**Background:**

While vertical clearance does not affect operations on the roadway other than for those vehicles that are taller than the available vertical clearance allows, vertical clearance crashes can have severe impacts on operations by damaging overpasses and other structures resulting in extended road closures. In addition, inadequate vertical clearance on Interstate freeways impacts military defense routes as well as commerce corridors.

**Applicability:**

This Engineering Instruction applies to all design projects.

**Engineering Instruction:**

This Engineering Instruction will outline the Department’s direction regarding Vertical Clearance.

Bridges over Corridor Priority 1 Roadways: Minimum Vertical Clearance shall be 16’

Bridges over Corridor Priority 2-4,6 Roadways: Minimum Vertical Clearance shall be 15’

All other structures over Roadways: Minimum Vertical Clearance shall be 17’

Refer to the MaineDOT Bridge Design Guide for further information and preferred minimum clearances.

**Responsibility:**

Program Managers