



## Florida Department of Transportation

RON DESANTIS  
GOVERNOR

605 Suwannee Street  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

JARED W. PERDUE, P.E.  
SECRETARY

### Safety Bridge Inspection Team Leader Requirements in Florida

The requirements for a bridge inspection team leader are listed in the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS) §650.309(b). The Florida Department of Transportation (FDOT) accepts two of the four methods listed in the NBIS document:

1. A professional engineer (P.E.) must meet the following requirements:
  - Successful completion of either of the following National Highway Institute (NHI) Courses:
    - 130055 - Safety Inspection of In-Service Bridges                    or
    - 130056 - Safety Inspection of In-Service Bridges for Professional Engineers.
  - A minimum of 6 months' experience conducting NBIS compliant bridge inspections.
  - Professional engineers must be registered in Florida before they can serve as a Team Leader.
  - Florida does not issue bridge inspector certification to Professional Engineers.
  - Submit proof of either of the above-mentioned courses, a copy of the PE license, and a resume demonstrating the required experience.
  - P.E. submittals are processed as received.
  
2. A non-professional engineer must meet the following requirements:
  - Successful completion of NHI Course 130055 - Safety Inspection of In-Service Bridges.
  - 5 years credible experience in the following areas:
    - Minimum of 1 year conducting NBIS compliant bridge inspections under the direct supervision of a qualified bridge inspection team leader.
    - A bachelor's degree in engineering and passing the Engineering Intern (EI) exam count as 3 years.
    - The equivalent of an associate degree in engineering counts as 1 year.
    - Experience in Structures Design, Bridge Construction, Bridge Maintenance and Materials Testing will count for the period worked in these areas.
  - Submission of form 850-010-16 "Application for Bridge Inspection Certification"
    - Form 850-010-16 can be found at: <https://pdl.fdot.gov/Forms>
  - Approval of the Certified Bridge Inspector Review Board and issuance of Certificate.
    - The CBI Review Board meets in **April** and **October** to process applications.

Revised April 2, 2024

[www.fdot.gov](http://www.fdot.gov)



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P.E. submittals, completed Form 850-010-16, and training certificates can be mailed or emailed to:

Attention: Bruno Vasconcelos, P.E.  
Florida Department of Transportation  
605 Suwannee Street, MS 52  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0450

or

[FDOT-BridgeInspection@dot.state.fl.us](mailto:FDOT-BridgeInspection@dot.state.fl.us)

\* All scans must be legible or risk returning to sender.

### Refresher Training Requirements

The NBIS §650.309(b)(3) requires bridge inspectors to complete a cumulative 18 hours of FHWA-approved bridge inspection refresher training every 60 months. An individual not meeting this requirement will be ineligible to serve as a bridge inspection team leader until this requirement is met.

By the definition provided in NBIS §650.309(h)(ii) a refresher course must cover the following topics:

- Documentation of inspections
- Commonly miscoded items
- Recognition of critical findings
- Recent events impacting bridge inspections
- Quality assurance activities

At the date of revision, the only accepted refresher course is *NHI 130053 - Bridge Inspection Refresher Training*. Proof of refresher training must be transmitted to either address provided above to remain an active Team Leader.

### Nonredundant Steel Tension Member Team Lead Requirements

In addition to meeting the Team Leader requirements, the NBIS §650.309(c) requires Team Leaders on Nonredundant Steel Tension Member (NSTM), formerly Fracture Critical Members, must complete *NHI Course 130078 - Fracture Critical Inspection Techniques for Steel Bridges*. Proof of NSTM training must be transmitted to either address provided above to be considered an NSTM Team Leader.

### Underwater Team Lead Requirements

In addition to meeting the Team Leader requirements, the NBIS §650.309(e) requires Underwater Bridge (UW) Inspection divers Team Leaders must complete *NHI Course 130091 - Underwater Bridge Inspection*. These requirements do not apply to accompanying divers whose purpose is the safety of the inspection team. Proof of UW Inspection training must be transmitted to either address provided above to be considered a UW Team Leader.

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