

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Engineering Directive

Directive Number: ED-11 **Effective:** August 14, 2019

Subject: Procedures for Posting or Changing Weight Limits on Bridges

References: SCDOT Load Rating Guidance Document
SCDOT Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices Supplement

Primary Department: Maintenance

Posting bridges for load limits is important to ensure the safety of the traveling public. Posting informs the public of the load limits of a bridge and alerts drivers not to cross the bridge if their vehicle exceeds the capacity posted. As such, appropriate weight posting is critical for public safety and the preservation of bridge assets.

A load posting shall be preceded by a load rating analysis. Performing load rating analyses and the posting of bridges shall be in accordance with the South Carolina Department of Transportation's Load Rating Guidance Document (LRGD). A Bridge Inspection Team Leader (BITL) may request a load rating analysis after observed deterioration during an inspection, or a load rating analysis may be deemed necessary as a result of other circumstances, such as impact damage. The BITL should then be available to review his or her findings regarding the structure with the State Bridge Maintenance Engineer (SBME). The Bridge Maintenance Office will coordinate all load rating analyses. The District Traffic Engineer or a member of his or her staff will approve all detour routes, if a detour route is required.

When the decision is made to post a bridge, the Bridge Maintenance Office will request the installation of the posting signs and will notify the BITL of the decision. The posting signs shall be installed within thirty (30) calendar days upon approval of the Bridge Signing/Posting Form (reference LRGD) by the SBME or his or her designee. The District Engineering Administrator (DEA) is responsible for the coordination of information being released to the necessary public, private officials, as well as local stakeholders prior to the placement of any bridge weight restrictions.

At least once a year, the DEA or district designee shall review his or her list of stakeholders, who need to be informed about changes in structure status, and update as necessary. This list of officials and parties who need to be informed shall be kept in the district office.

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