CIRCULAR LETTER 2019-07

SNOOPER SAFETY

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 snooper 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 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.

Sincerely,

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