



U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Highway Administration



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FHWA Liaison, U.S. Coast Guard



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Agenda

- Coast Guard Background
- Bridge Program Overview
- FHWA Liaison Support
- Permitting
- MOA
- 144(c)
- Drawbridge Operations, Navigation Lighting and Decorative Lighting



Coast Guard Missions

- Homeland Security Missions:

- Ports, Waterways, and Coastal Security
- Drug Interdiction
- Migrant Interdiction
- Defense Readiness
- Other Law Enforcement



- Non-Homeland Security Missions:

- Marine Safety
- Search and Rescue
- Aids to Navigation
- Living Marine Resources
- Marine Environmental Protection
- Ice Operations







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Bridge Program Overview

- Jurisdiction over 20,000 bridges across navigable waters established by:
 - Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899
 - The Act of March 23, 1906, as amended
 - The General Bridge Act of 1946
 - International Bridge Act of 1972
- 10 district bridge offices with 53 staff members within the program
- Provides for the safe and reasonably unobstructed passage of vessels under bridges
- Conducts or oversees bridge permitting, drawbridge operations, construction monitoring, bridge lighting and alteration of unreasonably obstructive bridges
- FHWA acts as the lead federal agency for the vast majority of highway bridge projects with regard to NEPA and Section 106 review purposes

FHWA Liaison

- Communicate USCG/FHWA agreements and processes to state DOTs
- Works with FHWA to identify gaps in interagency consistency and streamlining of the USCG and FHWA processes related to bridge permitting (e.g., design/build)
- Identify gaps in interagency training, develop training modules to close those gaps, and align joint priorities
- Establish communication links between state DOTs, FHWA regional offices, and USCG district offices



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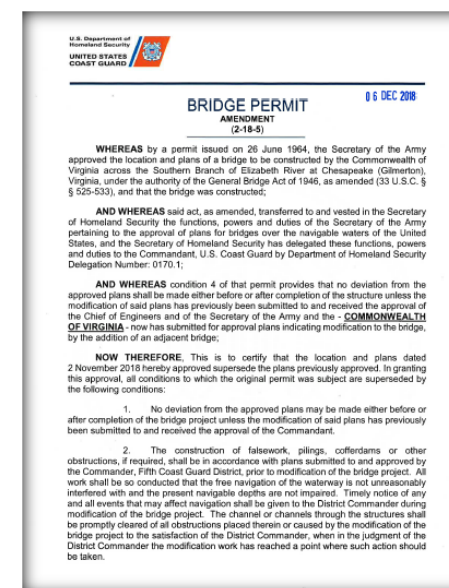
USCG/FHWA MOA

- In 2014, FHWA and USCG signed an MOA
 - USCG, FHWA, Federal Transit Administration and Federal Railroad Administration signed an MOU
- Determine bridge navigation clearances that would unreasonably obstruct navigation prior to or concurrent with NEPA scoping
- Outlines USCG and FHWA procedural responsibilities
- Contains reference chart of detailed processes for each agency during the application process
- Calls for a coordinated environmental document, if appropriate



Bridge Permitting

- What is a bridge permit?
 - Written approval of the location and plans of the bridge or causeway to be constructed, modified or replaced that crosses (or will cross) a navigable water of the United States
- Who must apply for a bridge permit?
 - Any individual, partnership, corporation, local/state/federal legislative body, agency or authority planning to construct or modify a bridge across a navigable waterway of the United States
 - State DOTs, Railroads, Pipeline Companies, Zip line Companies
- Why do we issue a bridge permit?
 - Federal law prohibits the construction of bridges and causeways across navigable waterways unless the Coast Guard first authorizes them
 - To ensure bridges are not unreasonable obstructions to navigation



Applicant Tools

- [Bridge Permit Application Guide \(BPAG\)](#)

- Search terms: Coast Guard Bridge Permit
 - Coast Guard Bridge Permitting
 - BPAG
 - BPAG Applicant Template
 - 2015 Red Book
 - Glossary of Bridge Terms



- Application Template

- Language may not be deleted from the template
- Administrative and navigation information required
- Environmental Information required
- Description of waterway characteristics required



