

§213.365

- (a) Vandalism;
- (b) Launching of objects from overhead bridges or structures into the path of trains; and
- (c) Intrusion of vehicles from adjacent rights of way.

§213.365 Visual inspections.

(a) All track shall be visually inspected in accordance with the schedule prescribed in paragraph (c) of this section by a person designated under §213.305.

(b) Each inspection shall be made on foot or by riding over the track in a vehicle at a speed that allows the person making the inspection to visually inspect the track structure for compliance with this part. However, mechanical, electrical, and other track inspection devices may be used to supplement visual inspection. If a vehicle is used for visual inspection, the speed of the vehicle may not be more than 5 miles per hour when passing over track crossings and turnouts, otherwise, the inspection vehicle speed shall be at the sole discretion of the inspector, based on track conditions and inspection requirements. When riding over the track in a vehicle, the inspection will be subject to the following conditions—

(1) One inspector in a vehicle may inspect up to two tracks at one time provided that the inspector's visibility remains unobstructed by any cause and that the second track is not centered more than 30 feet from the track upon which the inspector is riding;

(2) Two inspectors in one vehicle may inspect up to four tracks at a time provided that the inspector's visibility remains unobstructed by any cause and that each track being inspected is centered within 39 feet from the track upon which the inspectors are riding;

(3) Each main track is actually traversed by the vehicle or inspected on foot at least once every two weeks, and each siding is actually traversed by the vehicle or inspected on foot at least once every month. On high density commuter railroad lines where track time does not permit an on track vehicle inspection, and where track centers are 15 foot or less, the requirements of this paragraph (b)(3) will not apply; and

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(4) Track inspection records shall indicate which track(s) are traversed by the vehicle or inspected on foot as outlined in paragraph (b)(3) of this section.

(c) Each track inspection shall be made in accordance with the following schedule—

Class of track	Required frequency
6, 7, and 8	Twice weekly with at least 2 calendar-day's interval between inspections.
9	Three times per week.

(d) If the person making the inspection finds a deviation from the requirements of this part, the person shall immediately initiate remedial action.

(e) Each switch, turnout, track crossing, and lift rail assemblies on moveable bridges shall be inspected on foot at least weekly. The inspection shall be accomplished in accordance with the Guidebook required under §213.353.

(f) In track Classes 8 and 9, if no train traffic operates for a period of eight hours, a train shall be operated at a speed not to exceed 100 miles per hour over the track before the resumption of operations at the maximum authorized speed.

[63 FR 34029, June 22, 1998; 63 FR 45959, Aug. 28, 1998]

§213.367 Special inspections.

In the event of fire, flood, severe storm, temperature extremes or other occurrence which might have damaged track structure, a special inspection shall be made of the track involved as soon as possible after the occurrence and, if possible, before the operation of any train over that track.

§213.369 Inspection records.

(a) Each owner of track to which this part applies shall keep a record of each inspection required to be performed on that track under this subpart.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (e) of this section, each record of an inspection under §213.365 shall be prepared on the day the inspection is made and signed by the person making the inspection. Records shall specify the track inspected, date of inspection, location and nature of any deviation from the requirements of this part, and

the remedial action taken by the person making the inspection. The owner shall designate the location(s) where each original record shall be maintained for at least one year after the inspection covered by the record. The owner shall also designate one location, within 100 miles of each state in which they conduct operations, where copies of record which apply to those operations are either maintained or can be viewed following 10 days notice by the Federal Railroad Administration.

(c) Rail inspection records shall specify the date of inspection, the location and nature of any internal defects found, the remedial action taken and the date thereof, and the location of any intervals of track not tested per §213.339(d). The owner shall retain a rail inspection record for at least two years after the inspection and for one year after remedial action is taken.

(d) Each owner required to keep inspection records under this section shall make those records available for inspection and copying by the Federal Railroad Administrator.

