



Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

September 24, 2009

CIRCULAR LETTER 2009-13

BRIDGE POSTING WITH 80,000 POUND LEGAL LOADS

COUNTY ENGINEERS/SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS/DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

This Circular Letter (CL) provides information to local agencies and others regarding recent legislation, which affects the maximum legal weight and width of trucks operating on Illinois highways.

Public Act 96-0034 (HB 255) and P.A. 96-0037 (HB 2424) became law on July 13, 2009 and will take effect on **January 1, 2010**. These Public Acts increase the legal load on all Illinois highways to 80,000 pounds.

Additionally, P.A. 96-0220 (SB 1450), allowing vehicle widths up to 8'-6" on all Illinois highways, became law on August 10, 2009 and will also take effect on **January 1, 2010**. Although this legislation affects truck widths on all highways in Illinois, no directives are currently offered by the department.

LEGAL LOAD ONLY HISTORY. Pursuant to P.A. 93-0971, which allowed the issuance of long term permits, the department on August 30, 2004 issued CL 2004-12, located at <http://www.dot.il.gov/blr/manuals/cl2004-12.pdf>. Prior to issuing CL 2004-12, a structural assessment of the bridge inventory was performed by the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) to evaluate the load-carrying capacity of the bridges listed in the Illinois Structure Information System (ISIS). This assessment resulted in a list of structures that can carry routine traffic within the limits specified for legally configured vehicles by the Illinois Vehicle Code, but cannot routinely carry the overweight permit vehicles allowed by that legislation. These structures are commonly referred to as "Legal Load Only" (LLO) bridges. Based on this assessment, CL 2004-12 established a list of structures that is maintained on IDOT website under Public Partners/Resources for Local Agencies at <http://www.dot.il.gov/blr/LLOBridgeList.pdf>.

LLO LIST UPDATES. It is important to note that this LLO list is provided at a certain point in time, and the website is not updated routinely. The department provides revised load ratings to local agencies via rating letters. Local agencies should update their list of posted and LLO structures upon receipt

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of these rating letters. However, with the issuance of ratings letters, the department routinely updates the coding for ISIS item 70 as "L" and ISIS item 70A1 as "LL" for LLO structures. Local agencies may query SIMS - County at <http://www.dot.il.gov/sims/sims.html> for revised bridge information.

POSTING LLO STRUCTURES. With the enactment of P.A. 96-0034 and P.A. 96-0037, the department has determined, based primarily on structure condition and volume of trucks, that a number of LLO structures will require load posting starting January 1, 2010. We anticipate such structures will be posted at 22 tons for Single Unit Vehicles, 29 tons for Combination Vehicles with 3 or 4 axles, and 36 tons for Combination Vehicles with 5 or more axles.

As the inventory of LLO structures is continuously updated by load ratings performed by the department, local agencies will be notified later this year of structures requiring the above posting.

LLO STRUCTURES TO REMAIN. LLO structures not requiring a load posting will remain on the LLO list.

Overweight vehicles should not cross LLO bridges, and permits allowing travel over these bridges should not be issued. Vehicles traveling with annual permits must obey posted weight limits. Although not required, weight limit signs erected adjacent to LLO bridges will alert vehicles operating under a single trip or annual permit of the need to use an alternate route. Such signs allow law enforcement to discern that overweight permit vehicles should not traverse the LLO structure.

At their discretion, the local agency may erect weight limit signs at the structure. If signs are erected, we recommend the signs specify a limit of 10 tons per axle, 40 tons gross vehicle weight. Attachment A provides information for a typical "LLO" sign.

LLO structures will not be subject to the department's policy for Posting and Closure Review.

STRUCTURE LOAD RATINGS. Since 2004, the department has made a concerted effort to reduce the LLO list by inspecting and re-rating structures on the LLO list. However, due to the volume of re-rates and the department's limited resources, a significant number of structures has not yet been inspected and analyzed.

If a local agency wishes to verify a load rating, it may request a re-rate by contacting the Local Bridge Unit (LBU). The LBU can advise if rating history is available and if the department can perform a rating in a timely manner. Alternatively, the local agency may employ a licensed structural engineer to perform load ratings of structures under its jurisdiction. However, the department's concurrence must be obtained in accordance with the Illinois Vehicle Code, 625 ILCS 5/15-317. This includes any bridge or other elevated

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structure constituting a part of a highway that is not subject to the National Bridge Inspection Standards (NBIS), such as those structures with lengths less than or equal to 20 feet

NON-NBIS STRUCTURES (STRUCTURES \leq 20 FEET). Structures less than or equal to 20 feet are not subject to the NBIS, and therefore, are of particular concern.

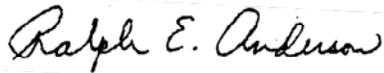
These structures are under the authority of the department when establishing weight limitations. It is important that local agencies inspect such structures for deficiencies that may affect load capacity.

Requests for load ratings for these structures should be made using the Bureau of Local Roads and Streets' form BLR 06510 "Local Agency Load Rating Request," located at <http://www.dot.il.gov/blr/blrforms.html> and may be directed by the local agency (through the County Engineer for non-municipal agencies) to the Local Bridge Unit, generally through the District Bureau of Local Roads and Streets.

The provisions noted above regarding department availability due to the department's limited resources apply.

If you have any questions, please contact Mr. Jim Klein at (217) 782-5928.

Sincerely,



Ralph E. Anderson, P.E., S.E.
Engineer of Bridges and Structures



Darrell W. Lewis, P.E.
Acting Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

Attachment

cc: Dan Brydl, FHWA - Illinois Division
Gary Iles, Illinois Department of Natural Resources
Elias Ajami, Illinois State Toll Highway Authority
Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois
Les Hild, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois (Mt. Pulaski, Logan County)

BLRS CIRCULAR LETTER 2009-13
ATTACHMENT A

ILLINOIS STANDARD
R12-I108



Black on white (retroreflective)
0.625" border
0.375" margin
1.5" corner radius

NOTE: This sign is similar to the national standard R12-4 with the second line modified by elimination of the "PER" to shorten the line to better fit the sign with the two digit number. Also, note that the first line on the national standard is not drawn to scale.