

## C0 Preface

1 January 2009 ~ Policy for LRFD Design

### FHWA LRFD Policy Memorandum and Attached Letter (Memorandum)

MEMORANDUM

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Subject: **INFORMATION:** Clarification of LRFD Policy Memorandum                      Date: January 22, 2007

From: /s/ *Original Signed by* M. Myint Lwin, P.E., S.E.                      Reply to Attn of: HIBT-10  
Director, Office of Bridge Technology

To: Directors of Field Services  
Resource Center Director  
Division Administrators  
Federal Lands Highway Division Engineers

On June 28, 2000, FHWA issued a Policy Memorandum announcing its decision regarding a transition time frame for the use of Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) for the design of new bridges on Federal-aid funded projects. According to the memo, all new bridges on which States initiate preliminary engineering after October 1, 2007, shall be designed by the AASHTO LRFD Bridge Design Specification. States unable to meet this date shall provide justification and a schedule, acceptable to the FHWA, to complete the transition.

The purpose of the memorandum herein is to provide FHWA Division Offices, States, and local governments with clarifications regarding FHWA's LRFD Policy Memorandum.

- The term "preliminary engineering" as stated in the LRFD Policy Memorandum shall be interpreted as the initiation of the studies or design activities related to identification of the type, size, and/or location of bridges. The term "initiate" means the date when Federal-aid funds are obligated for preliminary engineering. In cases where Federal-aid funds are not used in preliminary engineering, but are used in construction or other phases of the project, the term "initiate" means the date when the State obligates or expends their own funds for preliminary engineering.
- Superstructure, substructure, and foundation bridge elements shall be designed by LRFD.
- For modifications to existing structures, States have the option of using the LRFD Specifications or the specifications which were used for the original design.
- Shelved bridge projects designed and packaged for construction prior to October 1, 2007, are not subject to the LRFD Policy Memorandum, unless a redesign is required by the State after October 1, 2007.
- The term "new bridges" as stated in the LRFD Policy Memorandum shall be interpreted to include both new and total replacement bridges.
- Finally, the policy applies to all States-initiated Federal-aid funded projects, not just those funded with Highway Bridge Program funds, including on system and off-system projects.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact Dr. Firas Sheikh Ibrahim at 202-366-4598, or [Firas.Ibrahim@dot.gov](mailto:Firas.Ibrahim@dot.gov).

Attachment: LRFD Policy Memorandum (See below.)

U.S. Department of  
Transportation  
**Federal Highway  
Administration**

1200 New Jersey Avenue SE  
Washington, D.C. 20590

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June 28, 2000

Refer to: HIBT

David H. Pope, P.E.  
Chairman, Highway Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures  
Wyoming Department of Transportation  
5300 Bishop Boulevard  
Cheyenne, WY 82009-3340

Dear Mr. Pope:

Thank you for the letter of June 20, 2000. We appreciate receiving the advice and recommendation of the AASHTO Highway Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures and its member State bridge engineers on the time frame goals for the use of Load and Resistance Factor Design (LRFD) for the design of bridges. We concur in recommended time frames and would be pleased to work in partnership with the States to attain the listed four goals which, to repeat, are:

1. All new bridges on which States initiate preliminary engineering after October 1, 2007, shall be designed by the LRFD Specifications.
2. All new culverts, retaining walls, and other standard structures on which States initiate preliminary engineering after October 1, 2010, shall be designed by LRFD Specifications, with the assumption that the specifications and software for these structures are "mature" at this time.
3. States unable to meet these dates will provide justification and a schedule for completing the transition to LRFD.
4. For modifications to existing structures, States would have the option of using LRFD Specifications or the specifications which were used for the original design.

A copy of this letter and yours are being provided to the State bridge engineers and our FHWA field offices so that they are aware of FHWA's decision on this matter.

Sincerely yours,

*/s/ original signed by*  
David H. Densmore  
Director of Bridge Technology

Enclosure

**2011 ~ Increase Class C Concrete Strength to 4.0 ksi**

In recent years the typical concrete strengths achieved by Class C concrete have been greater than the 3500 psi used for design. For structural components a higher strength concrete would be advantageous, and for a few of the longer prestressed concrete beams 4.0 ksi concrete is required for the bridge deck. After checking with state and district materials engineers it was decided to increase the design strength for Class C concrete to 4.0 ksi for design, except when a higher strength is required. The increase in design strength also requires an increase in minimum flexural strength to 575 psi for form removal. The change from psi to ksi units for design strength is consistent with the transition to AASHTO LRFD Specifications.