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Bridge Permitting Process

- 1. Project Initiation**
- 2. Coordination Meetings**
- 3. Preliminary Navigational Clearance Determination**
- 4. NEPA Scoping, Drafting and Evaluation Phase**
- 5. NEPA Decision Phase**
- 6. Permit Application Review and Public Notice**
- 7. Permit Decision & Case File Submission**

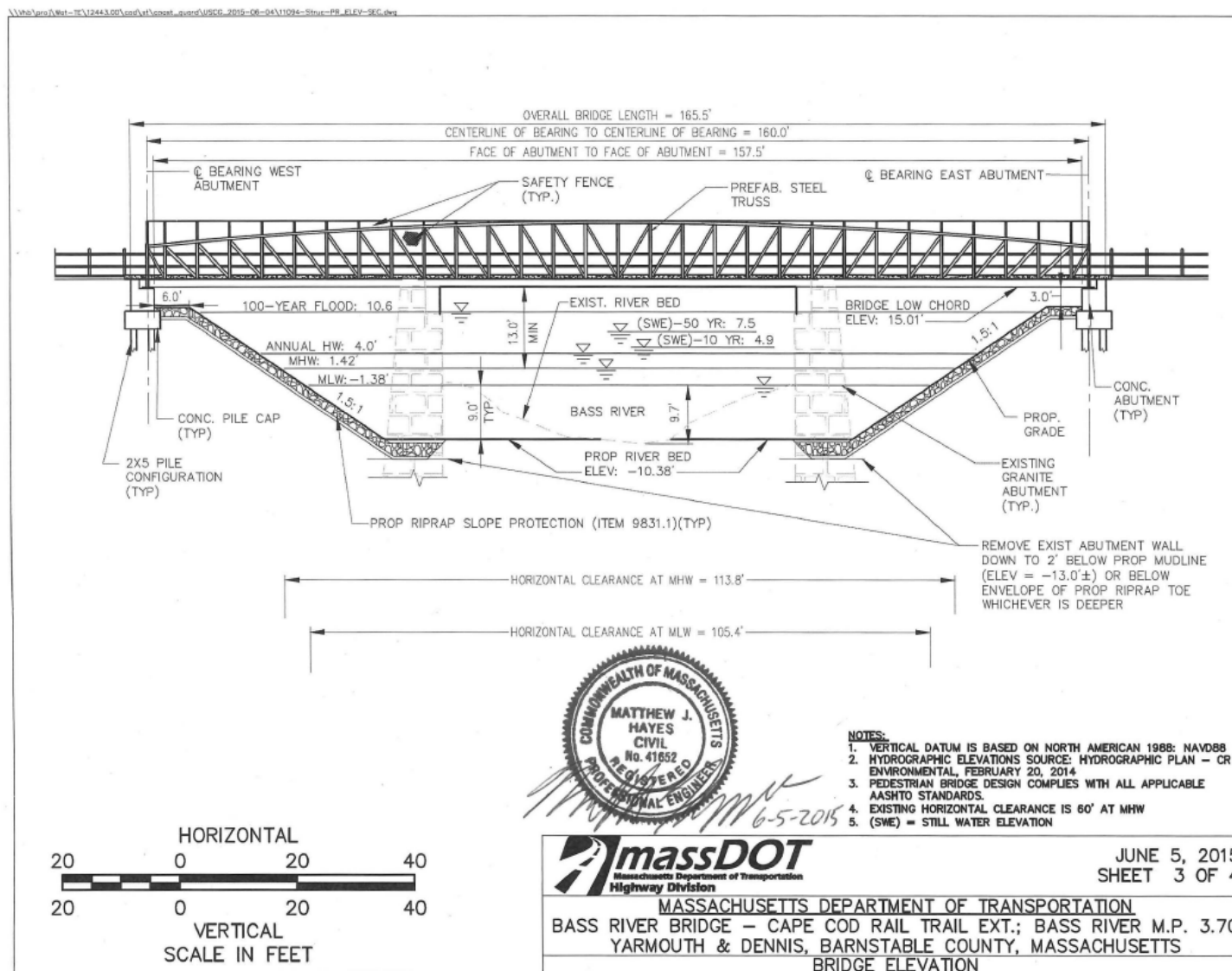
State DOTs work primarily with local Coast Guard district offices



