

Director of Engineering Memorandum DEM 197/26

Title	TRAM Structures Inspector Competence
Version	1
Purpose	To set out the competence requirements for DfI TRAM staff to undertake structures inspections.

Date Issued 12 October 2026

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Scope

This DEM applies to all DfI staff undertaking highway structures inspections, to DMRB CS450, on behalf of the department. This DEM should be read in conjunction with DMRB CS450 and the associated NI NAA.

Background

DfI, as the Roads Authority for NI has a statutory duty under Article 8 of the Roads (Northern Ireland) Order 1993 to maintain public roads.

The inspection and maintenance of highway structures is an important aspect of highway maintenance and one that contributes significantly to the safety of the road network.

Section 9 of DMRB CS450 sets out the competence requirements for the members of structures inspection teams. A notable requirement of the core standard is for inspectors to be certified in compliance with National Highway Sector Scheme (NHSS) 31, with the Bridge Inspector Certification Scheme (BICS) being the only registered scheme currently in existence to assess and demonstrate this required level of competence. CS450 does note that other providers can establish a similar training scheme in accordance with NHSS31 to demonstrate competence.

DfI has developed a Bridge Inspector Training Course, based on the principles of NHSS31 and CS450, for DfI Highway Structures Inspectors.

CS450 NI NAA (1.19) states that *'The competence and certification requirements shall apply in full to all inspectors except those department staff who have otherwise been deemed competent in accordance with department policy.'* The department policy is outlined below.

Policy/Guidance

Lead Inspector competence requirements

Principal Inspections

The lead inspector shall be HPTO/GT grade (or equivalent) or above, have successfully completed the DfI Bridge Inspector Training Course and have had 10 days on the job training on a wide range of bridges and other highway structures.

Dfl PTO inspectors that have successfully completed the Dfl Bridge Inspector Training Course, have a minimum of 3 years experience in bridge maintenance and have had 10 days on the job training on a wide range of bridges and other highway structures may act as lead inspector for the Principal Inspection of masonry highway structures.

General Inspections

The lead inspector must have successfully completed the Dfl Bridge Inspector Training Course and have a minimum of 10 days on the job training as part of an inspection team on a wide range of bridges and other highway structures.

All bridge inspections shall be carried out by a team comprising of a minimum of two persons.

The inspection of other (non-bridge) structures may be undertaken by a single inspector, who has the requisite training and experience - the decision to undertake one-person structures inspections must have the approval of the team's SPTO and be informed and supported by the outcome of site-specific risk assessment.

References

[DMRB CS450 – Inspection of highway structures
\(Standardsforhighways.co.uk\)](http://Standardsforhighways.co.uk)

Equality

This policy has been considered under S75 screening process. It has been screened out and as such a full Equality Impact Assessment is not required.

Rural Needs

This policy has undergone Rural Needs proofing and as such a full Rural Needs Assessment is not required.

Privacy

No personal information will be gathered as a result of the application of this so a Privacy Impact Assessment is not required.

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Director of Engineering

DfI Transport and Road Asset Management

24 Sept 2026