

Safety Bridge Inspection Team Leader Requirements in Florida

The requirements for a bridge inspection team leader are listed in the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS). There are three different methods to be qualified of which the Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) accepts two of these:

1. A professional engineer who has successfully completed an accepted comprehensive course on bridge inspection. FDOT accepts the National Highway Institute Course "Safety Inspection of In Service Bridges" NHI 130055 (FDOT course number NH-92-3055). FDOT additionally requires that the professional engineer needs experience in conducting bridge inspections meeting the requirements of the NBIS. A professional engineer who is registered in another state must obtain registration in Florida before he or she can serve as a bridge inspection team leader. Florida does not issue bridge inspector certification to professional engineers.
2. A non professional engineer may obtain bridge inspector certification after meeting the following requirements:
 - Successful completion of the comprehensive course on bridge inspection
 - 5 years credible experience
 - Submission of form 850-010-16 "Application for Bridge Inspection Certification"
 - Approval of the Certified Bridge Inspector Review Board and issuance of Certificate (the review board meets twice a year)

Credible experience requirements for non professional engineers, the 5 years may be made up of the following:

- Experience conducting bridge inspections under the direct supervision of a qualified bridge inspection team leader. **A minimum of 1 year is required no exceptions.**
- A bachelor's degree in engineering and passing the Engineering Intern (EI) exam counts as 3 years.
- The equivalent of an associate's degree in engineering counts as 1 year.
- Experience in Structures Design, Bridge Construction, Bridge Maintenance and Materials Testing will count for the period worked in these areas.

Application for Bridge Inspection Certification process:

The applicant may obtain the form from FDOT's website at:

<http://www.dot.state.fl.us/proceduraldocuments/>

Completed applications should be mailed to:

Attention Richard I. Kerr, P.E.

Florida Department of Transportation

605 Suwannee Street

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Refresher Training Requirements

The NBIS requires bridge inspectors to have refresher training, but does not have any specific requirements, leaving it up to the states to establish this. If the team leader took the comprehensive class in bridge inspection prior to January 1, 2008, the team leader must have completed 12 personal development hours in the bridge inspection area since January 1, 2008. For every 4 year period starting January 1, 2008, the certified bridge inspector must complete obtain 12 approved PDHs to remain active for the following 4 year period. For example, if an individual has obtained at least 12 approved PDHs between January 1, 2008 and January 1, 2012, that individual will be active through January 1, 2016. To remain active between January 1, 2016 and January 1, 2020 that individual will have to obtain 12 PDHs between January 1, 2008 and January 1, 2016. An individual not meeting this requirement will be ineligible to serve as a bridge inspection team leader until this requirement is met. The following courses meet the refresher requirements:

- NHI 130053 "Bridge Inspection Refresher Training" 18 PDHs FDOT course number NH-92-3053
- NHI 130078 "Fracture Critical Inspection Techniques for Steel Bridges" 21 PDHs FDOT course Number NH-92-3078
- NHI 130087 "Inspection and Maintenance of Ancillary Structures" 12 PDHs FDOT course number not available
- NHI 130091 "Underwater Bridge Inspection" 18 PDHs FDOT course number NH-92-8159
- NHI 135047 "Stream Stability and Scour at Highway Bridges for Bridge Inspectors" 6 PDHs FDOT course number NH-05-0003
- NHI 134029 "Bridge Maintenance Training" 24 PDHs FDOT course number NH-92-3429
- BT-07-0009 "Moveable Bridge Inspection Training" 24 PDHs, this is an FDOT course given sporadically, and generally has not been available for non FDOT personnel.
- NHI 130099 "Bridge Inspection Non-Destructive Evaluation Seminar" 12 PDHs

Revised December 4, 2013