

Other (Federal)

Bridge Permit (Section 9 Permit)

What Activities Require This Permit? Any individual, partnership, corporation, or local, state, or federal legislative body, agency, or authority planning to construct or modify a bridge or causeway across a navigable waterway of the United States must apply for a Coast Guard bridge permit. This includes all temporary bridges used for construction access or traffic detour.

What Is The Purpose of This Permit? The purpose of legislation pertaining to bridges and the following Acts are to preserve the public right of navigation and to prevent interference with interstate and foreign commerce. These Acts include Section 9 of the Rivers and Harbors Act of 1899 and the General Bridge Act of 1946.

Who Issues This Permit? The U.S. Coast Guard.

How Much Will This Permit Cost? Contact the U.S. Coast Guard for fee information.

Where Can I Get The Application For This Permit? Visit: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Marine-Transportation-Systems-CG-5PW/Office-of-Bridge-Programs/Bridge-Permit-Application-Process/>

How Long Will It Take to Review My Application? Contact the U.S. Coast Guard for application review times.

Where Do I Submit My Application? To the appropriate U.S. Coast Guard District bridge administration staff. See the following link for contact information: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Marine-Transportation-Systems-CG-5PW/Office-of-Bridge-Programs/District-Bridge-Contacts/>

How Long Is My Permit or License or Certificate Valid? Based on the estimate given in the application, a reasonable period of time will be allowed for the construction of the bridge project covered by the permit. Coast Guard bridge permits specify that the permit becomes null and void unless construction of the bridge is commenced and completed by certain dates. This time period is usually three years and five years, respectively, from the date of the permit. Longer construction times can be requested and substantiated with good reasons. The specified time should correspond to the actual time needed to complete construction, since a time extension may not be routinely granted. If the authorized work is not completed within the time specified in the permit, the permit is null and void. A new application and approval are required before construction work can continue.

Notes/Comments: A bridge permit is the written approval of the location and plans of the bridge or causeway to be constructed or modified. Federal law prohibits the construction of these structures unless the Coast Guard first authorizes them. Failure to obtain a bridge permit before commencing bridge construction or modification work is a federal offense, punishable by civil and criminal penalties.

Legal Authority/Statute Reference: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Marine-Transportation-Systems-CG-5PW/Office-of-Bridge-Programs/Laws-and-Regulations/>

Links: <https://www.dco.uscg.mil/Our-Organization/Assistant-Commandant-for-Prevention-Policy-CG-5P/Marine-Transportation-Systems-CG-5PW/Office-of-Bridge-Programs/Bridge-Permit-Application-Process/>

Statewide Contact Information:

Commander(dpb), Fifth Coast Guard District
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