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## NATIONAL CRANE/RIGGING WG—ESTABLISHED

***Boldly going...***

On July 12th, 2010, five young men and one brave woman, traveled to Louisville, KY to meet and discuss rigging and crane safety. The purpose of this meeting was three-fold:

1. Establish a national charter and determine the scope and mission for the Crane PDT,
2. Review the comments, questions, and clarifications of EM Sections 15 and 16 that had been forwarded to HQ Safety during calendar year 2010 and provide answers back to the field.
3. Tour the McAlpine Lock and see the ongoing repair work on the lock.

***The Charter...Purpose.***

The USACE National Crane/Rigging Working Group (WG) will provide technical guidance to the field in support of occupational standards and governing regulations with respect to cranes, derricks, hoists, and rigging requirements.

Duties of the working group will include, but are not limited to: identifying

key issues, performing accident investigation and data analysis to resolve issues and provide appropriate guidance, as well as developing programs, training, templates and other programmatic tools as requested/necessary.

The WG will maintain Sections 15 and 16 of the US Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) Safety and Health Requirements Manual (EM 385-1-1), and will serve as technical advisors and resources to the field. Guidance will be in accordance with EM 385-1-1, OSHA Regulations, National Consensus Standards and any other applicable requirements/standards.

When a crane or rigging accident occurs which triggers a formal Board of Investigation (BOI), a representative of this WG will serve as a Technical Advisor to the BOI. Routine periodicals will be provided to the field detailing crane/rigging issues and summarizing lessons-learned.

The WG will also serve to audit the implementation of the pertinent requirements for crane and rigger programs at the local level to validate compliance with the EM 385-1-1 and provide feedback and assistance as necessary.

***Where Can I Find...***

As the WG continues to work through the changes to the EM, Sections 15 and 16, we want you to know that the CESO (HQ Safety) website (<http://www.usace.army.mil/CESO/Pages/Home.aspx>) provides you with the most current information with respects to changes and updates.

Changes to the EM 385-1-1, 2008 are posted and available on the US Army Corps of Engineers publications site, at this link:

<http://140.194.76.129/publications/eng-manuals/>

## OSHA—REVISED CRANE STANDARD



The new crane and rigging rule replaces a standard that was established in 1971 and about 4.8 million workers will be affected by the rule published on July 28.

The rule addresses provisions for crane operator certification, and crane inspection, set-up and disassembly, OSHA said.

It also sets requirements for crane operator, rigger and signal person

training requirements and assessment.

In addition, the rule addresses tower crane hazards, addresses the use of synthetic slings for assembly/disassembly work, and clarifies the scope of the regulation by providing both a functional description and a list of examples for the equipment that is covered.

## OSHA'S FACT SHEET—CRANES

## Cranes and Derricks in Construction Final Rule

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) released a historic new standard, addressing the use of cranes and derricks in construction and replacing a decades old standard. The significant number of fatalities associated with the use of cranes and derricks in construction and the considerable technological advances in equipment since the publication of the old rule, issued in 1971, led the Labor Department to undertake this rulemaking.

In 1998, OSHA's expert Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH) established a workgroup to develop recommended changes to the current standard for cranes and derricks. In December 1999, ACCSH recommended that the Agency use negotiated rulemaking to develop the rule. The Cranes and Derricks Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (C-DAC) was convened in July 2003 and reached consensus on its draft document in July 2004. In 2006, ACCSH recommended that OSHA use the C-DAC consensus document as a basis for OSHA's proposed rule, which was published in 2008. Public hearings were held in March 2009, and the public comment period on those proceedings closed in June 2009.

- The rule becomes effective 90 days after August 9, 2010, the date the final rule was published in the *Federal Register*. Certain provisions have delayed effective dates ranging from 1 to 4 years.

The final rule was published on August 9, 2010 by the Federal Register, and can be found at [http://www.osha.gov/FedReg\\_osha\\_pdf/FED20100809.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/FedReg_osha_pdf/FED20100809.pdf).

