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## Steel Superstructures



**Presented By: Michael L. McCool, Jr., PE**

A photograph of a bridge construction site. A large concrete pump truck with a long, articulated blue boom is positioned on the right, pouring concrete onto a bridge deck. The deck is covered with a green plastic sheet. In the background, a yellow crane is visible. The scene is set against a backdrop of green trees and a blue sky with some clouds. A red date stamp 'AUG 28 2002' is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.

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### Design for Constructability

#### Introduction

The use of higher strength steels in obtaining such long spans creates the need for designers to consider additional aspects associated with the construction of the bridge.



A photograph of a bridge under construction over a river. The bridge features a long span supported by several concrete piers. The steel superstructure is visible, and the surrounding area is lush with green trees. A red date stamp 'AUG 28 2002' is visible in the bottom right corner of the photo.

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**Introduction**

Many times the critical stress in a particular component is encountered during the erection of the bridge where large unbraced lengths affect the stability of the partially completed structure.



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**Construction Loads**

The AASHTO *LRFD Bridge Design Specifications* do not completely address the loadings that should be considered during construction of steel bridges.



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**Construction Loads**

Some general statements are provided saying that investigations should be made for handling, transportation and erection, but no quantification is given.



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**Construction Loads**

Some guidance is provided for the application of load factors for dead loads, dynamic effects (impact) and wind, but specific load combinations are not explicitly defined.



## Steel Superstructures



**INDIANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
*Driving Indiana's Economic Growth*  
**Design Memorandum No. 10-18**  
**Policy Change**

July 9, 2010

**TO:** All Design, Operations, and District Personnel, and Consultants

**FROM:** Dr. Anthony J. Tomaszewski  
 Anthony L. Uremowich  
 Design Resources Engineer  
 Production Management Division

**SUBJECT:** Bridge Construction Loads Considerations



**ADDS:** *Indiana Design Manual Section 60-3.10*

**EFFECTIVE:** October 1, 2010 Stage J Submission

Construction loadings shall be evaluated in accordance with AASHTO *LRFD* Article 3.4.2. Article 3.4.2.1 addresses evaluation at the Strength Limit State. Article 3.4.2.2 addresses the evaluation or detection at the Service Limit State.

Construction loadings are typically not accurately known during the design stage. As a minimum, the values listed in Figure 10-18A or 10-18B, Construction Loading, shown below, should be used. However, these values may be increased if information supporting increased construction loads is available during the design stage. The source of this information should be documented in the design calculations. The magnitude and location of the assumed construction loadings used for design should be shown in the contract documents.

For a beam or girder structure, the information shown in Figure 10-18A for an english-unit project (Figure 10-18B for a metric-unit project) should be shown on the General Plan. If increased loads are permitted, the appropriate values in the figure should be changed accordingly. The exterior beams or girders should be checked for the specified construction loadings.

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PDF versions of the required information to be incorporated onto the General Plan sheet are attached herewith.