(e) For purposes of compliance with the requirements of this section, an owner of track may maintain and transfer records through electronic transmission, storage, and retrieval provided that—

(1) The electronic system be designed such that the integrity of each record maintained through appropriate levels of security such as recognition of an electronic signature, or other means, which uniquely identify the initiating person as the author of that record. No two persons shall have the same electronic identity;

(2) The electronic storage of each record shall be initiated by the person making the inspection within 24 hours following the completion of that inspection;

(3) The electronic system shall ensure that each record cannot be modified in any way, or replaced, once the record is transmitted and stored;

(4) Any amendment to a record shall be electronically stored apart from the record which it amends. Each amendment to a record shall be uniquely identified as to the person making the amendment;

(5) The electronic system shall provide for the maintenance of inspection records as originally submitted without corruption or loss of data; and

(6) Paper copies of electronic records and amendments to those records, that may be necessary to document compliance with this part, shall be made available for inspection and copying by the FRA and track inspectors responsible under §213.305. Such paper copies shall be made available to the track inspectors and at the locations specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

(7) Track inspection records shall be kept available to persons who performed the inspection and to persons performing subsequent inspections.

(f) Each vehicle/track interaction safety record required under §213.333 (g), and (m) shall be made available for inspection and copying by the FRA at the locations specified in paragraph (b) of this section.

APPENDIX A TO PART 213—MAXIMUM
ALLOWABLE CURVING SPEEDS

TABLE 1—THREE INCHES UNBALANCE
[Elevation of outer rail (inches)]

Degree of curvature	0	1/2	1	1 1/2	2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	4	4 1/2	5	5 1/2	6
0°30'	93	100	107	113	120	125	131	136	141	146	151	156	160
0°40'	80	87	93	98	103	109	113	118	122	127	131	135	139
0°50'	72	78	83	88	93	97	101	106	110	113	117	121	124
1°00'	66	71	76	80	85	89	93	96	100	104	107	110	113
1°15'	59	63	68	72	76	79	83	86	89	93	96	99	101
1°30'	54	58	62	66	69	72	76	79	82	85	87	90	93
1°45'	50	54	57	61	64	67	70	73	76	78	81	83	86
2°00'	46	50	54	57	60	63	66	68	71	73	76	78	80
2°15'	44	47	50	54	56	59	62	64	67	69	71	74	76
2°30'	41	45	48	51	54	56	59	61	63	66	68	70	72
2°45'	40	43	46	48	51	54	56	58	60	62	65	66	68
3°00'	38	41	44	46	49	51	54	56	58	60	62	64	66
3°15'	36	39	42	45	47	49	51	54	56	57	59	61	63
3°30'	35	38	40	43	45	47	50	52	54	55	57	59	61
3°45'	34	37	39	41	44	46	48	50	52	54	55	57	59
4°00'	33	35	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	55	57
4°30'	31	33	36	38	40	42	44	45	47	49	50	52	54
5°00'	29	32	34	36	38	40	41	43	45	46	48	49	51
5°30'	28	30	32	34	36	38	40	41	43	44	46	47	48
6°00'	27	29	31	33	35	36	38	39	41	42	44	45	46
6°30'	26	28	30	31	33	35	36	38	39	41	42	43	45
7°00'	25	27	29	30	32	34	35	36	38	39	40	42	43
8°00'	23	25	27	28	30	31	33	34	35	37	38	39	40
9°00'	22	24	25	27	28	30	31	32	33	35	36	37	38
10°00'	21	22	24	25	27	28	29	31	32	33	34	35	36
11°00'	20	21	23	24	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34
12°00'	19	20	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33

TABLE 2—FOUR INCHES UNBALANCE
[Elevation of outer rail (inches)]

