

**South Carolina Department of Transportation**  
**Engineering Directive**

**Directive Number:** ED-8 **Effective: June 12, 2020**  
**Subject:** Road Inspections  
**References** S.C. Code of Laws, Section 57-3-110  
**Primary Department:** Maintenance

Daytime Inspections

All roads on the state highway system shall be inspected during daylight hours according to the following schedule:

- Interstates – monthly
- Primary Routes – once every six months
- Secondary Routes – once each year

The purpose of these inspections is to detect deficiencies that could pose a hazard to motorists or pedestrians, thus creating a risk for the South Carolina Department of Transportation. These inspections should be entered into the Highway Maintenance Management System (HMMS) by using the “Inspections” work activity and the “Day Time” work description. Deficiencies should be entered into the work request module using “SCDOT Inspector” as the type of requestor.

The following are examples of the assets and roadside appurtenances that should be inspected:

- pavements (includes pavement markings),
- shoulders (includes sidewalk and other roadside appurtenances),
- barriers (includes guardrails, attenuators, barrier walls, and cable barrier),
- signs (includes condition, obstructed, and evidence of missing signs),
- vegetation (includes dead trees), and
- drainage (includes structures and ditches).

In accordance with the above, each resident maintenance engineer (RME) will review all noted deficiencies and schedule the necessary work, giving priority to all safety-related items.

### Nighttime Inspections

Night inspections are primarily designed to ensure that pavement markings and roadway signs are visible, have proper reflectorization, and meet standards set forth in the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD). All roads on the state highway system shall be inspected at night once each calendar year. These inspections should be entered into HMMS using the "Inspections" work activity and the "Night Time" work description. Deficiencies should be entered into the work request module using "SCDOT Inspector" as the type of requestor.

Inspections should be conducted in accordance with the following guidelines:

- The inspections should be conducted at normal operating speeds.
- The inspections should be conducted using low beam headlights.
- The inspections should be conducted using a relatively new vehicle.
- Signs should be viewed at the typical viewing distance for that sign.

In accordance with the above, each RME will schedule the needed repairs or replacements on a priority basis.

### Reporting

By January 1 of each year, the RME will certify in writing to the District Engineering Administrator (DEA) that all system roads within his or her county have been inspected in accordance with this directive. The DEA will then notify the Director of Maintenance no later than January 10, with the Deputy Secretary for Engineering being notified by January 15 that the inspections have been completed.

Submitted by: David B. Cook, P.E.  
Director of Maintenance

Recommended by: Andrew T. Leaphart, P.E.  
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Approved: Leland Colvin, P.E.  
Deputy Secretary for Engineering

History: Issued on November 21, 2003  
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