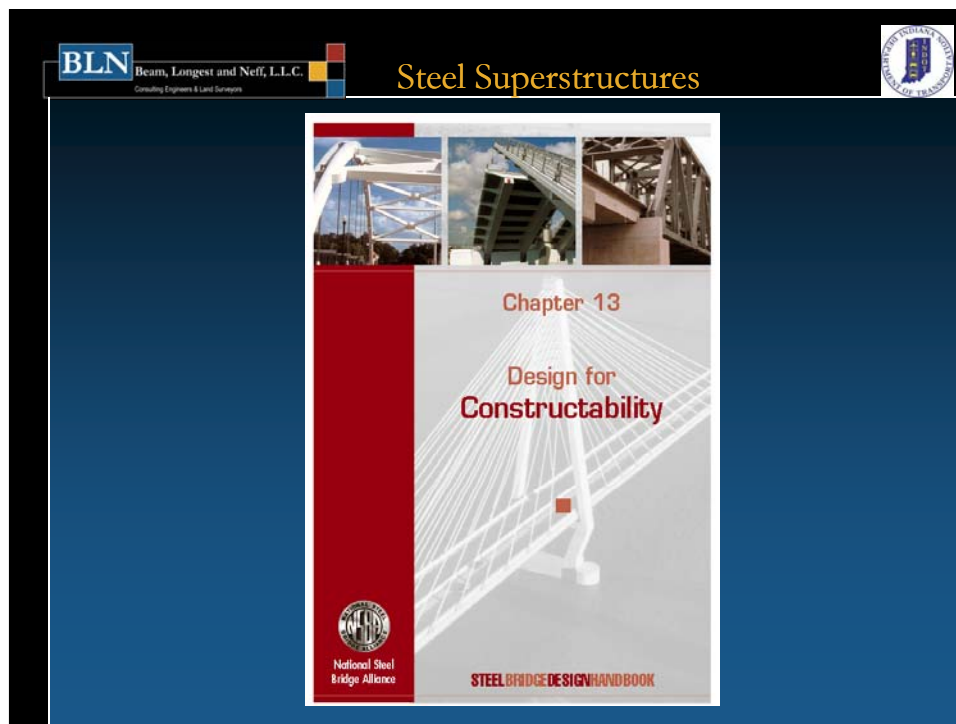
**CONSTRUCTION LOADING**

The exterior girder has been checked for strength, deflection, and overturning using the construction loads shown below. Cantilever overhang brackets were assumed for support of the deck overhang past the edge of the exterior girder. The finishing machine was assumed to be supported 6 in. outside the vertical coping form. The top overhang brackets were assumed to be located 6 in. past the edge of the vertical coping form. The bottom overhang brackets were assumed to be braced against the intersection of the girder bottom flange and web.

Deck Falsework Load:	Designed for 15 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> for permanent metal stay-in-place deck forms, removable deck forms, and 2-ft exterior walkway.
Construction Live Load:	Designed for 20 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> extending 2 ft past the edge of coping and 75 lb-ft vertical force applied at a distance of 6 in. outside the face of coping over a 30-ft length of the deck centered with the finishing machine.
Finishing-Machine Load:	4500 lb distributed over 10 ft along the coping.
Wind Load:	Designed for 70 mph horizontal wind loading of 50 lb/ft <sup>2</sup> in accordance with AASHTO <i>Grade Design Specifications for Bridge Temporary Works</i> (1993), Figure 2.1.




**CONSTRUCTION LOADINGS INFORMATION TO BE SHOWN ON GENERAL PLAN, ENGLISH-UNIT'S PROJECT**

Figure 10-18A



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## AASHTO Section 2: General Design and Location Features

### 2.5.3 Constructability

Constructability issues should include, but not be limited to, consideration of *deflection*, *strength* of steel and concrete, and *stability* during *critical stages* of construction.

Bridges should be designed in a manner such that fabrication and erection can be performed without undue difficulty or distress and that locked-in construction force effects are within tolerable limits.

When the designer has assumed a *particular sequence* of construction in order to induce certain stresses under dead load, that sequence shall be defined in the contract documents.



## AASHTO Section 3: Loads and Load Factors

### 3.4.2 Load Factors for Construction Loads

#### 3.4.2.1 Evaluation at the Strength Limit State

All appropriate strength load combinations in Table 3.4.1-1, modified as specified herein, shall be investigated.

When investigating *Strength Load Combinations I, III, and V* during construction, load factors for the weight of the structure and appurtenances, *DC* and *DW*, shall not be taken to be less than 1.25.

Unless otherwise specified by the Owner, the load factor for construction loads and for any associated dynamic effects shall not be less than 1.5 in Strength Load Combination I. The load factor for wind in Strength Load Combination III shall not be less than 1.25.



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**AASHTO Section 3: Loads and Load Factors**

**C3.4.2.1**

The load factors presented here *should not relieve the contractor of responsibility for safety and damage control during construction.*

Construction loads are permanent loads and other loads that act on the structure only during construction. Construction loads include the *weight of equipment such as deck finishing machines* or loads applied to the structure through falsework or other temporary supports. Often the construction loads are not *accurately known at design time*; however, the magnitude and location of these loads considered in the design should be *noted on the contract documents.*



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**AASHTO Section 3: Loads and Load Factors**

**3.4.2.2 Evaluation of Deflection at the Service Limit State**

In the absence of special provisions to the contrary, where evaluation of construction *deflections* are required by the contract documents, *Load Combination Service I* shall apply. Construction dead loads shall be considered as part of the permanent load and construction transient loads considered part of the live load. The associated permitted deflections shall be included in the contract documents.



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**Design for Constructability**

**Deck Placement**

Typically, the most critical stage in the construction of girder bridges occurs during placement of the concrete deck, since the bridge is being loaded with the majority of its dead load while only discrete bracing stabilizes the most vulnerable top compression flange components.



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#### Construction Loads

*Construction live loads* should be considered in evaluating the adequacy of the bridge. This loading is intended to cover all miscellaneous equipment and personnel that cannot easily be quantified at the time of design.