Degree of curvature	0	1/2	1	1 1/2	2	2 1/2	3	3 1/2	4	4 1/2	5	5 1/2	6
0°30'	100	107	113	120	125	131	136	141	146	151	156	160	166
0°40'	87	93	98	103	109	113	118	122	127	131	135	139	145
0°50'	78	83	88	93	97	101	106	110	113	117	121	124	130
1°00'	71	76	80	85	89	93	96	100	104	107	110	113	119
1°15'	63	68	72	76	79	83	86	89	93	96	99	101	107
1°30'	58	62	66	69	72	76	79	82	85	87	90	93	99
1°45'	54	57	61	64	67	70	73	76	78	81	83	86	92
2°00'	50	54	57	60	63	66	68	71	73	76	78	80	86
2°15'	47	50	54	57	59	62	64	67	69	71	74	76	82
2°30'	45	48	51	54	56	59	61	63	66	68	70	72	78
2°45'	43	46	48	51	54	56	58	60	62	65	66	68	74
3°00'	41	44	46	49	51	54	56	58	60	62	65	66	72
3°15'	39	42	45	47	49	51	54	56	58	60	62	64	70
3°30'	38	40	43	45	47	50	52	54	56	58	60	62	68
3°45'	37	39	41	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	60	66
4°00'	35	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	58	64
4°30'	33	36	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	54	56	62
5°00'	32	34	36	38	40	41	43	45	47	49	50	52	58
5°30'	30	32	34	36	38	40	41	43	45	46	48	49	55
6°00'	29	31	33	35	36	38	39	41	42	44	45	47	53
6°30'	28	30	31	33	35	36	38	39	41	42	44	45	51
7°00'	27	29	30	32	34	35	36	38	39	41	42	44	50
8°00'	25	27	29	30	32	34	35	36	38	39	40	42	48
9°00'	23	25	27	28	30	31	33	34	35	37	38	39	45
10°00'	22	24	25	27	28	30	31	32	33	35	36	37	43
11°00'	21	22	24	25	27	28	29	31	32	33	34	35	41
12°00'	19	20	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	38

	107	113	120	125	131	136	141	146	151	156	160	165	169
0°30'	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
0°40'	93	98	104	109	113	118	122	127	131	135	139	143	146
0°50'	83	88	93	97	101	106	110	113	117	121	124	128	131
1°00'	76	80	85	89	93	96	100	104	107	110	113	116	120
1°15'	68	72	76	79	83	86	89	93	96	99	101	104	107
1°30'	62	65	69	72	76	79	82	85	87	90	93	95	98
1°45'	57	61	64	67	70	73	76	78	81	83	86	88	90
2°00'	53	57	60	63	65	68	71	73	76	78	80	82	85
2°15'	50	53	56	59	62	64	67	69	71	73	76	78	80
2°30'	48	51	53	56	59	61	63	65	68	70	72	74	76
2°45'	46	48	51	53	56	58	60	62	64	66	68	70	72
3°00'	44	46	49	51	53	56	58	60	62	64	65	67	69
3°15'	42	44	47	49	51	53	55	57	59	61	63	65	66
3°30'	40	43	45	47	49	52	53	55	57	59	61	62	64
3°45'	39	41	44	46	48	50	52	53	55	57	59	60	62
4°00'	38	40	42	44	46	48	50	52	53	55	57	58	60
4°30'	36	38	40	42	44	45	47	49	50	52	53	55	56
5°00'	34	36	38	40	41	43	45	46	48	49	51	52	53
5°30'	32	34	36	38	39	41	43	44	46	47	48	50	51
6°00'	31	33	35	36	38	39	41	42	44	45	46	48	49
7°00'	29	30	32	34	35	36	38	39	40	42	43	44	45
8°00'	27	28	30	31	33	34	35	37	38	39	40	41	42
9°00'	25	27	28	30	31	32	33	35	36	37	38	39	40
10°00'	24	25	27	28	29	30	32	33	34	35	36	37	38
11°00'	23	24	25	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35	36
12°00'	22	23	24	26	27	28	29	30	31	32	33	34	35

