

**Nordholm, Gail [DOT]**

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**From:** Nordholm, Gail [DOT]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, February 04, 2009 3:48 PM  
**To:** Nordholm, Gail [DOT]  
**Subject:** Bridges Utilizing Precast Concrete Deck Panels

**TO:** County Engineers, City Representatives, and Consultants  
Gail Nordholm Iowa DOT - Local Systems gail.nordholm@dot.iowa.gov

**CC:** District Local Systems Engineers, Service Bureau  
and Office of Local Systems

**FROM:** Office of Local Systems

**SUBJECT:** Bridges Utilizing Precast Concrete Deck Panels

**DATE:** February 4, 2009

Please see the following memo from the Office of Bridges and Structures.  
If you have any questions, please do not reply to this note. Instead you  
may contact Eric Souhrada as indicated below.

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The Office of Bridges and Structures has become aware that there are local bridges in the state that have been constructed utilizing precast concrete deck panels that have not been load rated to ensure that they have the capacity to carry legal loads.

The National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS), Section 650.313, requires each bridge structure be rated as to its safe load carrying capacity in accordance with AASHTO. The AASHTO Manual for Condition Evaluation of Bridges article 2.5.1 requires that a record of calculations be kept to determine the operating and inventory ratings of the each bridge and where necessary the load limits for posting. Article 2.2.17 requires that each bridge record include a complete record of the determination of the bridge's load-carrying capacity.

Therefore, each bridge owner or designated program manager is responsible for ensuring that their bridge inspection program includes load rating calculations for each bridge structure and that the calculations be included in the bridge file folder. Local agencies that do not meet these criteria will be considered not in compliance with the NBIS. The Federal Highway Administration has stated that Federal Aid highway funds are conditional on compliance with the NBIS.

If there are any questions regarding this issue, contact me as soon as possible.

Eric Souhrada

Office of Bridges and Structures  
Iowa Department of Transportation  
515-233-7720 (office)  
515-290-2841 (mobile)  
[eric.souhrada@dot.iowa.com](mailto:eric.souhrada@dot.iowa.com)

Note: Documents are in Adobe Acrobat's pdf format. If you do not have the Adobe Acrobat Reader software, you can download it free of charge at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep.html>.

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