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### Design for Constructability

**Construction Loads**

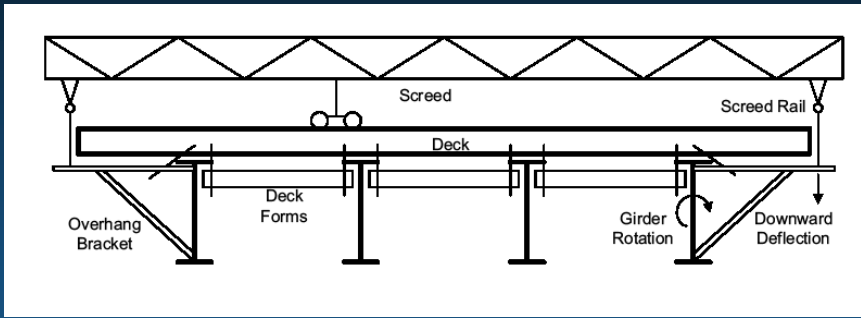
*Wind loads during construction can be one of the most critical aspects to evaluate for conventional girder bridges, since the concrete deck is typically used to transmit these force effects back to the support locations.*

*AASHTO's Guide Design Specifications for Bridge Temporary Works.*



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### Design for Constructability

#### Deck Placement

*Overhang brackets* are typically used to support deck forms in the area beyond the edges of the fascia girders. The overhang brackets can create significant lateral flange bending forces in the top and bottom flanges of the fascia girder due to the eccentricity of the loads and the hanger connection to the flange.

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### Design for Constructability

**Stability**

Stability of the girders during erection and subsequent construction stages is of primary importance to the designer since it is typically the driving factor in the selection of crossframe spacing's, top flange width and lateral bracing requirements.




The image shows three construction workers on a steel girder structure. One worker is on top of the girder, while two others are on the ground below, looking up at the structure. The background shows a wooded area.

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The image shows a large crane lifting a long steel girder over a bridge. The crane is a white truck-mounted crane with a long boom. The girder is being lifted by a cable. The bridge is a concrete structure with a large opening. The background shows a wooded area and a body of water.



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### Construction Plan Notes

#### Design Data

CONSTRUCTION LOADING


*The exterior girder has been checked for strength, deflection and overturning using the construction loads shown below. Cantilever overhang brackets were assumed for support of the deck overhang past the edge of the exterior girder. The finishing machine was assumed to be supported 6 inches outside the vertical coping form. The top overhang brackets were assumed to be located 6 inches past the edge of the vertical coping form. The bottom overhang brackets were assumed to be braced against the intersection of the girder bottom flange and web.*

**DECK FALSEWORK LOADS:** *Designed for 15 psf for permanent metal stay-in-place deck forms, removable deck forms and 2' exterior walkway.*

**CONSTRUCTION LIVE LOAD:** *Designed for 20 psf Construction Live Load extending 2' past the edge of coping and 75 PLF vertical force applied at a distance of 6 inches outside the face of coping over a 30 foot deck area centered with the finishing machine.*


**FINISHING MACHINE LOAD:** *4500 lbs distributed over 10 feet along the coping.*

**WIND LOAD:** *Designed for 70 mph horizontal wind loading (50 psf) in accordance with A.A.S.H.T.O. Guide Design Specifications (1995) for Bridge Temporary Works Fig 2.1*