A copy of the regulatory text is available at: <http://www.osha.gov/doc/cranesreg.pdf>

- This new standard will comprehensively address key hazards related to cranes and derricks on construction worksites, including the four main causes of worker death and injury: electrocution, crushed by parts of the equipment, struck-by the equipment/load, and falls.
- Significant requirements in this new rule include: a pre-erection inspection of tower crane parts; use of synthetic slings in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions during assembly/disassembly work; assessment of ground conditions; qualification or certification of crane operators; and procedures for working in the vicinity of power lines.
- This final standard is expected to prevent 22 fatalities and 175 non-fatal injuries each year.

Several provisions have been modified from the proposed rule. For example:

- Employers must comply with local and state operator licensing requirements which meet the minimum criteria specified in § 1926.1427.
- Employers must pay for certification or qualification of their currently uncertified or unqualified operators.
- Written certification tests may be administered in any language understood by the operator candidate.
- When employers with employees qualified for power transmission and distribution are working in accordance with the power transmission and distribution standard (§ 1910.269), that employer will be considered in compliance with this final rule's requirements for working around power lines.
- Employers must use a qualified rigger for rigging operations during assembly/disassembly.
- Employers must perform a pre-erection inspection of tower cranes.
- This final rule requires operators of most types of cranes to be qualified or certified under one of the options set forth in § 1926.1427. Employers have up to 4 years to ensure that their operators are qualified or certified, unless they are operating in a state or city that has operator requirements.
- If a city or state has its own licensing or certification program, OSHA mandates compliance with that city or state's requirements only if they meet the minimum criteria set forth in this rule at § 1926.1427.
- The certification requirements in the final rule are designed to work in conjunction with state and local laws.
- This final rule clarifies that employers must pay for all training required by the final rule and for certification of equipment operators employed as of the effective date of the rule
- State Plans must issue job safety and health standards that are "at least as effective as" comparable federal standards within 6 months of federal issuance. State Plans also have the option to promulgate more stringent standards or standards covering hazards not addressed by federal standards.
- OSHA will have additional compliance assistance material available within the next month.

**OSHA—FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ON THE RULE**

When will the rule be effective? November 8, 2010.

Is every requirement of the rule effective at the same time? No. While most of the requirements in the new rule are effective 90 days after publication in the *Federal Register*, which occurred on August 9, 2010, there are certain provisions that have delayed effective dates ranging from 1 year to 4 years from the effective date of the rule.

Where can I find a copy of the rule? The rule is available at [http://www.osha.gov/FedReg\\_oshapdf/FED20100809.pdf](http://www.osha.gov/FedReg_oshapdf/FED20100809.pdf) or at <http://edocket.access.gpo.gov/2010/pdf/2010-17818.pdf>.

How will this rule improve worker safety on construction sites with cranes and derricks? This new standard will comprehensively address key hazards related to cranes and derricks on construction worksite, including the four main causes of worker death and injury: electrocution, crushed by parts of the equipment, struck-by the equipment/load, and falls. Some of the significant requirements in this new rule include: a pre-erection inspection of tower crane parts; use of synthetic slings in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions during assembly/disassembly work; assessment of ground conditions; qualification or certification of crane operators; procedures for working in the vicinity of power lines. It is anticipated that this final standard will prevent 22 fatalities and 175 non-fatal injuries each year.

How is the final rule different from the rule proposed October 9, 2008? Several provisions have been changed or modified from the proposed rule. These changes include:

- Employers must comply with local and state operator licensing requirements when they meet the minimum criteria specified § 1926.1427.
- The clarification that employers must pay for certification or qualification of their currently uncertified or unqualified operators.
- A clarification that written certification tests may be administered in any language understood by the operator candidate.
- When employers with employees qualified for power transmission and distribution are working in accordance with § 1910.269, that employer will be considered in compliance with this final rule's requirements for working around power lines.
- Employers must use a qualified rigger for rigging operations during assembly/disassembly.
- Employers must perform a pre-erection inspection of tower cranes.

When will compliance assistance materials be available to the public? OSHA has posted a preliminary fact sheet and this FAQ and anticipates having fact sheets and other material available soon. These materials will be posted on this website as they become available.

Does the final rule require crane operators to be qualified or certified? Yes. This final rule requires operators of most types of cranes to be qualified or certified under one of the methods set forth in § 1926.1427. Employers have up to four years to ensure that their operators are qualified or certified, unless they are operating in a state or city that has operator requirements.

