



American Railway Engineering and
Maintenance-of-Way Association

CHAPTER 15

STEEL STRUCTURES¹



FOREWORD

Part 1 through Part 7 formulate specific and detailed recommendations for the design, fabrication, erection, maintenance, inspection, and rating of steel railway bridges for:

- Spans up to 400 feet,
- Standard gage track,
- Normal North American passenger and freight equipment, and
- Speeds of freight trains up to 79 mph and passenger trains up to 90 mph.

The requirements, however, apply to spans of any length, but special provisions for spans longer than 400 feet should be added by the company as may be required. Part 8 covers miscellaneous items. Part 10, *Bearing Design*, and Part 11, *Bearing Construction*, formulate specific and detailed recommendations for the design and construction of bearings for nonmovable railway bridges. Recommendations for the design and construction of special bearings for movable railway bridges are included in Part 6, *Movable Bridges*. Part 9 is a commentary, including references, for explanation of various articles in the other parts.

Grateful acknowledgment is hereby made to the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials and the American Welding Society for having made available their Bridge Welding Code (AWS D1.5) for use by reference in these recommended practices. In applying AWS D1.5, the term “allowable stresses” is to be construed as those allowed herein. Certain other modifications and exceptions to the Code are also recommended.

Part 2, Design – High Strength Steels was combined with Part 1, *Design* in 1993.

¹ The material in this and other chapters in the AREMA *Manual for Railway Engineering* is published as recommended practice to railroads and others concerned with the engineering, design and construction of railroad fixed properties (except signals and communications), and allied services and facilities. For the purpose of this Manual, RECOMMENDED PRACTICE is defined as a material, device, design, plan, specification, principle or practice recommended to the railways for use as required, either exactly as presented or with such modifications as may be necessary or desirable to meet the needs of individual railways, but in either event, with a view to promoting efficiency and economy in the location, construction, operation or maintenance of railways. It is not intended to imply that other practices may not be equally acceptable.

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INTRODUCTION

The Chapters of the AREMA Manual are divided into numbered Parts, each comprised of related documents (specifications, recommended practices, plans, etc.). Individual Parts are divided into Sections by centered headings set in capital letters and identified by a Section number. These Sections are subdivided into Articles designated by numbered side headings.

Page Numbers – In the page numbering of the Manual (15-2-1, for example) the first numeral designates the Chapter number, the second denotes the Part number in the Chapter, and the third numeral designates the page number in the Part. Thus, 15-2-1 means Chapter 15, Part 2, page 1.

In the Glossary and References, the Part number is replaced by either a “G” for Glossary or “R” for References.

Document Dates – The bold type date (Document Date) at the beginning of each document (Part) applies to the document as a whole and designates the year in which revisions were last made somewhere in the document, unless an attached footnote indicates that the document was adopted, reapproved, or rewritten in that year.

Article Dates – Each Article shows the date (in parenthesis) of the last time that Article was modified.

Reaffirmed Dates - Each Article is being reviewed and reaffirmed every 6 years beginning with the year 2002. If no technical changes are made, the last reaffirmed date is shown following the title of the Article and the date it was last modified.

Revision Marks – All current year revisions (changes and additions) which have been incorporated into the document are identified by a vertical line along the outside margin of the page, directly beside the modified information.

Proceedings Footnote – The Proceedings footnote on the first page of each document gives references to all Association action with respect to the document.

Annual Updates – New manuals, as well as revision sets, will be printed and issued yearly.