

1 APPENDIX C

2 ELIGIBILITY SCREENING CRITERIA FOR
3 SYSTEM ANALYSIS

4 Not all bridge attributes can be explicitly included in the finite element analysis (FEA) methodology.
5 Some attributes such as corrosion cannot be implemented because there are no verified models that relate
6 inspection aspects, such as element level inspection categories, to mechanical behavior, such as tensile
7 strength reduction. Implementation of other attributes that are localized phenomena, like existing fatigue
8 cracks, require finite element analysis procedures and techniques that are complex, computationally
9 expensive and cannot be reliably benchmarked in the context of finite element models of large multi-
10 component assemblies. Additionally, certain outdated design or fabrication practices, such as pin and
11 hangers, or discontinuous back-up bar splices, that have historically been problematic, should not be
12 permitted in a bridge which redundancy is evaluated per the current FEA methodology. The impact of such
13 attributes on system behavior in the faulted state is nearly impossible to include with confidence. Hence,
14 in the development of the FEA methodology, it was assumed that every bridge member is capable of
15 reaching its nominal ultimate capacity. This requires that the geometry and the material of each member
16 are as described in the design drawings, in sufficiently good condition, and lacking any certain problematic
17 details.

18 Prior to performing any system analysis, the user shall perform an assessment of the structure using the
19 criteria described in the current appendix in order to identify if any specific negative predetermined
20 characteristics exist. By default, any fracture critical members (FCMs) in a bridge that fails to meet any of
21 the necessary criteria from the screening phase cannot be re-designated as system redundant members
22 (SRMs), regardless of the results of a redundancy evaluation whether such evaluation is performed or not.
23 While the FEA methodology is not intended to be applied to bridges that fail the screening criteria, it may
24 be prudent to perform redundancy evaluations to gain insight into the expected response after the failure of
25 a primary steel member. The rationale for this screening process is to ensure that bridges with certain
26 characteristics do not, under any circumstance, see their inspection requirements lessened. The criteria
27 were established through NCHRP Project 12-87a and based on the work by Parr et al. (2010) [1] and
28 NCHRP Report 782: Proposed Guideline for Reliability-Based Bridge Inspection Practices (2014) [2].

29 C.1 Application

30 The screening criteria are only to be applied to the fracture critical members and not necessarily the entire
31 bridge. However, while the results of system analysis are not likely available during the screening phase,
32 consideration should be given to the anticipated response of the bridge in the *faulted* state (i.e., after the
33 initial failure of primary steel tension member). Therefore, some members that would not be classified as
34 FCMs, such as compression members in trusses, may carry tension after failure of one of the members
35 classified as a FCM on the design plans due to load redistribution. The screening criteria discussed below
36 and the principles discussed are intended to be applied to these members as well in some circumstances.

37 Bridges which satisfy all the criteria examined in the screening phase are acceptable candidates for
38 system analysis which may result in extended arm's length inspection intervals. There are nine screening

39 criteria that have been identified. However, Owners should consider including additional criteria that are
 40 specific to their region or inventory, a specific structural configuration under evaluation, or based on their
 41 experience.

42 C.2 Screening Criteria

43 The specific screening criteria are as follows:

- 44 1. New / recently retrofitted or rehabilitated FCMs.
- 45 2. Presence of pin and hangers.
- 46 3. Presence of non-redundant eyebars.
- 47 4. Presence of plug welds or discontinuous back-up bar splices.
- 48 5. Presence of active fatigue cracks.
- 49 6. Susceptibility to constraint induced fracture.
- 50 7. Presence of existing maintenance problems / load posting.
- 51 8. Unreliable or unavailable field inspection data.
- 52 9. Condition of FCMs.

53 Each of the screening criteria is discussed in detail below. The reason for each screening criterion and
 54 guidance on how to assess or evaluate a structure for the associated criteria are also provided.

55 C.2.1 New / recently retrofitted or rehabilitated FCM

56 C.2.1.1 Reason(s) for Screening:

57 In order for this assessment to be utilized, an initial arms-length inspection must first be performed. New
 58 bridges or bridges recently retrofitted or rehabilitated will thus automatically be screened out. These
 59 bridges are required to receive an inspection within 24 months of completion of the work (either newly
 60 built or following retrofit / rehabilitation work).

