

TITLE: Bridge Inspection and Evaluation Policy

1. EFFECTIVE DATE:

2. CANCELLATION:

This policy supersedes the *Real Property Branch Bridge Inspection and Evaluation Policy*, effective August 18, 2008.

3. AUTHORITY:

This policy is issued under the authority of the Assistant Deputy Minister (ADM), Real Property Branch (RPB), Public Works and Government Services Canada (PWGSC).

4. CONTEXT:

This policy is issued pursuant to the *Department of Public Works and Government Services Act*, 1996 c. 16 Section 6 e)

This policy should be implemented in conjunction with the *Bridge Inspection and Evaluation Procedure*, and the *PWGSC Bridge Inspection Manual*.

5. SCOPE:

This policy applies to all bridges under the custodianship of PWGSC, and to work performed by in-house resources or private sector engineering consultants on these bridges. The exception to this is bridges on dams. In this case, the *Dam Inspection and Evaluation Policy* also applies.

6. POLICY STATEMENT:

In the interest of public safety and preservation of the assets, PWGSC bridges are to be maintained to a level of service consistent with accepted industry practices, codes and standards. In order to ensure this, regular and ongoing structural inspections of PWGSC bridges shall be scheduled and undertaken by competent and qualified personnel as outlined in this Policy and its accompanying Procedure, and performed in accordance with the *Bridge Inspection Manual (BIM) of PWGSC*.

7. POLICY DETAILS:

The types of inspections, minimum frequency thereof, and qualifications of personnel are outlined in the *Bridge Inspection and Evaluation Procedure*.

8. RESPONSIBILITIES:

Director General, Professional and Technical Service Management (PTSM) Sector:

- Ensuring consistent national implementation and monitoring with regard to the *Bridge Inspection and Evaluation Policy*.
- Providing functional direction and advice
- National oversight and Quality Management on Inspections

- Review and approve requests for exemptions in consultation with the Director General, EASS.

Director General, Engineering Assets Strategy (EASS):

- Ensuring the implementation of the policy at regional level
- Ensuring that an appropriate asset management framework is in place nationally
- Approving program funding
- Review the requests for exemptions in consultation with the Director General of PTSM.

Regional Directors/Managers, Professional & Technical Services (PTS):

- Implementing the Inspection and Evaluation Policy in the region
- Managing, funding & scheduling inspections to assure timely completion
- Quality assurance of final inspection reports
- Submissions of reports to National Office, PTSM
- Follow up actions required to assure public safety and to protect the investment
- Submit requests for exemptions to the Director General, EASS.

9. DEFINITIONS:

Bridges are structures that provide a roadway or walkway for the passage of vehicles, pedestrians or cyclists across an obstruction, a waterway, gap or facility, and are greater than 3.0 meters in span.

10. REFERENCES:

[*Department of Public Works and Government Services Act*](#)

Bridge Inspection and Evaluation Procedure

PWGSC Bridge Inspection Manual

CAN/CSA S6 - Canadian Highway Bridge Design Code

[*Real Property Branch Dam Inspection and Evaluation Policy*](#)

11. ENQUIRIES:

Please direct enquiries about this policy to the Director General, Professional and Technical Service Management Sector.