

A.1 Introduction - General

“Informed inspection is the link between design and construction.”¹ This quotation summarizes the essence of the Bridge Inspector’s job.

- The ability to fulfil this requirement will be enhanced with experience.
- The Bridge Construction Inspection Manual should be reviewed regularly by even the most experienced Bridge Inspector.
- Sections B and C of the Bridge Construction Inspection describe the administrative duties and the role of a bridge inspector.
- Subsequent sections deal with the more technical details of the inspection phases of the Contractor’s work and will assist to give an understanding of the order in which things must be done.

The completion of a bridge structure is a team effort between design, material, and construction personnel, requiring academic knowledge and many years of related experience. Successful completion of the bridge depends on the efforts of the Contractor **and to a very large extent the quality of the inspection performed during construction**. The completed work “may range from downright dangerous, through safe but not really working properly, or satisfactory in all major respects, to fulfilling the requirements of the specifications in every respect.”¹

In order to ensure that the bridge construction falls within the last two descriptions - and preferably the last one - the requirements of “informed” inspection include:

- A knowledge of the principles of design
- Skill in interpreting drawings
- Skill in anticipating possible problems
- An understanding of the order in which things must be done
- Regular systematic inspection of standards of construction
- Inspection and testing of materials
- Performing accurate surveys and checking dimensions
- Keeping and maintaining sufficient records

¹John Watts MICE

- A sense of proportion and a GREAT DEAL OF PERSEVERANCE

A cheerful disposition and a positive attitude will help to maintain appropriate relations with the Contractor.