

**BRIDGE CONSTRUCTION
BULLETIN**



Approved: _____

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**File: BCM 120-2.1
FALSEWORK**

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Supersedes:

Subject: Reporting of Impaired Clearances at Falsework Traffic Openings

Background

To ensure the movement of goods across the State Highway System (SHS) it is necessary to provide traffic openings through construction projects. During bridge construction, openings through the falsework allow the passage of traffic to meet this requirement. When these traffic openings through the falsework restrict the height of vehicles using the SHS, it is necessary to notify the Division of Traffic Operations, Office of Truck Services. The Highway Design Manual mandates that traffic openings should have a vertical clearance of at least 15 feet and clearances less than 15 feet require a design exemption.

Recent events including field changes of the vertical clearance to less than 15 feet and incorrectly reporting the actual vertical clearance have required the Offices of Structure Construction to implement a quality assurance step into the process of reporting changes to vertical and horizontal clearances. The quality assurance review will require the Bridge Construction Engineer to review the "Notice of Change in Clearance or Bridge Weight Rating" before initial submission to the Resident Engineer or Truck Services.

Current Practice

Structure Representative:

- Determines the theoretical clearance of the falsework traffic opening using the guidance in BCM 120-2.0
- Verifies that the opening clearance is greater than or equal to the dimensions for traffic openings given in the Contract Special Provisions.
- Completes the form Form TR-0019 or TR-0029.
- Reports the impaired clearance to the Resident Engineer or Office of Truck Services or both depending on District protocols 15 days prior to erecting falsework.
- Verifies Office of Truck Services received the "Notice of Change in Clearance or Bridge Weight Rating." (return fax).

- Measures the clearance when the impairment is placed.
- Verifies that the measured clearance is greater or equal to the clearance previously reported.
- Takes appropriate action if the measured clearance is less than that previously reported.
- Submits a revised clearance if it is different or if the ultimate clearance will be less than previously reported.
- Submits a revised clearance prior to falsework being lowered if the clearance will be less than that previously reported.

New Practice

In addition to the above procedures the following additional duties have been added to the roles of:

Structure Representative:

- Attach a copy of the Contract Special Provision page showing the traffic opening requirements for the structure under consideration to the file copy.
- If applicable attach copies of Contract Change Orders that modify the dimensions of the traffic opening listed on the “Notice of Change in Clearance or Bridge Weight Rating” to the file copy.
- Have the Bridge Construction Engineer review and initial the “Notice of Change in Clearance or Bridge Weight Rating”.

Bridge Construction Engineer:

- Ensures that the determination of the theoretical clearance is correct.
- Ensures the Contract Special Provision requirements have been met.
- Reviews the “Notice of Change in Clearance or Bridge Weight Rating” and if it is correct **initials the** “Notice of Change in Clearance or Bridge Weight Rating.”
- Ensures remaining steps of the process are understood.

OSC Oversight Engineer

- With Local Agency Structure Representative:
 - Ensures that the determination of the theoretical clearance is correct.
 - Ensures the Contract Special Provision requirements have been met.
 - Reviews the “Notice of Change in Clearance or Bridge Weight Rating” and if it is correct **initials the** “Notice of Change in Clearance or Bridge Weight Rating.”
 - Ensures remaining steps of the process are understood.

Related Guidance

Bridge Construction Records and Procedures, BCM 120-2.0, Impaired Clearances at Falsework Traffic Openings

Bridge Construction Records and Procedures, BCM 2-20.0, Notice of Change in Structure Clearance or Permit Rating
Construction Manual, Section 3-705, Public Safety
Standard Specifications, 7-1.09, Public Safety
Contract Special Provisions, Maintaining Traffic and/or Order of Work
Highway Design Manual, Section 204.8, Grade Line of Structures