

NCHRP 20-68A – “US Domestic Scan Program”
Scan 12-01 Advances in State DOT Superload Permit Processes and Practices

Description of Scan

The recently adopted AASHTO LRFR rating provisions for permits provide a major advance in applying uniform guidelines for overload permits. As the size and weights of these Superloads are ever increasing, there is a definite need to better understand the current State-of-Practice within the U.S. and achieve enhanced uniformity and safety in this area. NCHRP Report 359 “Bridge Rating Practices and Policies for Overweight Vehicles” provided a synthesis of permit rating policies. This proposed scan will build upon the findings of NCHRP Report 359, but will focus specifically on the topic of Superload permitting and compile further detail on the current policies and procedures that govern the authorization of Superload moves within the U.S. Of particular interest to state DOTs and the AASHTO Subcommittee on Bridges and Structures Technical Committees are current practices with regard to bridge ratings for Superload moves.

The scan team will engage the permit office and the bridge office of states such as CA, WA, TX, ID, NY, LA, MI, IL, PA, FL as well as others as appropriate to study in detail and document their permitting processes and procedures specifically for Superloads. The team will specifically focus on how these DOTs assure bridge safety and greater uniformity in Superload permitting. Also, as much of the Superload moves are associated with specific industries and ports the scan should encourage the invited state DOTs to address needs and concerns of industries within their jurisdiction (i.e: petrochemical, aviation, energy, construction, etc) which often have the need to transport non-divisible loads and the major ports. Superload movers such as Specialized Carriers and Rigging Association may prove to be significant sources of information regarding current and future needs for Superload movements DOTs may need to provide for.

The findings of this scan could provide a better understanding of the current State-of-Practice for Superload permitting. Additionally this scan will also identify the need for further research that may be needed to enhance bridge safety and provide improved guidance on the load rating methodology for Superloads that could be included in the AASHTO Manual for Bridge Evaluation. The scan findings would also provide valuable information to DOTs regarding future trends regarding Superloads. It is envisioned that this scan will be conducted as a Type 3 Scan – Peer Exchange.

Original Scan Proposal Title(s): DSP-13-03 Superload Permit Processes and Practices Used by State DOT Owners

Last Reviewed/Revised January 7, 2012

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Execution Schedule

Milestone	Anticipated Date
Chairs and Team Members Identified	March 2013
Desk Scan Completed	July 2013
Prescan Meeting Held	August 2013
Scan Conducted	December 2013
Draft PowerPoint submitted by SME	January 2013
Draft Report Delivered to NCHRP and Panel	March 2014
Final Report Delivered to NCHRP	July 2014

Estimated Scan Cost: \$125,000

Anticipated Duration: 3 Days

Last Reviewed/Revised September 16, 2013