61 This screening criterion is intended to ensure that all new or “altered” bridges containing a member
 62 traditionally classified as a FCM(s) receive an arms-length inspection within 24 months of construction are
 63 properly archived and documented. This inspection is intended to identify that the initial construction,
 64 fabrication or retrofit/repair work was properly performed and that other problems have not occurred since
 65 the work was completed. The inspection is intended to identify defects that the structure may contain that
 66 may disqualify the bridge from being a candidate for system analysis.

67 C.2.1.2 Assessment Procedure:

68 The current NBIS standards state, “*For routine, in-depth, fracture critical member, underwater, damage*
 69 *and special inspections enter the Structural Inventory and Appraisal (SI&A) data into the State or Federal*
 70 *agency inventory within 90 days of the date of inspection for State or Federal agency bridges.*” [3].
 71 Therefore it is implied that the FCM shall be inspected and the data recorded within three months of
 72 completion.

73 This screening criterion is not intended to override these current regulations but is simply to ensure new
 74 FCMs or bridges containing a FCM(s) that have been retrofitted receive an inspection within the 24 month
 75 time period. Also note that this criterion applies to the entire bridge, and would be required after any major
 76 retrofit or rehabilitation project, such as the replacement of the deck or retrofits performed to mitigate or
 77 repair fatigue cracks. Deck replacement could inadvertently damage a girder flange and cracks that have
 78 been improperly retrofit may continue to grow. It is the objective of this screening criterion to identify
 79 defects in newly constructed or retrofitted/rehabilitated bridges.

80 It is also noted that bridges which previously underwent system analysis and that passed the current
 81 screening criteria in the past are subjected to this criterion following any major retrofit or rehabilitation
 82 project. For these bridges, an appropriate inspection is required following the work to identify defects that
 83 could have been introduced as a result of the construction work that may void any system analysis
 84 previously completed. However, updated system analysis need not be performed as long as no structural
 85 modification have been made which would alter the findings of the initial evaluation.

86 C.2.2 Presence of Pin and Hangers

87 C.2.2.1 Reason(s) for Screening:

88 The collapse of the Mianus River Bridge (Greenwich, CT) in 1983 due to a pin and hanger failure is the
 89 reason this criterion is in the screening phase of this assessment [4]. Through relatively simple in terms of
 90 modeling effort for overall behavior while intact, modeling a pin-and-hanger *system* is rather complex when
 91 considering failure modes. As a result, there are basically two types of systems addressed by this section:

- 92 • Pin and Hanger in Truss Bridges: Truss type hangers in which an entire truss span is suspended by
 93 (typically four) individual pin-ended vertical truss members at each corner of the span. Failure of
 94 a truss hanger is presumed to be the result of fracture along any location along the member, failure
 95 of the pin itself, failure at the net section of the truss member or in the pin plates on the supporting
 96 truss members. Presuming one of the hanger systems were to fail (i.e., at any of the locations cited),
 97 the integrity of the remaining hangers and the global and local forces in the structure and
 98 connections are difficult to quantify due to the development of significant racking forces and
 99 resulting large deflections.
- 100 • Pin and Hangers in Girder Bridges: Pin and hanger systems employed in girder systems where a
 101 separate hanger plate is located on each side of the girder web. A single pin passes through the
 102 web of each of the girders at the joint. Realistically, it is unlikely that both plates on a given girder
 103 would fail simultaneously due to brittle fracture. However, although brittle fracture of both hanger
 104 plates may not occur, failure of one plate will produce a tremendous imbalance and dynamic impact
 105 load on the pin and likely result in the remaining hanger slipping off the pin, as was the case in the
 106 Mianus River Bridge. Hence, it would generally be required to assume that both hanger plates have
 107 “failed” at a given girder end. Similarly, if the pin were to fail, the complete assembly would
 108 obviously be considered failed.