APPENDIX B TO PART 213—SCHEDULE OF CIVIL PENALTIES

Section	Violation	Willful Violation ¹
Subpart A—General:		
213.4(a) Excepted track ²	\$2,500	\$5,000
213.4(b) Excepted track ²	2,500	5,000
213.4(c) Excepted track ²	2,500	5,000
213.4(d) Excepted track ²	2,500	5,000
213.4(e):		
(1) Excepted track	5,000	7,500
(2) Excepted track	7,000	10,000
(3) Excepted track	7,000	10,000
(4) Excepted track	5,000	7,500
213.4(f) Excepted track	2,000	4,000
213.7 Designation of qualified persons to supervise certain renewals and inspect track	1,000	2,000
213.9 Classes of track: Operating speed limits	2,500	2,500
213.11 Restoration or renewal of track under traffic conditions	2,500	2,500
213.13 Measuring track not under load	1,000	2,000
Subpart B—Roadbed:		
213.33 Drainage	2,500	5,000
213.37 Vegetation	1,000	2,000
Subpart C—Track Geometry:		
213.53 Gage	5,000	7,500
13.55 Alinement	5,000	7,500
213.57 Curves; elevation and speed limitations	2,500	5,000
213.59 Elevation of curved track; runoff	2,500	2,500
213.63 Track surface	5,000	7,500
Subpart D—Track surface:		
213.103 Ballast; general	2,500	5,000
213.109 Crossties		
(a) Material used	1,000	2,000
(b) Distribution of ties	2,500	5,000
(c) Sufficient number of nondefective ties	1,000	2,000
(d) Joint ties	2,500	5,000
(e) Track constructed without crossties	2,500	5,000
213.113 Defective rails	5,000	7,500
213.115 Rail end mismatch	2,500	5,000
§ 213.119 Continuous welded rail		
(a) through (i)	5,000	7,500
213.121 (a) Rail joints	2,500	5,000
213.121 (b) Rail joints	2,500	5,000
213.121 (c) Rail joints	5,000	7,500
213.121 (d) Rail joints	2,500	5,000
213.121 (e) Rail joints	2,500	5,000
213.121 (f) Rail joints	2,500	5,000
213.121 (g) Rail joints	2,500	5,000
213.121 (h) Rail joints	5,000	7,500
213.122 Torch cut rail	2,500	5,000
213.123 Tie plates	1,000	2,000
213.127 Rail fastenings	2,500	5,000
213.133 Turnouts and track crossings, generally	1,000	1,000
213.135 Switches:		
(a) through (g)	2,500	5,000
(h) chipped or worn points	5,000	7,500
213.137 Frogs	2,500	5,000
213.139 Spring rail frogs	2,500	5,000
213.141 Self-guarded frogs	2,500	5,000
213.143 Frog guard rails and guard faces; gage	2,500	5,000
Subpart E—Track appliances and track-related devices:		
213.205 Derails	2,500	5,000
Subpart F—Inspection:		
213.233 Track inspections	2,000	4,000
213.235 Switches, crossings, transition devices	2,000	4,000
213.237 Inspection of rail	2,500	5,000
213.239 Special inspections	2,500	5,000
213.241 Inspection records	1,000	1,000
Subpart G—High Speed:		
213.305 Designation of qualified individuals; general qualifications	1,000	2,000
213.307 Class of track; operating speed limits	2,500	5,000
213.309 Restoration or renewal of track under traffic conditions	2,500	5,000
213.311 Measuring track not under load	1,000	2,000
213.319 Drainage	2,500	5,000
213.321 Vegetation	1,000	2,000

