

3.10.5 IMPORTANCE CATEGORIES

All bridges shall be classified to be at least “Essential”.

If the route that the structure is on services an emergency facility (hospital, firestation, etc.) or a major transportation facility and the detour for the emergency facility is greater than one mile, the structure should be classified as “Critical”.

If the structure carries utilities (water, gas, and power) and these utilities would be considered essential in the case of an earthquake or other emergency, the structure should be considered “Critical”.

The “Essential” and “Critical” classifications both correspond to the use of a 1000-yr return period event. This is the typical case.

For special cases, it may be desirable to use a return period event greater than 1000-yr for development of the response spectrum for a “Critical” bridge. Consult your Group Leader.

All bridges that are classified as “Critical” under section 3.10.5 shall be considered “Critical or Essential” under section 1.3.5 for η_1 purposes.

Additional References [..\01 Introduction\1.3.5 Operational Importance.doc](#)

Revisions:

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| April 2008 | Changed reference from 3.10.3 to 3.10.5 to agree with the 2008 Interims. |
| Oct 2015 | Revised definition of critical or essential bridges. |