109 However, similar to the truss hangers, it is the integrity of the remaining hangers in the other
 110 girder and locations that are of concern. In a two girder system, the remaining hanger would be
 111 subjected to a significant twisting force in addition to a significant increase in vertical force. The
 112 ability of the cap plates which secure the hanger plates remain in place is questionable. If the cap
 113 plates were capable of securing the hanger plates in place, the hangers would be subjected to
 114 significant out-of-plane bending in addition to the increased axial forces. Further, the resulting
 115 local stresses and deflections in the girder web are difficult to accurately model. For example,
 116 effects of localized plastic deformations and fracture (ductile or brittle) would need to be
 117 considered.

118 In light of these concerns and uncertainties, bridges with pin and hanger systems do not qualify for system
 119 analysis and it is not recommended that they see their inspections requirements lessened.

120 C.2.2.2 Assessment Procedure:

121 This criterion shall only be applied to non-redundant bridges with pin and hanger systems. It is noted
 122 that this screening criteria only applies to the pin and hanger assembly and not to other tension members
 123 traditionally classified as FCMs. For example, a pin and hanger system may support a truss span. In such

124 a case, the redundancy of the truss itself could be evaluated per the proposed FEA methodology and other
125 primary steel tensions members in that truss could be designated as SRMs. In other words, system analysis
126 may be performed to evaluate the members of the suspended span, such as failure of a lower chord. If it is
127 shown through system analysis that the truss remains stable with the lower chord failed, future arms-length
128 inspection need only be conducted on the pin and hanger system. It is noted that the analysis must explicitly
129 include the pins, hangers and their connections, however the pin and hanger assembly is to remain as a
130 FCM.

131 This criterion does not apply to bridges with multiple girder lines containing pin and link assemblies
132 (three or more girders or truss lines with pin and hanger details are typically not considered to contain any
133 FCMs).

134 **C.2.3 Presence of Non-Redundant Eyebars**

135 *C.2.3.1 Reason(s) for Screening:*

136 The collapse of the Silver Bridge (Point Pleasant, WV) in 1967 due to a fracture in an eyebar is the reason
137 this criterion is included in the screening phase of this assessment [5]. Because of the non-redundancy and
138 potential for catastrophic failure, some bridges with eyebar assemblies may not be candidates for system
139 analysis. Criteria for identifying situations where the number and configuration of eyebars would disqualify
140 a bridge from being a candidate for a redundancy evaluation are discussed below. It is important to view
141 eyebars and their connections as assemblies when considering redundancy evaluations. For example, the
142 two eyebars shown in the left of Figure C-1 are intended to serve as a hanger support for a floor beam in
143 this railroad bridge. When only two (or less) eyebars are present at a joint, it must be assumed that the both
144 eyebars have failed. The type of detail is illustrated by the member with two eyebars shown left in Figure
145 C-1. Failure of one of the eyebars will likely result in significant twisting, leading to the other intact eyebar
146 slipping off the pin due to failure of the cap plate. Thus, the system analysis could proceed if the entire
147 hanger (i.e., both eyebars) is assumed to have failed. However, there are other cases where the imbalance
148 would result in multiple members slipping off of a pin and engineering judgement is required in such cases
149 to determine if the bridge should be considered for system analysis.

150 In other cases, multiple eyebars are used together to serve as one member, as shown to the right of Figure
151 C-1 where the lower chord of this bridge is comprised of eight separate eyebars (near side) or six eyebars
152 (far side). In such a case, experience has shown that failure of a single eyebar does not result in catastrophic
153 failure of the entire eyebar assembly and the joint remains intact. In such a case, the effect of failure of one
154 of the members can be evaluated with confidence. In a way, the overall lower chord shown in Figure C-1
155 is internally redundant.
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Figure C-1. Photographs of various eyebar configurations.

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159 However, there could be other situations where a member made up of two eyebars may be considered
 160 acceptable. For example, the two eyebars that make up the hanger in the left of Figure C-2 could likely be
 161 considered separate members that would fail independently. The eight eyebars of the chord member are
 162 able to easily resist the twisting imbalance that would be created by failure of one of the eyebar hangers
 163 (the opposite end of the two eyebar member must be evaluated to ensure similar restraint is provided).
 164 Another case where twisting may be prevented is where one member is made up of two eyebars, but the
 165 other members are fabricated from multiple eyebars or built-up members, as shown in the right of Figure
 166 C-2. In this case, the restraint provided by the built-up member, multiple eyebar lower chord, and floor
 167 beam is sufficient to prevent twisting of the pin so the other eyebars would not slip off.

