

# South Carolina Department of Transportation

## Engineering Directive

**Directive Number:** ED-43 **Effective:** August 18, 2026

**Subject:** Bridge Ices Before Road Warning Signs (W8-13)

**References:** None

**Purpose:** To Provide a Map of Probable High/Low Risk Areas for Freezing Bridges

**Primary Department:** Traffic Engineering

The South Carolina Department of Transportation historically has erected W8-13, Bridge Ices before Road signs at all bridges on the system to advise motorists that bridge decks freeze before the roadway approaching the bridge. Realizing that the vast majority of our bridges rarely freeze in winter, Traffic Engineering reviewed historical weather trends to develop a logical dividing line between counties that can expect freezing precipitation on a regular basis and those that would not normally have an icing problem.

The attached map was developed after reviewing the freezing weather and precipitation trends. The counties north of the dividing line can expect to have significant icing events while the counties south of the line will have less frequent events.

All counties south of the dividing line may discontinue the use of the W8-13 sign as replacement becomes necessary, and no new signs should be erected. Counties north of the dividing line will continue to erect and maintain these signs in accordance with our previous practice.

Submitted by: Jae Mattox, P.E.  
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Approved by: Rob E. Perry, P.E.  
Deputy Secretary for Engineering

History: Issued on June 19, 2008  
First Revision on August 18, 2026

