

South Carolina Department of Transportation

Engineering Directive

Directive Number: ED-8 **Effective:** December 6, 2024

Subject: Road Inspections

References: S.C. Code of Laws, Section 57-3-110

Purpose: To Establish Guidelines for Roadway Inspections

Primary Department: Maintenance

Roads on the state highway system will be inspected both during the day and at night to detect deficiencies that are obvious at the time of inspection and may present a hazard to motorists and pedestrians. Driving inspections will be completed in accordance with the details and frequencies below, in order to identify and document the work required to mitigate these hazards.

Daytime Inspections

Roads will be inspected according to the following schedule:

- Interstates will be inspected once per month.
- Primary routes will be inspected once every six months.
- Secondary routes will be inspected once per year.

Inspections will be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Inspections will be completed during daylight hours.
- Divided highways will be inspected in both directions of travel. Non-divided highways will be inspected in at least one direction of travel.
- Inspections will be conducted at the posted speed limit.
- Ideally, a minimum of two people should be in the vehicle to complete inspections with one person driving and the passenger responsible for recording deficiencies. In instances where only one inspector is available, the inspector will only record deficiencies when the vehicle is stopped and off of the roadway.

Assets and roadside appurtenances that will be inspected:

- Pavements (non-visible pavement markings and immediate hazardous surface defects),
- Shoulders (major drop-offs, immediate hazardous surface defects or debris),
- Barriers including guardrails, attenuators, barrier walls, and cable barrier (significant damage and misalignments, missing posts and supports),
- Signs (illegible or severely damaged signs, obstructed views, and evidence of missing signs),
- Vegetation (obstruction of visibility near intersections, trees and limbs in danger of falling), and
- Drainage (standing water on pavement surface, major obstruction or damage to the drainage system).

Inspections will be documented in the SCDOT Maintenance Management System as follows:

- Inspections will be entered into the SCDOT's Maintenance Management System by using the "Inspections" work activity and the "Day Time" work description.
- Deficiencies will be entered into the work request module using "SCDOT Inspector" as the type of requestor.

Nighttime Inspections

Roads will be inspected according to the following schedule:

- All routes will be inspected once per year.

Inspections will be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- Inspections will be completed during the night hours with no daylight.
- All highways will be inspected in both directions of travel.
- Inspections will be conducted at the posted speed limit.
- Inspections will be conducted using low beam headlights.
- Ideally, a minimum of two people should be in the vehicle to complete inspections with one person driving and the passenger responsible for recording deficiencies. In instances where only one inspector is available, the inspector will only record deficiencies when the vehicle is stopped and off of the roadway.

Assets and roadside appurtenances that will be inspected:

- Visibility of signs and pavement markings; and
- Any roadway lighting maintained by SCDOT.

Inspections will be documented in the SCDOT Maintenance Management System as follows:

- Inspections will be entered into the SCDOT's Maintenance Management System by using the "Inspections" work activity and the "Night Time" work description.
- Deficiencies will be entered into the work request module using "SCDOT Inspector" as the type of requestor.

Reporting

By January 1 of each year, the Resident Maintenance Engineer or designee will certify in writing to the District Engineering Administrator (DEA) that all system roads within his or her county have been inspected in accordance with this engineering directive. The DEA will then notify the Director of Maintenance no later than January 10, with the Deputy Secretary for Engineering being notified by January 15 that the inspections have been completed.

Submitted by: Jeff Terry
Director of Maintenance

Recommended by: Andy Leaphart
Chief Engineer for Operations

Approved by: Rob E. Perry
Deputy Secretary for Engineering

History: Issued on November 21, 2003
First Revision on May 27, 2005
Second Revision on August 12, 2010
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