168 It is noted that this screening criteria *only* applies to the eyebars and does not apply to pins. Provisions
 169 for reliable pin inspection must be developed separately from these criteria used to evaluate eyebars.
 170 Generally, damage in pins does not become detectable using visual inspection until either the pin has failed
 171 or there is significant movement due to wear. Clearly, failure of the pin would be detrimental to the
 172 performance of the bridge.

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Figure C-2. Examples where failure of one eyebar of the two-eyebar will not result in excessive pin rotation.

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177 **C.2.3.2 Assessment Procedure:**

178 This criterion will generally apply to non-redundant bridges with two or fewer eyebars in any segment
 179 of an individual eyebar chain. It does not apply to the pins used to connect eyebars and appropriate
 180 inspection strategies, including interval and scope shall be developed for pins. However, as discussed
 181 above, there are some configurations where it may be overly conservative to exclude systems comprised of
 182 two eye bars from redundancy evaluations. Hence, for all eyebar systems, individual circumstances should
 183 be considered when evaluating the anticipated performance of a given eyebar configuration.

184 **C.2.4 Presence of Plug Welds or Discontinuous Back-up Bar Splices**

185 **C.2.4.1 Reason(s) for Screening:**

186 These types of details have a history of problems with respect to fatigue and or fracture that are significant
 187 enough to justify exclusion of bridges containing such details from system analysis unless they have been
 188 mitigated. This is primarily due to the difficulty in detecting plug welds during visual inspection,
 189 susceptibility of these details to sudden brittle fracture, fatigue cracking, and the fact they can be distributed
 190 throughout a given structure. There are also many examples where multiple visual inspections have failed
 191 to detect discontinuous backup bars inside of box girders and other structures, suggesting initial detection
 192 is often unlikely.

193 Presuming an initial fracture was to initiate at such a detail, the likelihood of a secondary fracture
 194 occurring at a similar detail in another main member, either immediately or shortly thereafter, is deemed
 195 unacceptably high. As a result, members with these details disqualify a structure from being considered
 196 for system analysis unless all such details are repaired, retrofitted, deemed of acceptable quality, or deemed
 197 not susceptible to fatigue crack growth leading to fracture.

198 **C.2.4.2 Assessment Procedure:**

199 In general, bridges with FCMs containing plug welds or discontinuous back up bars should not be
 200 considered for system analysis. However, if these types of details have been thoroughly inspected (such as
 201 nondestructive testing, and/or some form of rational fracture mechanics evaluation) and are deemed to be
 202 of acceptable quality, then this criterion may not necessarily apply. For example, if plug welds are known
 203 to exist on a FCM but they have been inspected, evaluated through nondestructive testing methods or
 204 fitness-for-service techniques, and the Engineer considers them to be safe, then this criterion may not apply
 205 and the bridge can be considered for system analysis.

206 Also, plug welds and discontinuous backup bar splices known to be located in a compression zone of a
 207 FCM may be eliminated from this criterion. For this to apply, the “worst load case,” (*maximum factored*
 208 *load case*) must be shown to generate no net tension at the location of the plug weld. It must also be shown
 209 that no stress reversals (compression to tension, or tension to compression) will occur at the location of the
 210 plug weld. If these details are subjected to any net live load tensile stress ranges, the bridge should not be
 211 considered for system analysis unless a sufficient evaluation has been made (as discussed in the previous
 212 paragraph). This is because it has been shown that fatigue damage can still accumulate despite the detail
 213 being subject to relatively low tensile stress ranges.

214 C.2.5 Presence of Active Fatigue Cracks

215 C.2.5.1 Reason(s) for Screening:

216 The presence of active fatigue cracks in an FCM disqualifies the structure from consideration for system
217 analysis. The likelihood that fatigue cracks will be present in other similar members (that may not be
218 detectable) is considered to be unacceptably high. For example, if a crack is found in one girder of a two
219 girder system, it is likely a crack has formed or will form in the other girder at the same location. It is
220 important to recognize that cracks may exist that have not been detected using traditional visual inspection
221 methods simply due to the probability of detection associated with visual inspection.

