



William Cass, P.E.
Commissioner

THE STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION



David Rodrigue, P.E.
Assistant Commissioner
Andre Briere, Colonel, USAF (RET)
Deputy Commissioner

Requests to Close Drawbridges to Marine Traffic

(Sarah Mildred Long Bridge, Memorial Bridge, Hampton River Bridge, Little Harbor Bridge)

The Coast Guard requires that the New Hampshire Department of Transportation open lift bridges for Marine Traffic in accordance with the Code of Federal Regulations, Title 33, Part 117 "Drawbridge Operation Regulations", in particular, Sections 117.531, 117.697, and 117.699.

Any changes to the timeframes in these regulations requires a "Request for Deviation" by the Department of Transportation to the Coast Guard. The Department will entertain reasonable requests for deviations from organizations; however, the Coast Guard may or may not approve the requests and there will be requirements for the requesting organization should the request be approved. Any request should be submitted **120 days in advance** and include the following:

1. The name of the Organization and a contact name, mailing address, and telephone number.
2. A description of the event.
3. The dates and timeframes that would require closure of the lift bridges to marine traffic.
4. The reason for the closure request and an explanation of the time period requested (i.e. why does the organization request closure for xx hours/minutes at that specific time).
5. A statement that municipal officials on either side of the bridge have been contacted and they do not object to the closure. Include the names of the officials and the date contacted.
6. Submit the request on Organization Letterhead (if available) to:
Transportation Management Center, Smokey Bear Blvd, Concord, NH 03301

After receipt of a request, the Department may have the organizer contact a list of the maritime community and the Harbor Masters.

The Department will then submit the request to the Coast Guard. If the Coast Guard approves the Deviation, the Applicant will, at a minimum, be required to do the following:

1. Place a Notice in a paper with local circulation at least two weeks prior to the event. A copy of the notice as it appears in the paper shall be submitted to the address above prior to the event.
2. Contact local law enforcement with jurisdiction on each end of the bridge prior to the event.
3. Contact the Department of Public works with jurisdiction on each end of the bridge prior to the event.

The Coast Guard may add additional requirements not noted above. Any additional requirements will be forwarded to the applicant along with a copy of the Coast Guard's authorization letter. Permission is not granted for any closure until the Coast Guard's authorization letter has been received.

If you have any questions, please contact the Bridge Maintenance Office at 603-271-3667