Section	Violation	Willful Violation ¹
213.323 Track gage	5,000	7,500
213.327 Alinement	5,000	7,500
213.329 Curves, elevation and speed limits	2,500	5,000
213.331 Track surface	5,000	7,500
213.333 Automated vehicle inspection systems	5,000	7,500
213.335 Crossties		
(a) Material used	1,000	2,000
(b) Distribution of ties	2,500	5,000
(c) Sufficient number of nondefective ties, non-concrete	1,000	2,000
(d) Sufficient number of nondefective concrete ties	1,000	2,000
(e) Joint ties	2,500	5,000
(f) Track constructed without crossties	2,500	5,000
(g) Non-defective ties surrounding defective ties	2,500	5,000
(h) Tie plates	2,500	5,000
(i) Tie plates	1,000	2,000
213.337 Defective rails	5,000	7,500
213.339 Inspection of rail in service	2,500	5,000
213.341 Inspection of new rail	2,500	5,000
213.343 Continuous welded rail (a) through (h)	5,000	7,500
213.345 Vehicle qualification testing (a) through (b)	5,000	7,500
(c) through (e)	2,500	5,000
213.347 Automotive or railroad crossings at grade	5,000	7,500
213.349 Rail end mismatch	2,500	5,000
213.351 (a) Rail joints	2,500	5,000
213.351 (b) Rail joints	2,500	5,000
213.351 (c) Rail joints	5,000	7,500
213.351 (d) Rail joints	2,500	5,000
213.351 (e) Rail joints	2,500	5,000
213.351 (f) Rail joints	5,000	7,500
213.351 (g) Rail joints	5,000	7,500
213.352 Torch cut rails	2,500	5,000
213.353 Turnouts, crossovers, transition devices	1,000	2,000
213.355 Frog guard rails and guard faces; gage	2,500	5,000
213.357 Derails	2,500	5,000
213.359 Track stiffness	5,000	7,500
213.361 Right of way	5,000	7,500
213.365 Visual inspections	2,500	5,000
213.367 Special inspections	2,500	5,000
213.369 Inspections records	2,000	4,000

¹ A penalty may be assessed against an individual only for a willful violation. The Administrator reserves the right to assess a penalty of up to \$27,000 for any violation where circumstances warrant. See 49 CFR Part 209, Appendix A.

² In addition to assessment of penalties for each instance of noncompliance with the requirements identified by this footnote, track segments designated as excepted track that are or become ineligible for such designation by virtue of noncompliance with any of the requirements to which this footnote applies are subject to all other requirements of Part 213 until such noncompliance is remedied.

[63 FR 34029, June 22, 1998; 63 FR 45959, Aug. 28, 1998, as amended at 70 FR 66299, Nov. 2, 2005]

APPENDIX C TO PART 213—STATEMENT OF AGENCY POLICY ON THE SAFETY OF RAILROAD BRIDGES

1. The structural integrity of bridges that carry railroad tracks is important to the safety of railroad employees and to the public. The responsibility for the safety of railroad bridges rests with the owner of the track carried by the bridge, together with any other party to whom that responsibility has been assigned by the track owner.

2. The capacity of a bridge to safely support its traffic can be determined only by intelligent application of engineering principles and the laws of physics. Bridge owners should use, as FRA does, those principles to assess the integrity of railroad bridges.

3. The long term ability of a structure to perform its function is an economic issue be-

yond the intent of this policy. In assessing a bridge's structural condition, FRA focuses on the present safety of the structure, rather than its appearance or long term usefulness.

4. FRA inspectors conduct regular evaluations of railroad bridge inspection and management practices. The objective of these evaluations is to document the practices of the evaluated railroad and to disclose any program weaknesses that could affect the safety of the public or railroad employees. When the evaluation discloses problems, FRA seeks a cooperative resolution. If safety is jeopardized by a bridge owner's failure to resolve a bridge problem, FRA will use available legal means, including issuance of emergency orders, to protect the safety of railroad employees and the public.

5. This policy statement addresses the integrity of bridges that carry railroad tracks.

It does not address the integrity of other types of structures on railroad property (i.e., tunnels or bridges carrying highways) or other features over railroads (i.e., highway overpasses).

6. The guidelines published in this statement are advisory, rather than regulatory, in nature. They indicate those elements FRA deems essential to successful bridge management programs. FRA uses the guidelines when evaluating bridge inspection and management practices.

GUIDELINES

1. Responsibility for safety of railroad bridges

(a) **TRACK OWNER.** The owner of the track on a bridge, or another person assuming responsibility for the compliance of that track with this Part under provisions of §213.5, is responsible for ensuring that the bridge is capable of safely carrying all railroad traffic operated on that track, and for specifying the maximum loads that may be operated over the bridge.