222 Assuming a fatigue crack results in fracture, there are two other concerns. First, existing cracks in the
223 remaining members could be expected to grow at an accelerated rate after the first member fails since the
224 live load stress range will almost certainly increase. This is important to recognize as it is well established
225 that crack growth rates are not linear and are proportional to the stress range cubed. Thus, a new stress
226 range that is one a half times the original stress range would result in the new remaining life being less than
227 30% ($1/1.5^3$) of the original remaining life. If there were no obvious indicators of the initial fracture, such
228 as no significant displacement, existing fatigue cracks would grow unchecked at an increase rate in the
229 remaining members until they too fractured. The second scenario is similar to the first, except there is no
230 stable fatigue crack growth in the remaining members with existing cracks. Upon fracture of the first
231 member, the increase in loading on the remaining member(s) is such that the existing cracks become
232 unstable either instantly or at some short time in the future (say during cold weather) and the remaining
233 member fractures.

234 Prevention of both scenarios would require an inspection at sufficient detail to identify the initial fracture
235 before secondary failures occur. A bridge that successfully met the requirements of system analysis will
236 likely have its primary steel tension members from the FCM list and FCM inspections would no longer
237 occur. Therefore, there is increased potential for the initial fracture to go unobserved for an extended period.
238 Also there is greater potential for fatigue cracks to go unobserved in all members prior to the fracture since
239 the inspections will not be as detailed.

240 This screening criterion also includes all distortion-induced fatigue cracking. There are many excellent
241 references on this type of cracking available in the literature and the reader is encouraged to examine these
242 documents. The concern is that in the faulted conditions, significant forces in secondary members may be
243 generated. Cracks where these members attached to main girders, truss members, etc. could compromise
244 the load carrying capacity of the connections where these members frame into the primary members.
245 Quantification of the capacity of a cracked connection, under various levels of toughness, crack size, etc.
246 are deemed to be highly uncertain and hence, the estimated capacity of these members is unreliable.

247 It is also not acceptable to “assume” these members are not present and rely upon those with uncracked
248 connections or to assume other components, such as the concrete deck, to transfer the loads in the faulted
249 condition as these members will carry load in the real bridge regardless of the load path assumed during the
250 evaluation. For example, consider the situation where out-of-plane distortion cracking has resulted in
251 classic web-gap cracking in the webs of both girders of a two girder bridge. If one girder were to fracture,
252 large out-of-plane forces will be produced in the cross frames. Depending on the magnitude of this force,
253 type of cracking, toughness, etc. tearing or even fracture of the web and possibly flange of the *remaining*
254 girder is a viable failure scenario. This would of course compromise the capacity of the remaining girder.
255 Even if it were assumed in the system analysis that the cross frame(s) was not present and the concrete deck
256 transmits all of the load to the remaining girder, the fact remains the cross frame *is* present and *will* carry
257 load. Hence, damage to the remaining girder remains a real possibility.

258 **C.2.5.2 Assessment Procedure:**

259 An active fatigue crack is defined as a crack discovered during previous inspection(s) that has not yet
 260 been mitigated. When a crack is mitigated by retrofitting, it must be inspected again within 24 months of
 261 the repair and demonstrated to have arrested the crack before it may be considered repaired and inactive.
 262 Tack welds that have cracked but are not growing are not considered to be active fatigue cracks. In all
 263 cases it must be verified that cracking has not extended into the base metal.

264 This screening criterion also includes all distortion-induced fatigue cracking. A bridge that simply
 265 possesses details that are susceptible to distortion cracks, but where no cracks have been observed, is exempt
 266 from this criterion. While performing the assessment, the likelihood of finding cracks (i.e., POD) should
 267 also be considered when evaluating this screening criterion. If fatigue calculations have indicated that a
 268 negative remaining life exists, this information should be incorporated into the evaluation in some way.

269 **C.2.6 Susceptibility to Constraint Induced Fracture**

270 **C.2.6.1 Reason(s) for Screening:**

271 Fractures observed in several bridges due to constraint induced fracture (CIF) are the reason this criterion
 272 is in the screening phase of this assessment [6], [7]. Other bridges with similar details as the Hoan Bridge
 273 are considered to be at risk for this form of potential brittle fracture. Further, it is realized that frequent
 274 inspection will not prevent these failures from occurring (the Hoan Bridge was inspected three days prior
 275 to the failure).

