

Nebraska Bridge Inspection Intervals

July 22, 2024

The following criteria are based on the risk-based inspection interval guidance from 23 CFR Part § 650.311 and Method 1 therein.

Routine Intervals

Each bridge must be inspected at regular intervals not to exceed 24 months, except as noted below.

Reduced Intervals

Bridges that meet the following criteria must be inspected at intervals not to exceed 12 months.

Bridges without load restrictions
and

One or more of the following has a condition rating of 3 or less:

- Item 58 Deck
- Item 59 Superstructure
- Item 60 Substructure
- Item 62 Culvert
- Item 113 Scour

Bridges with load restriction
and

A condition rating of 4 or less for any of the following:

- Item 59 Superstructure
- Item 60 Substructure
- Item 62 Culvert

and either of the following:

- Item 29 ADT of 400 or more
- Item 208 State Classification of Route of 6 or less (arterial or higher level)

or

Bridges with a condition rating of 3 or less for any of the following:

- Item 58 Deck
- Item 59 Superstructure
- Item 60 Substructure
- Item 62 Culvert
- Item 113 Scour

or

Fracture Critical bridges with a condition rating of 3 or less for the Item 59 Superstructure due to a fracture critical element.

Extended Intervals

Certain bridges that meet all the following criteria as recorded in the NBI may be inspected at intervals not to exceed 48 months.

- a. Age less than 50 years.
 - i. (e.g. In 2022 Item 27 > 1972 on January 1, 2022)
- b. Retain Condition Rating of 6 or greater for Items 58, 59, 60, 61 and 62
- c. Retain Inventory Ratings of HS20 or greater for bridges and for concrete culverts under fill.
 - i. (Item 66 is 36 tons or greater for bridges and for concrete culverts)
- d. Have maximum spans of less than 100 feet
 - i. (Item 48 < 100 ft)
- e. Are **not** Fracture Critical
 - i. (Structures with load path redundancy, Item 43B ≠ 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17), or do not have fatigue prone details, like pins. (Item 92A = N, Item 342 = 0).
- f. Do not have category E or E' fatigue details
- g. Are not trusses
- h. Have been inspected by a state certified bridge safety inspector at least twice on a 24-month interval since constructed or reconstructed.
 - i. (e.g. most recent of Item 27 or Item 106 would be at least 4 years prior to the next 24-month interval inspection)
- i. Have **no** timber elements, including deck, superstructure, substructure, or piling.
- j. Have **no** serious scour concern, (Item 113 > 4 and/or Item 113 ≠ U or 6)
- k. Have ADT of less than 20,000 vehicles, (Item 29 < 20,000)
- l. Are **not** susceptible to vehicular damage, e.g., structures with vertical over or under clearances greater than or equal to 14'-0", (Item 53 and 54 ≥ 14'-0").
- m. Are **not** designated by State Program Manager as complex bridges, such as segmental bridges, cable stayed bridges, and tied arch girders.

Inspection Interval Assignment

NDOT will conduct reviews of NBIS data and notify bridge owners of the required maximum inspection interval on a quarterly basis. Bridges that no longer meet extended interval requirements will be transitioned to routine intervals by NDOT on a quarterly basis and as described below.

Bridges that qualify for, but are not on, extended intervals may have the interval updated by the owner. For information about how to update bridge inspection intervals, see the "Guidance for Bridge Inspection Interval Review" document on the NDOT Bridge Inspection webpage <https://dot.nebraska.gov/business-center/bridge/inspection/>.

Inspection Interval Transitions

If bridges no longer qualify for an extended interval due to circumstances that are not part of a scheduled inspection (a new load rating, a hydraulic inspection, a change in ADT), and it has been more than 20 months since the previous scheduled inspection the NBIS program manager should be notified. In these cases, the inspection interval and the next inspection date will be updated by the program manager.

Bridges that meet all other requirements for inspection on an extended interval but no longer meet the age requirement and are more than 20 months since their previous inspection will be retained on the extended interval until the next scheduled inspection. This allows 4 months to schedule and perform a routine inspection on the new 24-month schedule.

These interval transition policies are in place to avoid creating the appearance of past-due inspections due to changes in the inspection interval.