

MaineDOT's Bridge Inspection Program

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- MaineDOT is responsible for inspecting nearly 3,000 bridges every two years; these include all of the state-owned and municipal-owned bridges on public roads.
- MaineDOT inspects all bridges at a maximum of every 24 months, unless a finding determines that a more frequent inspection is required.
- There are 185 bridges (5%) that are inspected every 12 months due to findings from previous inspections.
- Underwater inspections for scour and structural integrity are conducted every 60 months unless a finding determines that a more frequent inspection is required.
- Inspections are conducted to the national standards in the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) [as required by the federal government in Title 29 CFR]. The NBIS program was developed from engineering judgment and from past experiences with bridge failures. NBIS sets national policy on bridge-inspection frequency, inspector qualifications, report formats, and inspection and rating procedures. Results of inspections are provided annually to the Federal Highway Administration.
- All inspection reports are reviewed and approved by a professional engineer. Capital improvement planning, repair work, and bridge load-postings are driven by information derived from these inspections.
- The Bridge Inspection Program has five full-time and two part-time bridge inspectors, a full-time manager of the underwater dive team, 20 part-time underwater inspectors, and an under-bridge crane to gain access to difficult-to-reach components. The inspection program is managed by a professional engineer.
- When a critical finding is identified, the department has a procedure for providing notification to the public, and for addressing the problem.