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Plan Sheets





144(c) – No permit required

Surface Transportation Assistance Act,
23 U.S.C. 144(c)(2)

- also referred to as “STAA” or “144c”
- No permit required for bridges crossing waterways that are:
 - not used or not susceptible to use in their natural condition of the water or by reasonable improvement as a means to transport interstate or foreign commerce; and,
 - non-tidal or, if tidal, used only by recreational vessels less than 21 feet in length



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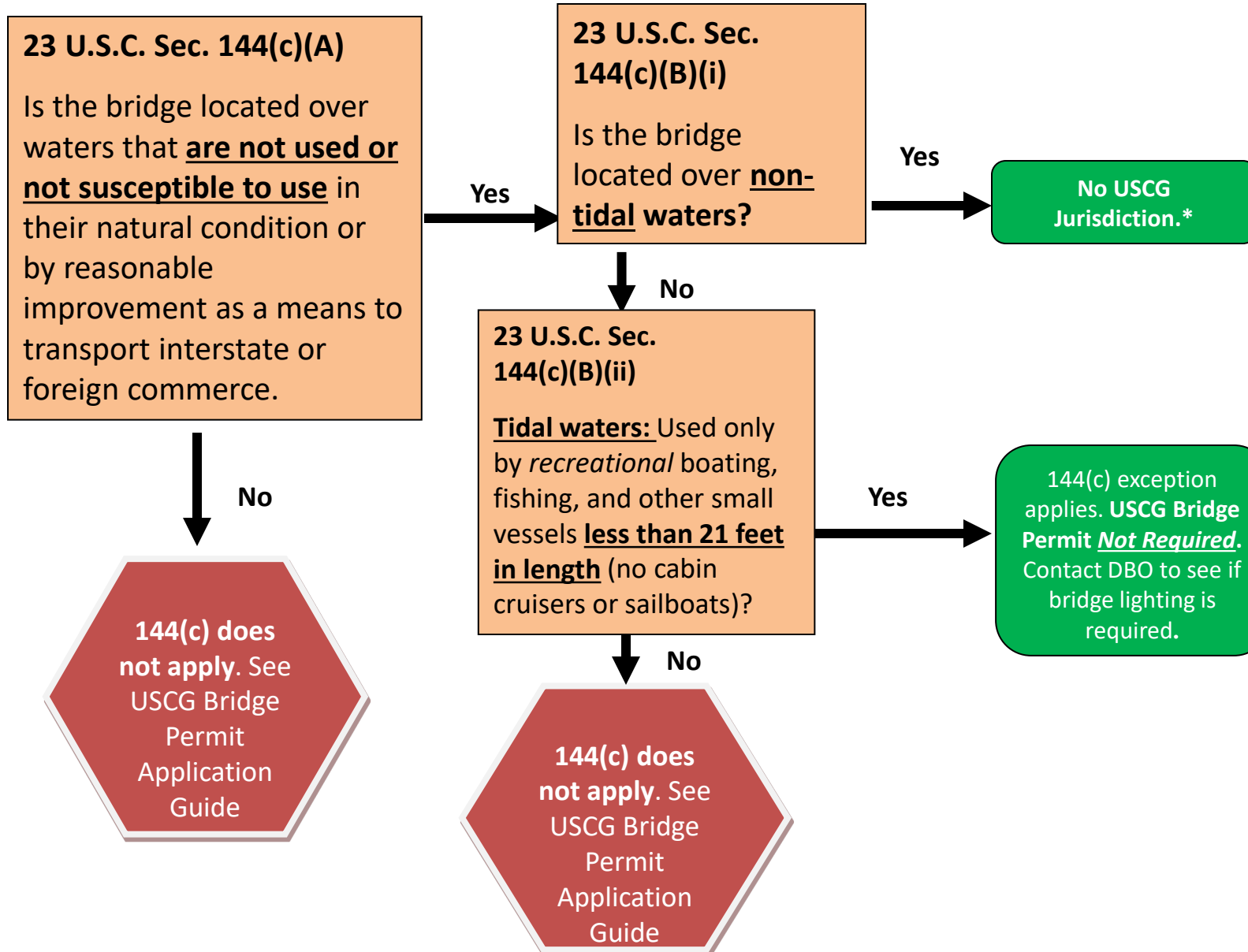