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### Construction Loads

#### Loads during construction are:

**DC = Dead Load from Bridge Members, Formwork, Deck, etc.**

DC1 – Concrete = 150 lbs/ft<sup>3</sup>

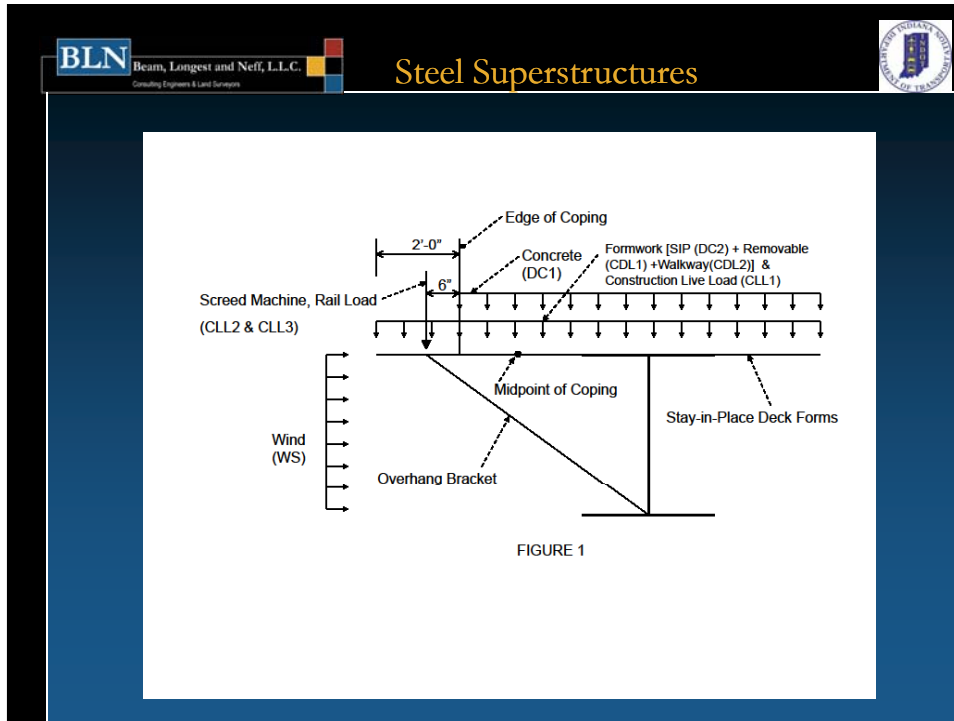
DC2 – Stay-in-place Formwork = 15 psf

**DW = N/A for Non-Composite Construction**

**CDL = Construction Equipment loads such as screed rails, overhang forms, temp railing, walkway**

CDL1 – Removable Coping Deck Forms = 15 psf

CDL2 – Temporary Walkway = 15 psf – applied over a 2'-0" wide platform on outside of coping



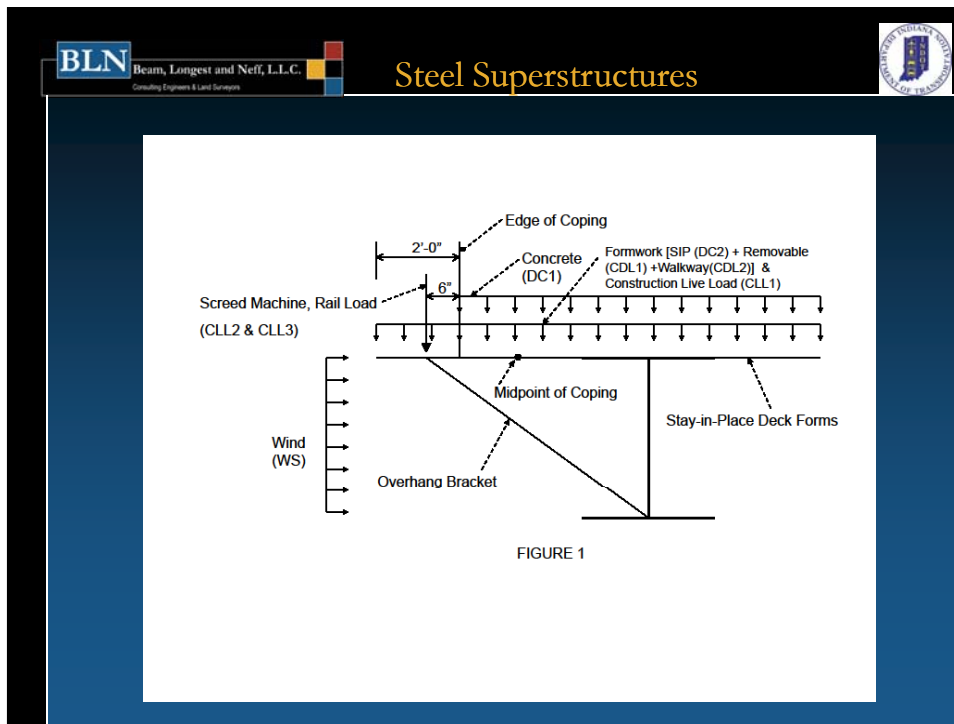
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### Construction Loads

**Loads during construction are:**

**CLL = Construction Live Load such as Screed Machine and Workers**

- CLL1 – Construction Live Load = 20 psf extended the entire bridge width plus two feet outside of bridge coping over 30 feet longitudinal length centered on Screed Machine Load**
- CLL2 –Screed Machine = 4500 lbs over 10 feet longitudinal length applied 6 in outside of bridge coping.**
- CLL3 – Vertical Railing and Walkway Load = 75 plf applied 6 in outside of bridge coping over 30 feet longitudinal length centered on Screed Machine Load**