276 In every case where CIF details have been observed, they are distributed randomly throughout the
 277 structure. Presuming an initial fracture was to initiate at such a detail, the likelihood of a secondary fracture
 278 occurring at a similar detail in another main member, either immediately or shortly thereafter, is deemed
 279 unacceptably high. As a result, the presence of CIF details disqualify a structure from being considered for
 280 system analysis unless all such details are repaired, retrofit, deemed of acceptable quality, or deemed not
 281 susceptible to fatigue crack growth leading to fracture.

282 **C.2.6.2 Assessment Procedure:**

283 A detailed arms-length inspection is required to identify the presence of details susceptible to CIF.
 284 Details susceptible to CIF are discussed in Fisher et al. (2001) and Mahmoud et al. (2005) [6], [7].

285 **C.2.7 Presence of Existing Maintenance Problems / Load Posting**

286 **C.2.7.1 Reason(s) for Screening:**

287 Bridges with existing maintenance problems that result in the analyst having low confidence in the results
 288 of the system analysis shall be screened out. The level of reliability on which the current system analysis
 289 procedures were developed may not be met if a bridge with FCMs has significant existing maintenance
 290 needs. Bridges may also be screened out based on the Engineer's judgment with this specific screening
 291 criterion. This criterion may be used at the owner's discretion and is provided to be a "catch all" to allow
 292 for other factors to be included. This criterion is included to ensure a bridge with problems should be
 293 screened out and thus prevented from re-designating any FCM as SRM. While this screening criterion does
 294 not necessarily apply to FCMs or fatigue and fracture (it applies to the entire bridge), its intent is to prevent
 295 "troubled" bridges that possess FCMs from being inspected at too great of an interval. Further, in some
 296 cases, the overall condition may be such that various components cannot be relied upon to carry load

297 reliably. For example, a composite deck may be so severely deteriorated that it cannot be reliably counted
 298 on to transfer load from the fractured girder to the intact girder.

299 *C.2.7.2 Assessment Procedure:*

300 This should apply to bridges with FCM(s) that have existing maintenance problems. The following list
 301 provides some examples of “maintenance problems” but may include others at the Engineer’s discretion:

- 302 • Damaged or non-functioning bearings;
- 303 • Collision damage to FCMs;
- 304 • Corrosion deemed unsafe;
- 305 • Severe drainage issues (causing corrosion etc.);
- 306 • Deck in very poor condition;
- 307 • Any issue identified as providing sufficient cause to limit inspection interval to no more than 24
 308 months.

309 Note that this criterion is subjective to the owner and engineer. Therefore, a bridge possessing what is
 310 determined to be “minor” damage to bearings or “minor” collision damage does not necessarily have to be
 311 screened out. Along with this criterion, bridges with posted weight limitations should be screened out.

312 **C.2.8 Unreliable or Unavailable Field Inspection Data**

313 *C.2.8.1 Reason(s) for Screening:*

314 In some cases, available inspection data is found to be unreliable. For example, if it has been shown that
 315 information pertaining to cracking or other damage is highly variable from inspection report to inspection
 316 report. There are known cases where cracks found during one inspection could not be identified or were
 317 reported to have decreased in size during subsequent inspections. Clearly, in such cases the inspection data
 318 are unreliable.

319 Such inconsistencies may be due to number of factors including:

- 320 • Inadequately trained inspectors;
- 321 • Poor vision of the inspector;
- 322 • Insufficient lighting;
- 323 • Insufficient cleaning;
- 324 • Errors in data entry;
- 325 • Subjectivity of the inspector;
- 326 • Attitude and work ethic of the inspector(s).

327 When such is evident in the inspection data, the engineer/analyst should be alerted to the fact that
 328 assumptions regarding actual condition of the bridge are highly suspect. Thus, incorporating such
 329 inspection data into a finite element model or when attempting to perform the screening process contained
 330 herein would be questionable.