Stoddard Pack Bridge





144(c) PROCESS FLOWCHART





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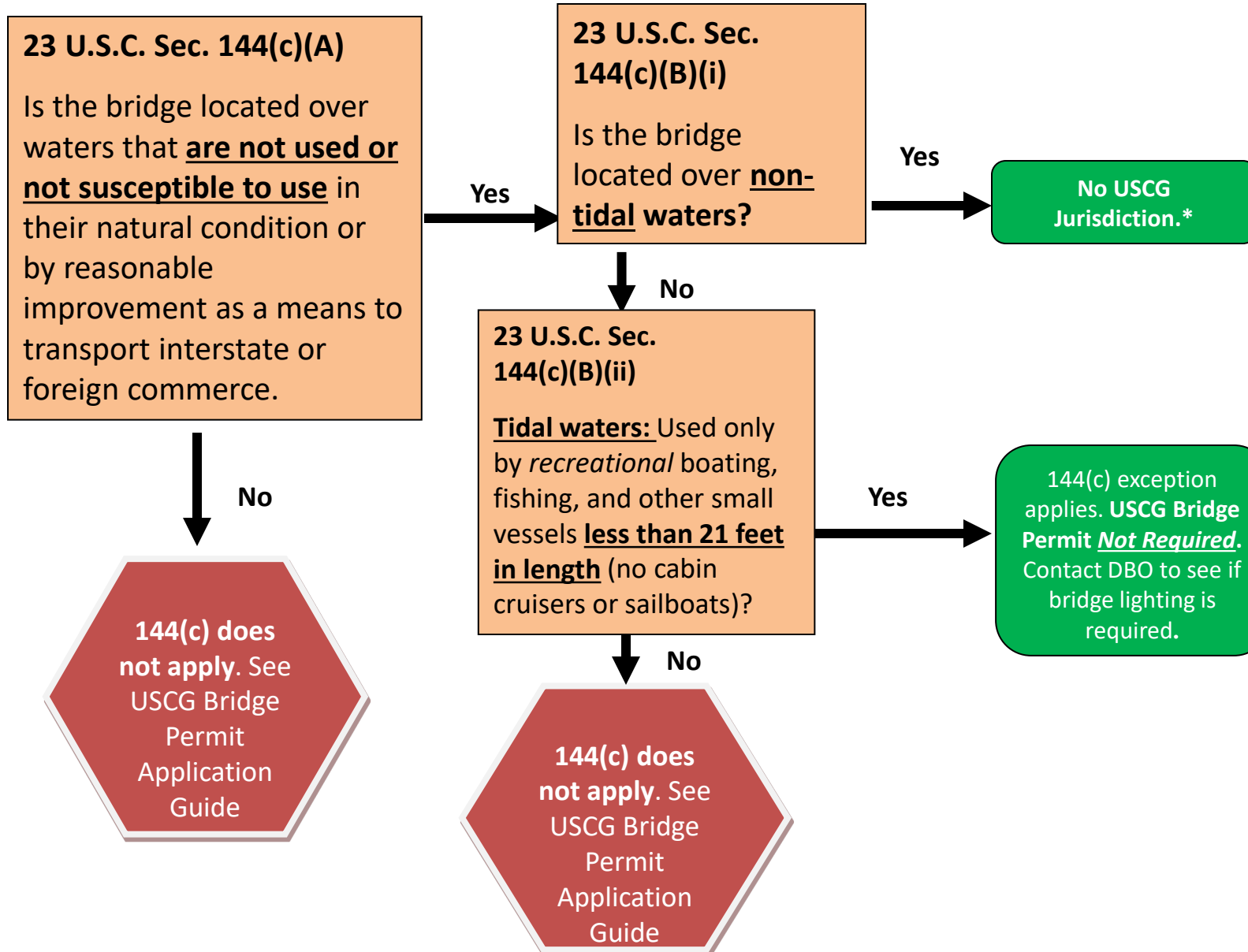


Atlantic Avenue Bridge over Little Harbor Inlet





144(c) PROCESS FLOWCHART



Advance Approval

- The General Bridge Act of 1946 requires the approval of the location and plans of bridges prior to start of construction
- Advance Approval is given to location and plans when the waterway is navigable in law, but not actually navigated other than by logs, log rafts, rowboats, canoes and small motorboats.