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### Construction Loads

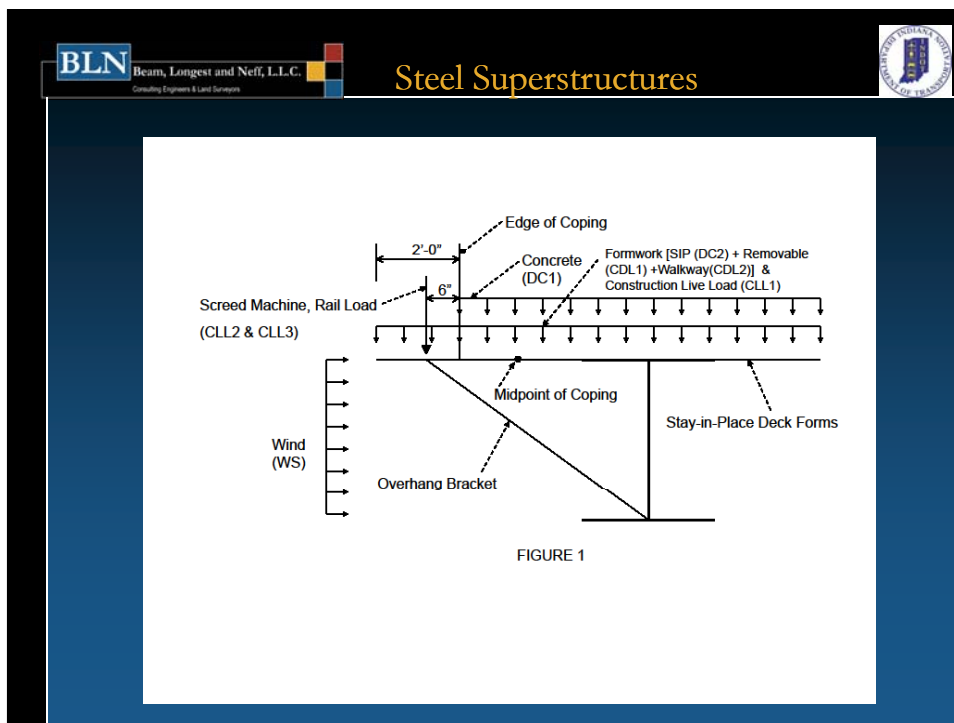
**Loads during construction are:**

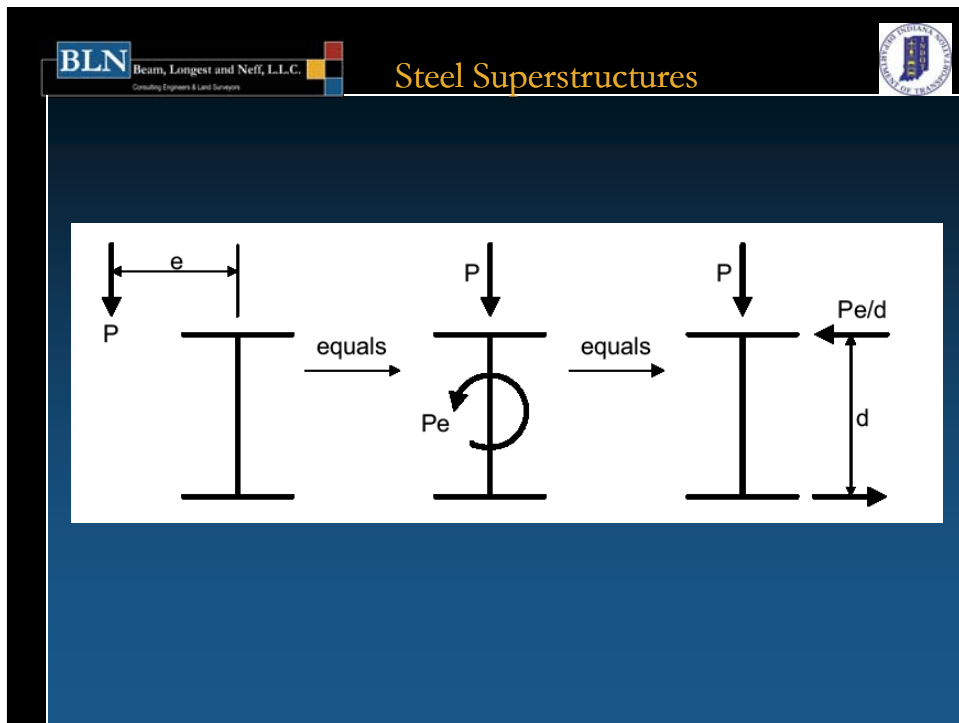
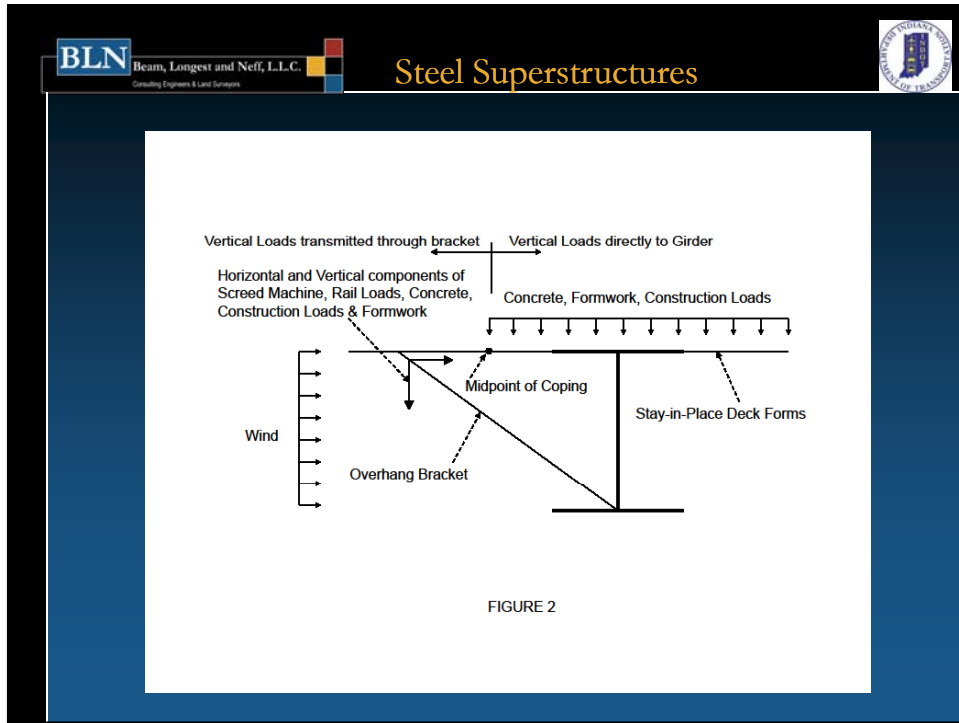
**WS = Wind Load on exposed height of the Structure (negligible for interior girders)**

