



# Illinois Department of Transportation

2300 South Dirksen Parkway / Springfield, Illinois / 62764

April 17, 2019

## CIRCULAR LETTER 2019-07

### SNOOPER SAFETY

COUNTY ENGINEERS / SUPERINTENDENTS OF HIGHWAYS  
MUNICIPAL ENGINEERS / DIRECTORS OF PUBLIC WORKS / MAYORS  
METROPOLITAN PLANNING ORGANIZATIONS – DIRECTORS  
TOWNSHIP HIGHWAY COMMISSIONERS  
CONSULTING ENGINEERS

The purpose of this Circular Letter is to provide information regarding the use of snoopers by Local Public Agencies (LPAs) and associated safety issues.

Bridge inspection work sometimes involves the use of under bridge inspection (UBI) vehicles, often referred to as “snoopers.” The Department recently became aware a company that is a national source of snoopers equipment, McClain & Co., Inc., has been suspended by the FHWA from participation in federal procurement and non-procurement transactions. The allegations against McClain state that the firm falsified equipment certificates of examination, along with the commission of other serious safety related offenses. More specific information may be obtained from the [USDOT OIG](#).

Consequently, effective immediately and so that IDOT can maintain the highest standards of safety for its consultants and the motoring public, snoopers from McClain & Co., Inc. are no longer permitted on IDOT bridge inspections. In addition to the suspension of federal participation, we recommend snoopers from McClain & Co., Inc. also be suspended from use for all LPA inspections. We IDOT appreciate your continuing cooperation with the Department.

Questions regarding this circular letter may be directed to the Local Policy and Technology Unit by telephone at (217) 785-5048 or by email at [DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov](mailto:DOT.LocalPolicy@illinois.gov).

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Stephane B. Seck-Birhame in blue ink.

Stephane B. Seck-Birhame, P.E., PTOE  
Acting Engineer of Local Roads and Streets

Handwritten signature of D. Carl Puzey in blue ink.

D. Carl Puzey, P.E., S.E.  
Engineer of Bridges and Structures

JK/

cc: Dan Brydl, FHWA - Illinois Division  
Mike Pedigo, Illinois Association of County Engineers  
Jeff Scott, Illinois Municipal League  
Bryan Smith, Township Officials of Illinois  
Charlie Montgomery, Township Highway Commissioners of Illinois