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Drawbridge Operations

- Changing the operating schedule of a drawbridge involves information gathering and analysis
- In accordance with 33 CFR § 1.05-20, any member of the public may submit a petition for a drawbridge rulemaking
- Process to permanently change a drawbridge operating regulation includes:
 - Notice of Proposed Rulemaking
 - Public meetings
 - Comment period
 - Final Rule





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Coast Guard Authorization Act 2018

- The CGAA 2018 requires bridge owners to maintain a logbook of bridge operations and to submit the logbook to the Coast Guard when requested
- DBO will send a letter to all drawbridge owners notifying them of the logbook requirements
- Drawbridge operators shall maintain logbooks for 5 years



Logbook Requirements

- Bridge identification and date of each opening
- Bridge tender or operator
- Time opened for navigation, time closed
- Number and direction of vessels passing through during each opening
- Type of vessels (estimate size, height, length, and beam of the largest vessel during each opening)
- Vessel name and registration number
- All maintenance openings, malfunctions, or other comments



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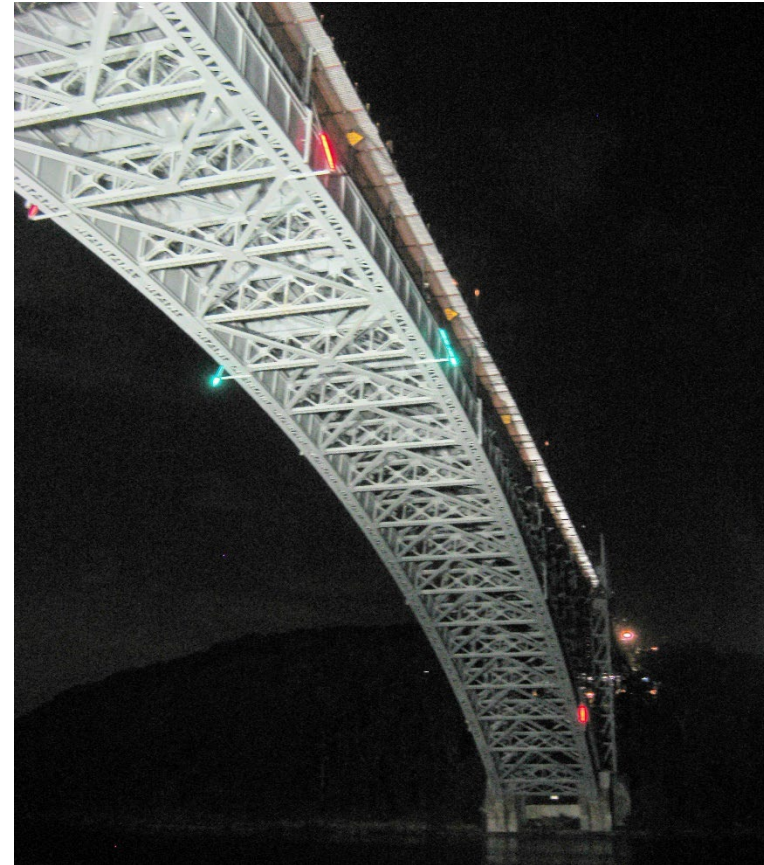


Logbook Requirements for Railroads

- Bridge identification and date of each opening and closing
- Bridge tender or operator
- Time opened for navigation, time closed
- All maintenance openings, malfunctions, or other comments

Bridge Lighting

- Coast Guard has authority to ensure that all bridges are properly marked and lighted to facilitate safe passage of vessels
- Decorative lighting cannot interfere or obstruct the display or visibility of navigational lighting





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Questions?

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