and request to have the most recent existing inspection record unlocked. Once the record is unlocked, go to BrM > Inspection > Insp Schedule > Schedule and make the update to Item 91. Please note that if the record is unlocked, it will automatically lock again that night, so Item 91 would need to be updated the same day that it is unlocked.

If a bridge is on a 48-month interval, and an owner wishes to place it on a 24-month interval there are two options:

1. NBI Item 91, the Inspection Interval, may be updated from 48 to 24 months as described above
2. The bridge may be inspected at any time prior to the 48-month interval due date

Bridges No Longer Eligible for Extended Inspection Intervals

Bridges that no longer meet requirements for 48-month inspection intervals due to reduced condition, or load rating or advanced age will automatically be assigned to a 24-month interval by NDOT prior to sending the quarterly Upcoming Inspection Report. Owners will not be notified by NDOT but the updated interval and inspection due date will be shown in the quarterly Upcoming Inspection Reports.

Bridges that Require a Reduced Inspection Interval

Bridges that meet the requirements in the Bridge Inspection Program Manual 4.10.3.1 will require an interim Scheduled Special Inspection in alternating years from the Routine Inspection. Both inspection types will be on 24-month intervals. The Upcoming Inspection Reports will show that a 12-month interval is required, and this will be achieved with alternating Routine and Scheduled Special Inspections. Prior to sending the quarterly Upcoming Inspection Reports NDOT will review and make updates to the inspection interval for any bridges that have a new requirement for an interim Scheduled Special Inspection. Owners will be notified by NDOT of any added requirements for Scheduled Special Inspections.

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