

ENGINEERING DIRECTIVES AND STANDARDS

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SUBJECT: VERIFICATION OF NAVIGATIONAL CLEARANCES AT ALL BRIDGES CONSTRUCTED OVER NAVIGABLE WATERWAYS

1. **PURPOSE:** To insure that the Department obtains accurate navigational clearances at all new LA DOTD bridges constructed over navigable waters.
2. **SCOPE:** This Directive specifies the information required by the Department and the United States Coast Guard. The Coast Guard lists this information in publications used by mariners.
3. **POLICY:** The following information shall be obtained and forwarded to the Structures & Facilities Maintenance Engineer with a copy to the Construction Audit Section for their records:
 - A. The minimum navigational horizontal clearance between fenders, piers or bents for all navigational channels under the structure show on the Coast Guard permit.
 - B. The minimum vertical distances between any part of the bridge structure and the surface of the water at any point of the navigable channel. In the case of movable bridges these measurements shall be taken with the movable bridge span in both the fully closed and fully open position. These vertical distances shall be the distances above both the established "Low Water" and "High Water" elevations as shown on the bridge plans. Sketches shall be submitted showing all measurements made.
4. **RESPONSIBILITY:** The Area Engineer shall be responsible for ensuring that the above specified information is obtained on all new construction projects. The Construction Audit Section shall verify that they have received this information prior to approval of the final estimate. The Structures & Facilities Maintenance Engineer shall notify the United States Coast Guard when navigational clearances deviate from planned (permit) clearances.
5. **OTHER ISSUANCES AFFECTED:** All directives, memoranda, or instructions issued heretofore in conflict with this directive are hereby rescinded.
6. **EFFECTIVE DATE:** This directive shall become effective immediately

RICHARD L. SAVOIE, P.E.
CHIEF ENGINEER