

HR-239, Engineering Study to Evaluate Secondary Bridges with Respect to Current Truck Length and Weight Laws

Abstract

Tragic failures of a few bridges in the United States have given substantial emphasis to bridge safety. Over the years, the allowable loads on highways and bridges have gradually increased. Recent legislation has again granted an increase for six or seven axle trucks and trucks carrying livestock or construction materials.

Project HR-239 was initiated and load ratings for secondary bridges were distributed in 1973. Phase II produced load ratings that were distributed in 1991. Due to the changes in weight laws, a new update was needed. These were published in the Phase III report in 1998.

All three compilations of load ratings are available from the Research office.