331 The other concern is related to cases where key fracture critical elements or portion thereof are simply
 332 not possible to inspect. For example, the condition of some nested eyebars cannot be determined with
 333 confidence. Some structures contain tension members that are embedded in concrete, the condition of
 334 which is obviously unknown. Another example may be related to some type of welds where quality has
 335 been known to be an issue based on experience (*i.e., early electroslag welds or butt welds in A514*). In the
 336 absence of recent nondestructive examination to verify the quality of the weld, testing may be prudent in
 337 some cases. Thus, when conditions cannot be known with confidence, assumptions regarding the capacity
 338 of remaining members are clearly questionable. Failure of one element may produce failure of another
 339 element resulting to reduced capacity from unknown damage.

340 **C.2.8.2 Assessment Procedure:**

341 This should apply to bridges with FCM(s) containing elements that are not possible to inspect, or when
 342 the reliability of inspection data is questionable. However, if accurate inspection data is obtained and data
 343 pertaining to the condition of all elements is available through the use of nondestructive examination or
 344 some other appropriate means, system analysis is acceptable.

345 It is emphasized that regardless of the desire to perform system analysis, it is advisable to accurately
 346 ascertain the condition of all FCMs. Where such is not possible, consideration should be given the
 347 consequence of member failure.

348 **C.2.9 Condition of FCM**

349 **C.2.9.1 Reason(s) for Screening:**

350 Bridges with FCM(s) in relatively “poor” condition are to be screened out. This criterion is to prevent
 351 excessively corroded or damaged FCMs from going un-inspected for more than a 24 month interval. It is
 352 recognized that in many cases, the condition of the FCM is not directly related to the potential for fatigue
 353 and fracture, however, from a practical inspection perspective severely corroded members should be limited
 354 to a 24 month inspection interval. It is also noted that this criterion is differentiated from Criterion 7
 355 “Existing Maintenance Problems / Load Posting” as that criterion relates to the entire bridge span while
 356 this relates to the individual FCM. It is noted that the phrase “Condition of FCM” also includes the
 357 connections. For example, corrosion, pack-out, or distortion in gusset plates in trusses should be considered
 358 in this appraisal.

359 **C.2.9.2 Assessment Procedure:**

360 The determination of the FCM condition may be based on the 1995 “*Recording and Coding Guide for*
 361 *the Structure Inventory and Appraisal of the Nation’s Bridges*” published by the FHWA [8] and all relevant
 362 updates. The rating scale, which ranges from 0 to 9 with each number corresponding to a condition
 363 description, is intended to apply to a bridge’s superstructure, substructure, or deck. However, these
 364 predefined definitions may be used and applied to the FCMs on the bridge for this assessment. This
 365 criterion should screen out FCM(s) with a NBI rating of 4 or below.

366 This assessment allows and encourages the use of element level data. Therefore, an alternative or
 367 supplement to the NBI rating is the CoRe Element Guide [8]. Smart flag #357 and # 363 in a condition
 368 state of 3 or 4 should be screened out by this criterion. These flags are for members containing excessive
 369 pack rust or section loss. Also, any FCM with the lowest (worst) condition state (may be 3, 4, or 5
 370 depending on the element) should be screened out by this criterion.

371 An evaluation or stress analysis may be performed to show that a FCM is “unaffected” or still provides
 372 sufficient capacity. For example, a corroded member’s section loss may be measured and analysis
 373 performed. If the analysis demonstrates that the section loss is minimal and the member has adequate
 374 capacity, then this criterion may be ignored. Note that all calculations must be attached to this evaluation
 375 procedure for record keeping purposes when used to show the adequate capacity of the FCM.

376 Any FCM with an NBI condition rating of 5 or above may “pass” this screening criterion. It is further
 377 recommended that any FCM with a NBI condition rating of 4 or below be screened out by this criterion.
 378 However, as mentioned above, if a strength analysis is performed and clearly demonstrates the member’s
 379 adequate capacity, then the member may “pass” this criterion.

380 The presence of members that are classified as Element Level Condition 4 which affect the system
 381 performance would result in the structure being screened out from being a candidate for system analysis
 382 until evaluated by the engineer. In some cases Element Level Condition 3 may also result in a bridge being
 383 screened out, but again, this would need to be determined by the engineer.

384

385 C.3 List of References

- 386 [1] M. J. Parr, R. J. Connor, and M. Bowman, "Proposed Method for Determining the Interval for
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