(b) **DIVIDED OWNERSHIP.** Where the owner of the track on a bridge does not own the bridge, the track owner should ensure that the bridge owner is following a program that will maintain the integrity of the bridge. The track owner either should participate in the inspection of the bridge, or should obtain and review reports of inspections performed by the bridge owner. The track owner should maintain current information regarding loads that may be operated over the bridge, either from its own engineering evaluations or as provided by a competent engineer representing the bridge owner. Information on permissible loads may be communicated by the bridge owner either in terms of specific car and locomotive configurations and weights, or as values representing a standard railroad bridge rating reference system. The most common standard bridge rating reference system incorporated in the Manual for Railway Engineering of the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance of Way Association is the dimensional and proportional load configuration devised by Theodore Cooper. Other reference systems may be used where convenient, provided their effects can be defined in terms of shear, bending and pier reactions as necessary for a comprehensive evaluation and statement of the capacity of a bridge.

(c) **OTHER RAILROADS.** The owner of the track on a bridge should advise other railroads operating on that track of the maximum loads permitted on the bridge stated in terms of car and locomotive configurations and weights. No railroad should operate a load which exceeds those limits without specific authority from, and in accordance with restrictions placed by, the track owner.

2. CAPACITY OF RAILROAD BRIDGES

(a) **DETERMINATION.** The safe capacity of bridges should be determined by competent engineers using accepted principles of structural design and analysis.

(b) **ANALYSIS.** Proper analysis of a bridge means knowledge of the actual dimensions, materials and properties of the structural members of the bridge, their condition, and the stresses imposed in those members by the service loads.

(c) **RATING.** The factors which were used for the design of a bridge can generally be used to determine and rate the load capacity of a bridge provided:

- (i) The condition of the bridge has not changed significantly, and
- (ii) The stresses resulting from the service loads can be correlated to the stresses for which the bridge was designed or rated.

3. RAILROAD BRIDGE LOADS

(a) **CONTROL OF LOADS.** The operating instructions for each railroad operating over bridges should include provisions to restrict the movement of cars and locomotives whose weight or configuration exceed the nominal capacity of the bridges.

(b) **AUTHORITY FOR EXCEPTIONS.** Equipment exceeding the nominal weight restriction on a bridge should be operated only under conditions determined by a competent engineer who has properly analyzed the stresses resulting from the proposed loads.

(c) **OPERATING CONDITIONS.** Operating conditions for exceptional loads may include speed restrictions, restriction of traffic from adjacent multiple tracks, and weight limitations on adjacent cars in the same train.

4. RAILROAD BRIDGE RECORDS

(a) The organization responsible for the safety of a bridge should keep design, construction, maintenance and repair records readily accessible to permit the determination of safe loads. Having design or rating drawings and calculations that conform to the actual structure greatly simplifies the process of making accurate determinations of safe bridge loads.

(b) Organizations acquiring railroad property should obtain original or usable copies of all bridge records and drawings, and protect or maintain knowledge of the location of the original records.

5. SPECIFICATIONS FOR DESIGN AND RATING OF RAILROAD BRIDGES

(a) The recommended specifications for the design and rating of bridges are those found in the *Manual for Railway Engineering* published by the American Railway Engineering and Maintenance-of-way Association. These specifications incorporate recognized principles of structural design and analysis to provide for the safe and economic utilization

of railroad bridges during their expected useful lives. These specifications are continually reviewed and revised by committees of competent engineers. Other specifications for design and rating, however, have been successfully used by some railroads and may continue to be suitable.

(b) A bridge can be rated for capacity according to current specifications regardless of the specification to which it was originally designed.

6. PERIODIC INSPECTIONS OF RAILROAD BRIDGES

(a) Periodic bridge inspections by competent inspectors are necessary to determine whether a structure conforms to its design or rating condition and, if not, the degree of nonconformity.

