

 MARYLAND DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION STATE HIGHWAY ADMINISTRATION	Office of Structures <i>Guidelines and Procedures</i> <i>Memorandum</i>	INSPECTION
		Number: OOS-GPM-SI-114
		Date: 08-06-2026
Documentation for Changes to Scour Ratings		Approval: 

MDOT SHA Structures

Each MDOT SHA structure shall have a written record of the past soundings and baseline soundings, along with the clearances, in the inspection crew's folders. Anytime during an inspection of a bridge, if there has been a change of more than 2 feet in the scour depth verses the baseline sounding for a bridge with an SIA Item 113 scour rating of 2, 3, 4, 5A, 5B, 8L or U, the scour condition is to be re-evaluated by an interdisciplinary team which will consist of a geotechnical engineer, a hydraulics engineer, and a structural engineer. The Remedial Design Team Leader (RDTL) assigned this bridge shall provide to the interdisciplinary team the prior Phase I & Phase II scour evaluation reports, the most recent soundings and crew's inspection report, and the existing As-Built plans that indicate the foundation type of each substructure unit.

Based on the information provided, the interdisciplinary team will make written recommendations that shall be signed by each member of the team and put into the bridge file. If a scour rating does change as a result of this review, all the information regarding the scour evaluation including the recommendations shall be put into the Plan of Action Scour Critical Database. Included in this database shall be the revised and previous scour ratings, the reasons for the rating change, the date of the rating change, and those who participated in the re-evaluation. This database is to be updated and maintained by the Division Chief, SIRE – Structures Remedial Design.

However, if the additional scour results in the undermining of a substructure footing for a bridge that is known to not be built on piles, a review by the interdisciplinary team will not be required. The SIA Item 113 scour rating shall be changed to 3 and a Plan of Action shall be written. The installation of scour countermeasures to address the scour condition at this bridge shall be given a "P" priority.

LA Bridges

Each LA structure shall have a written record of the past soundings and baseline soundings, along with the clearances, in the bridge file. Anytime during an inspection of a bridge, if there has been a change of more than 2 feet in the scour depth verses the baseline sounding for a bridge with a SIA Item 113 scour rating of 2, 3, 4, 5A, 5B, 8L or U, the scour condition is to be re-evaluated by an interdisciplinary team which will consist of a geotechnical engineer, a hydraulics engineer, and a structural engineer. The interdisciplinary team shall be provided, if available, prior Phase I & Phase II scour evaluation reports, the most recent soundings and inspection report, and the existing As-Built plans that indicate the foundation type of each substructure unit.

Based on the information provided, the interdisciplinary team shall make written recommendations that shall be signed by each team member and placed in the bridge file. The information used to make the decisions regarding the scour rating shall also be documented and placed in the bridge file.

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However, if the additional scour found during an inspection results in the undermining of a substructure footing for a bridge that is known to not be built on piles, a review by the interdisciplinary team will not be required. The SIA Item 113 scour rating shall be changed to 3 and a Plan of Action shall be written. The installation of scour countermeasures to address the scour condition at this bridge shall be given the highest priority.