WS - Calculated per AASHTO 3.8.1.1 (use 70 mph per AASHTO Temporary works manual Fig 2.1.

**WCEL = Wind Load on screed machine (negligible)**







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**Load Factors**

**Load Combinations in accordance with AASHTO 3.4.2.1 and 3.4.2.2:**

**STRENGTH I -  $1.25(DC + DW) + 1.5(CDL + CLL)$**

**STRENGTH III -  $1.25(DC + DW) + 1.5(CDL) + 1.25(WS)$**

**STRENGTH IV -  $1.5(DC + DW) + 1.5(CDL)$**

**STRENGTH V -  $1.25(DC+DW)+1.5(CDL)+1.35(CLL)+0.4(WS)$**

**SERVICE I -  $1.0(DC+DW)+1.0(CDL)+1.0(CLL) +0.3(WS)$**

**SERVICE II -  $1.0(DC+DW)+1.0(CDL)+1.3(CLL)$**

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## Steel Superstructures

### AASHTO Section 6: Steel Structures

#### 6.10.3 Constructibility

##### 6.10.3.1 General


The provisions of Article 2.5.3 shall apply. In addition to providing adequate strength, nominal yielding or reliance on post-buckling resistance shall not be permitted for main load-carrying members during critical stages of construction, except for yielding of the web in hybrid sections. This shall be accomplished by satisfying the requirements of Articles 6.10.3.2 and 6.10.3.3 at each **critical construction stage**. For sections in positive flexure that are composite in the final condition, but are noncomposite during construction, the provisions of Article 6.10.3.4 shall apply. For investigating the **constructability of flexural members, all loads shall be factored as specified in Article 3.4.2**. For the calculation of **deflections**, the load factors shall be taken as 1.0.

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### AASHTO Figure C6.4.1-1

#### Constructibility

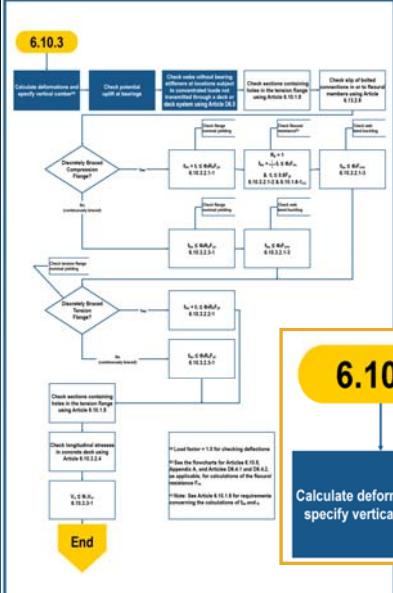


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**6.10.3**



### Deflections

Construction deflections are for Dead Load only.