(b) The prevailing practice throughout the railroad industry is to inspect railroad bridges at least annually. Inspections at more frequent intervals may be indicated by the nature or condition of a structure or intensive traffic levels.

7. UNDERWATER INSPECTIONS OF RAILROAD BRIDGES

(a) Inspections of bridges should include measuring and recording the condition of substructure support at locations subject to erosion from moving water.

(b) Stream beds often are not visible to the inspector. Indirect measurements by sounding, probing, or any other appropriate means are necessary in those cases. A series of records of those readings will provide the best information in the event unexpected changes suddenly occur. Where such indirect measurements do not provide the necessary assurance of foundation integrity, diving inspections should be performed as prescribed by a competent engineer.

8. SEISMIC CONSIDERATIONS

(a) Owners of bridges should be aware of the risks posed by earthquakes in the areas in which their bridges are located. Precautions should be taken to protect the safety of trains and the public following an earthquake.

(b) Contingency plans for seismic events should be prepared in advance, taking into account the potential for seismic activity in an area.

(c) The predicted attenuation of ground motion varies considerably within the United States. Local ground motion attenuation values and the magnitude of an earthquake both influence the extent of the area affected by an earthquake. Regions with low frequency of seismic events produce less data from which to predict attenuation factors. That uncertainty should be considered when designating the area in which precautions should be taken following the first notice of

an earthquake. In fact, earthquakes in such regions might propagate their effects over much wider areas than earthquakes of the same magnitude occurring in regions with frequent seismic activity.

9. SPECIAL INSPECTIONS OF RAILROAD BRIDGES

(a) A special bridge inspection should be performed after an occurrence that might have reduced the capacity of the bridge, such as a flood, an earthquake, a derailment, or an unusual impact.

(b) When a railroad learns that a bridge might have suffered damage through an unusual occurrence, it should restrict train operations over the bridge until the bridge is inspected and evaluated.

10. RAILROAD BRIDGE INSPECTION RECORDS

(a) Bridge inspections should be recorded. Records should identify the structure inspected, the date of the inspection, the name of the inspector, the components inspected, and their condition.

(b) Information from bridge inspection reports should be incorporated into a bridge management program to ensure that exceptions on the reports are corrected or accounted for. A series of inspection reports prepared over time should be maintained so as to provide a valuable record of trends and rates of degradation of bridge components. The reports should be structured to promote comprehensive inspections and effective communication between an inspector and an engineer who performs an analysis of a bridge.

(c) An inspection report should be comprehensible to a competent person without interpretation by the reporting inspector.

11. RAILROAD BRIDGE INSPECTORS AND ENGINEERS

(a) Bridge inspections should be performed by technicians whose training and experience enable them to detect and record indications of distress on a bridge. Inspectors should provide accurate measurements and other information about the condition of the bridge in enough detail so that an engineer can make a proper evaluation of the safety of the bridge.

(b) Accurate information about the condition of a bridge should be evaluated by an engineer who is competent to determine the capacity of the bridge. The inspector and the evaluator often are not the same individual. The quality of the bridge evaluation depends on the quality of the communication between them.

12. SCHEDULING INSPECTIONS

(a) A bridge management program should include a means to ensure that each bridge

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under the program is inspected at the frequency prescribed for that bridge by a competent engineer.

(b) Bridge inspections should be scheduled from an accurate bridge inventory list that includes the due date of the next inspection.

13. SPECIAL CONSIDERATIONS FOR RAILROAD BRIDGES

Railroad bridges differ from other types of bridges in the types of loads they carry, in their modes of failure and indications of distress, and in their construction details and components. Proper inspection and analysis of railroad bridges require familiarity with the loads, details and indications of distress that are unique to this class of structure. Particular care should be taken that modifications to railroad bridges, including retrofits for protection against the effects of earthquakes, are suitable for the structure to which they are to be applied. Modifications should not adversely affect the serviceability of the bridge nor its accessibility for periodic or special inspection.

[65 FR 52670, Aug. 30, 2000]

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