

# SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN

## CRANE TRUCK REGULATIONS

Public agencies often use cranes mounted to trucks for public works and utility operations. This type of equipment may be defined as a mobile or truck crane per 29 CFR 1910.180, 29 CFR 1926.1400, and 29 CFR 1926.1401 where it is stated that commercial truck-mounted cranes are classified as "Mobile Cranes".

OSHA has two standards that regulate mobile/truck cranes:

- 29 CFR 1910.180 addresses cranes for "General Industry" use.
- 29 CFR 1926.1400-1442 addresses cranes in the "Construction Industry". OSHA defines construction work as "work for construction, alteration, and/or repair, including painting and decorating."

OSHA has long distinguished maintenance work, covered under the general industry standards, from "construction work." OSHA says that maintenance is anticipated, routine and done on a regularly scheduled/periodic basis to help maintain the original condition of the component. If the work consists of repair as opposed to replacement, a key factor is whether those repairs are extensive. If the work consists of the removal and replacement of equipment, an important factor is whether the new equipment is of an improved type. This [OSHA Letter of Interpretation](#) explains the differences. Many Public Works and Utility Departments use cranes during emergencies for repairs in addition to scheduled maintenance situations, therefore it is recommended to comply with both the General Industry and the Construction Industry Standards.



Truck-mounted davit cranes used for lifting personnel in permit-required confined space operations and fall protection operations are typically exempt from the requirements outlined in this bulletin as they are designed for lifting personnel, typically have a load rating of under 2,000 pounds, and are not powered by internal combustion engines or electric motors. However, inspections must be in accordance with manufacturer procedures for equipment with a maximum rated hoisting/lifting capacity of 2,000 pounds or less.

### **General Industry 29 CFR 1910.180**

The General Industry Standard only requires "Designated Personnel" to operate cranes that fall under the standard.

Inspections of the crane are required per 29 CFR 1910.180. Certification records include the date of inspection, the signature of the person who performed the inspection, and the serial number, or other identifiers. This certification record shall be kept readily available.

- **Frequent Inspections** are daily to monthly intervals. Frequent inspections include items such as the functionality of control mechanisms, safety devices, and electrical components as well as leakage in the air or hydraulic components, and cracks and deformations in the crane hook.
- **Periodic Inspection** are 1- to 12- month intervals, or as specifically recommended by the manufacturer. Periodic inspections include items such as corrosion or cracking in the crane structure, loose bolts, cracked or worn parts, excessive wear on parts, excessive wear of chains, and tire condition if applicable.

## Construction Industry 29 CFR 1926.1400-1442

Operator training, certification, and evaluation are required per 29 CFR 1926.1427 for cranes with a capacity of over 2,000 lbs. The requirements of this standard include:

- **Licensing and Certification:** The employer must ensure that each operator is certified or licensed to operate the equipment. The New Jersey Licensing of Crane Operators Act (N.J.S.A. 45:26-1 et. seq.) and Regulations (N.J.A.C. 12:121) apply to cranes with manufacturers rated lifting capacity over 10 tons. If the rated lifting capacity is over 10 tons, the operator must be [licensed by the State of New Jersey](#). If the crane manufacturer's rated lifting capacity is under 10 tons then the operator must be certified by an accredited crane operator testing organization and does not need to be licensed by the State of New Jersey. The [National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators \(NCCCO\)](#) offers additional information about training and certifications including where to find a qualified trainer in your area. Licenses and the Certifications are valid for 5 years.
- **Evaluations:** Through an evaluation, the employer must ensure that each operator is qualified by a demonstration of skills and knowledge demonstrating the ability to perform the hoisting activities required for assigned work. The evaluation must be conducted by an individual who has the knowledge, training, and experience necessary to assess equipment operators. The evaluator must be an employee or agent of the employer.
- **Operator-in-Training:** An employee who has not been certified/licensed and evaluated to operate assigned equipment may only operate the equipment as an "operator-in-training" under supervision per the regulations. The employer must provide each operator-in-training with sufficient training, through a combination of formal and practical instruction, to ensure that the operator-in-training develops the skills, knowledge, and ability to recognize and avert risk necessary to operate the equipment safely for assigned work.



Inspections of the crane are also required per 29 CFR 1926.1412.

- **Daily Inspections**, a competent person must begin a visual inspection before each shift the equipment will be used. A competent person means one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions that are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has the authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them.
- **Monthly Inspections** are each month the equipment is in service it must be inspected by a competent person. Documentation of the inspections should include the items checked during the inspection, the name of the individual conducting the inspection, and the date. This document must be retained for a minimum of three months.
- **Annual inspections** must be least every 12 months, the equipment must be inspected by a qualified person. A qualified person means a person who, by possession of a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or who by extensive knowledge, training, and experience, successfully demonstrated the ability to solve/resolve problems relating to the subject matter, the work, or the project. Typically, these annual inspections are conducted by an outside agency.