Does the final rule allow cities or states to have their own licensing or certification program for crane operators? Yes; however, that city or state's requirements must meet the minimum criteria that is set forth in this rule at § 1926.1427.

Does the final rule require riggers to be certified? No, riggers are not required to be certified. However, riggers must be a qualified person for the performance of specified hoisting activities such as during assembly/disassembly work and those that require employees to be in the fall zone to handle a load. The rigger would be considered qualified through possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing; or by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, successfully demonstrating the ability to solve/resolve problems related to rigging work and related activities.

Does the final rule require signal persons to be certified? No, signal persons do not have to be certified. However, the employer of a signal person must ensure that the signal person is qualified. This qualification must be done by a qualified evaluator, which may be a third party or an employee of the signal person's employer. The evaluator must demonstrate that he or she can accurately assess whether an individual meets the qualification requirements specified by this final rule for signal persons.

How does this new rule affect those states that administer their own OSHA-approved safety and health plan? State Plans must have job safety and health standards that are "at least as effective as" comparable federal standards. State Plans have the option to promulgate more stringent standards or standards covering hazards not addressed by federal standards.

How was this rule developed? OSHA's Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH) established a workgroup to develop recommended changes to the requirements in Subpart N for cranes and derricks. ACCSH then recommended that the Agency use negotiated rulemaking to develop a new rule. The Cranes and Derricks Negotiated Rulemaking Committee (C-DAC) was established and provided a consensus draft document to the Agency. OSHA used this document to develop the proposed rule. After reviewing public comments on that proposed rule and information received during four days of public hearings, OSHA developed this final rule.

## THE RIG'S UP

FAIRFAX, Va., September 15, 2010 -- The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) has announced the launch of its much anticipated Rigger Level II certification program.

Candidate applications for Rigger Level II certification exams are being accepted now in preparation for test administrations that will begin October 1. As with other CCO certification programs, candidates seeking Rigger Level II certification are required to pass both a written and a practical exam. The written exam consists of 40 questions that must be completed within 60 minutes. The practical exam tests a candidate's competency in rigging a load for a level lift and for rotating a load.

## CRANE ABSTRACTS—2010

### SkyJack SMJ 3219 Safety

During the fall hazard assessment, a safety specialist noticed the sky jack SJM 3219 Scissor Lift guardrails were very unstable. We had an employee almost fall off. Employees subsequently secured the guardrail. However the service bulletin discussed some structural problems that have occurred with units built prior to March 1998.

A bulletin has been re-issued. Please review this bulletin.

[www.albertaforestproducts.ca/Downloads/documentloader.ashx?id=6601](http://www.albertaforestproducts.ca/Downloads/documentloader.ashx?id=6601)

There is common agreement in the field that this device needs to be inspected by a vendor to make sure it is structurally sound. They cite specific repairs that should be made to this model.

Also, guardrails on scissor lifts and other lifts are not meant to be leaned

on while performing work. They are to prevent a fall if someone were to lose their balance, the guardrail prevents the fall. Please share how the guardrails are to be used with your employees.

Safety issue identified by CENWW-SO.

### WHAT'S UP WITH THAT?

Each month, we will show you a picture and ask you:

- To identify the safety deficiency that has occurred and the correct reference in EM 385-1-1;
- What you believe was the "direct" cause of the incident.

The first two correct answers received will receive a safety travel mug.

Email answers to:

Jerry.R.Balcom@usace.army.mil

## NATIONAL CRANE PDT MEMBERS

ELLEN STEWART, CESO	202-761-8565
JERRY BALCOM, SAD-SO	404-562-5236
JOHN CANNON, NWP-EC-CL	360-673-3852 x 201
ARTHUR KUNIGEL, NWP-OD-D	541-506-7837
GREGORY LEE, MDC-DB	215-656-6865
PEGGY MCBRIDE, NAB-PP-M	410-962-4370
DAVID STANTON, NWP-SO	503-808-4540
KEVIN VESSELS, LRL-OP-TM	502-315-6705
ROBERT WILD, MVR-OD-T	309-794-5650

*Here we go.... What happened here?*



### COUNTERWEIGHT

Jerry R Balcom  
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
South Atlantic Division  
60 Forsyth Street SW  
Atlanta, GA 30303

