



WHAT

The first inspection of a new, replaced, rehabilitated, or newly identified bridge. This inspection serves to record required bridge inventory data, establish baseline conditions, and establish the intervals for other inspection types.

WHY

Initial inspections are required to:

- Establish the bridge inventory record.
- Document the condition of bridge elements when placed into service.
- Verify bridge characteristics, dimensions, and features.
- Identify any deficiencies, damage, or maintenance concerns.
- Establish future inspection requirements and intervals.
- Ensure compliance with National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) and WisDOT requirements.

WHEN

We recommend the initial inspection be completed before opening to traffic for the safety of the traveling public and the inspector, **but it is required to be completed no later than 3 months after opening to traffic.**

An Initial Inspection is required when:

- A new bridge is constructed.
- A bridge undergoes major rehabilitation or reconstruction that significantly changes the structure.
- An existing structure is identified as meeting the NBIS definition of a bridge and a bridge number is assigned.

The inspection should be completed as soon as practical following construction, completion of work, or upon being identified as a bridge and in accordance with WisDOT inspection requirements.

INITIAL BRIDGE INSPECTION

REQUIRED SUBMITTALS

The initial inspection TL must verify the following information is in HSIS:

- Final bridge plans (including as-built revisions, if available)
- Structure inventory information
- Current load rating documentation
- Baseline structural conditions and element quantities
- Photographs documenting the bridge and major elements
- Hydraulic and scour information including UW profiles at upstream and downstream fascia (when applicable)
- Structure specific inspection procedures when necessary and any NSTM, SRM and fatigue details
- Information gathered by construction personnel included on the Bridge Geometry Field Measurements form
- Clearance photographs and measurements
- Any additional supporting information needed to establish the bridge inventory record

HSIS

- An initial inspection is completed as a Routine Inspection. When submitting it in HSIS select Routine inspection and Initial Inventory as the inspection type.
- The Interval tab should be reviewed to make sure all inspection and activity intervals are correct.

FORMS AND RESOURCES

WisDOT BOS Inspection [Website](#)

- [Structure Inspection Manual \(SIM\)](#)
- [Bridge Inventory Forms](#)
- [Structure Inventory Guidance](#)
- [Load Rating Guidance and Forms](#)
- [Scour Guidance and Forms](#)
- See [SIM 1.3.2](#) for more information.