Deflection <math>< L/240</math>


*AASHTO's Guide Design Specifications for Bridge Temporary Works.*

**6.10.3**

Calculate deformations and specify vertical camber<sup>(a)</sup>


Check potential uplift at bearings

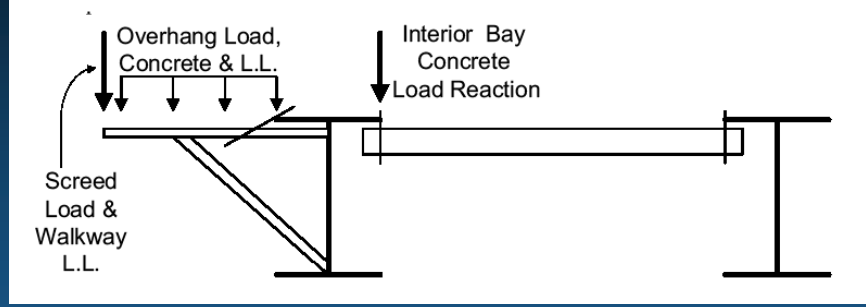
Check webs without bearing stiffeners at locations subject to concentrated loads not transmitted through a deck or deck system using Article D6.5



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### Limit States

#### Lateral Girder Rotation Check

This check ensures excessive overhang deflections do not occur during the deck pour which can adversely affect the finished grades. (Deflection @ Screed Rail < 0.2 in)

FIGURE 3

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6.10.3

Check sections containing holes in the tension flange using Article 6.10.1.8

→

Check slip of bolted connections in or to flexural members using Article 6.13.2.8

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### Limit States

Diaphragm Slip Critical Bolt Check

This check ensures that the connection used to attach the diaphragms to the webs of the steel members is adequate to resist the moment caused by the lateral rotation of the girder and horizontal force caused by the overhang bracket.

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6.10.3

Discretely Braced  
Compression  
Flange?

Yes

Check flange  
nominal yielding

$f_{bu} + f_c \leq \Phi R_n F_{yc}$   
6.10.3.2.1-1

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### Limit States

**Yielding Limit State Check**

This check ensures that the maximum combined stress in the compression flange will not exceed the specified minimum yield strength of the flange times the hybrid factor.

$$f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yc}$$

6.10.3.2.1-1

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Check flexural resistance<sup>(b)</sup>

$$R_b = 1$$

$$f_{bu} + \frac{1}{3} f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f F_{nc}$$

**&  $f_{\ell} \leq 0.6F_{yt}$**   
 6.10.3.2.1-2 & 6.10.1.6-1(c)



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### Limit States

**Lateral Torsional Buckling and Flange Local Buckling Check**

This check ensures the member has sufficient strength with respect to lateral torsional and flange local buckling based limit states, including the consideration of flange lateral bending where these effects are judged to be significant.

$$R_b = 1$$

$$f_{bu} + \frac{1}{3} f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f F_{nc}$$

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**6.10.3**

$$R_b = 1$$

$$f_{bu} + \frac{1}{3} f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f F_{nc}$$

$$\& f_{\ell} \leq 0.6 F_{yt}$$

**6.10.3.2.1-2 & 6.10.1.6-1(c)**



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## Limit States

Web Bend Buckling Check

This check ensures that the theoretical web bend-buckling will not occur in construction. This check need not be performed if the web is compact or non-compact per AASHTO 6.10.6.2.3.

$$f_{bu} \leq \Phi_f F_{crw}$$

6.10.3.2.1-3

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6.10.3

Discretely Braced Tension Flange?

Yes →  $f_{bu} + f_t \leq \Phi_f R_n F_{yt}$   
6.10.3.2.2-1

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### Limit States

**Discretely Braced Flange in Tension Check**

This check ensures that the stress in the flange will not exceed the specified minimum strength of the flange times the hybrid factor during construction under the combination of the major-axis bending and lateral bending stresses due to factored loads.

$$f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yt}$$

6.10.3.2.2-1

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**6.10.3**

Calculate deflections and verify vertical clearance? → Yes/No → Secondary Braced Composite Flange? → Yes/No →  $f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yt}$  (6.10.3.2.1) → Check sections containing holes in the tension flange using Article 6.10.1.8 → End

Check potential uplift at bearing → Check web with bearing stiffeners of tension subject to concentrated loads and moment through a hole in steel section using Article 6.10.1.9 →  $f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yt}$  (6.10.3.2.1) → Check sections containing holes in the tension flange using Article 6.10.1.8 → End

Check sections containing holes in the tension flange using Article 6.10.1.8 →  $f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yt}$  (6.10.3.2.1) → End

Check web with bearing stiffeners of tension subject to concentrated loads and moment through a hole in steel section using Article 6.10.1.9 →  $f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yt}$  (6.10.3.2.1) → End

Check web with bearing stiffeners of tension subject to concentrated loads and moment through a hole in steel section using Article 6.10.1.9 →  $f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yt}$  (6.10.3.2.1) → End

Check web with bearing stiffeners of tension subject to concentrated loads and moment through a hole in steel section using Article 6.10.1.9 →  $f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yt}$  (6.10.3.2.1) → End

Check web with bearing stiffeners of tension subject to concentrated loads and moment through a hole in steel section using Article 6.10.1.9 →  $f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yt}$  (6.10.3.2.1) → End


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Check web with bearing stiffeners of tension subject to concentrated loads and moment through a hole in steel section using Article 6.10.1.9 →  $f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yt}$  (6.10.3.2.1) → End


Check web with bearing stiffeners of tension subject to concentrated loads and moment through a hole in steel section using Article 6.10.1.9 →  $f_{bu} + f_{\ell} \leq \Phi_f R_h F_{yt}$  (6.10.3.2.1) → End

Check sections containing holes in the tension flange using Article 6.10.1.8

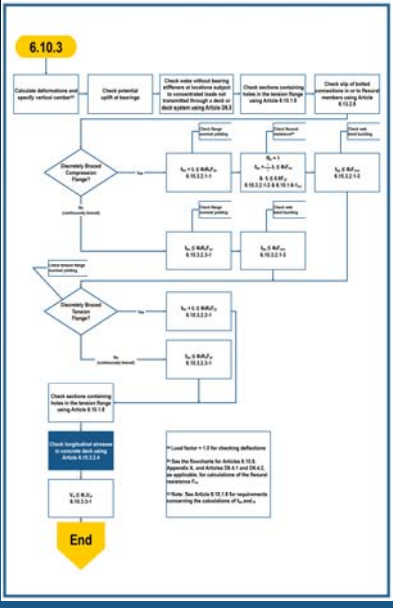


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6.10.3




Check longitudinal stresses  
in concrete deck using  
Article 6.10.3.2.4



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### AASHTO Steel Reference

#### 6.10.1.7 Minimum Negative Flexure Concrete Deck Reinforcement

Wherever the longitudinal tensile stress in the concrete deck due to either the factored construction loads or Load Combination Service II in Table 3.4.1-1 exceeds  $\phi f_r$ , the total cross-sectional area of the longitudinal reinforcement shall not be less than one percent of the total cross-sectional area of the concrete deck.  $\Phi$  shall be taken as 0.9 and  $f_r$  shall be taken as the modulus of rupture of the concrete determined as followed:

For normal-weight concrete:  $f_r = 0.24 \text{ sgrt}(f'_c)$

The longitudinal stresses in the concrete deck shall be determined as specified in Article 6.10.1.1.d. The reinforcement used to satisfy this requirement shall have a specified minimum yield strength not less than 60.0 ksi and a size not exceeding No. 6 bars.



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**6.10.3**

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## Steel Superstructures


### Hybrid Plate Girders

**Application:**


- HPS 70W steel in bottom flange of positive moment region
- HPS 70W steel in top and bottom flanges of negative moment region

**Costs:**

HPS 70W often carries a cost premium of approximately 10% compared to Grade 50W.



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## Steel Superstructures

### Hybrid Plate Girders

**6.10.1.10 Flange-Strength Reduction Factors**

**6.10.1.10.1 Hybrid Factor,  $R_h$**

$$R_h = 12 + B (3\rho - \rho^3) / (12 + 2\beta) \quad (6.10.1.10.1-1)$$

$$B = 2 D_n t_w / A_{fn} \quad (6.10.1.10.1-2)$$

**C6.10.1.10.1**

The  $R_h$  factor accounts for the reduced contribution of the web to the nominal flexural resistance at first yield in any flange element, due to the lower strength steel in the web of a hybrid section.



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## Steel Superstructures

### Hybrid Plate Girders

**References:**

AASHTO Guide Specification for Highway Bridge Fabrication with HPS 70W

FHWA High Performance Steel Links Page

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/hps.htm>


FHWA High Performance Steel Designers' Guide

<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/bridge/guide03.htm>



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**ANY QUESTIONS?**

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