

SAFETY DIRECTOR BULLETIN

CRANE INSPECTIONS BEST PRACTICES

Overhead and gantry cranes are often used by public agencies as a safe way to lift and move heavy or large materials. It is important to ensure that your cranes are functioning properly and will not pose an additional hazard during use. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires overhead and gantry cranes to be inspected regularly. OSHA requires three types of inspections: initial, frequent, and periodic.



Initial Inspections are to be conducted before initial use for all new or altered cranes. These are typically completed by an outside inspection company.

Frequent Inspections must be conducted on a daily to monthly basis, depending on the frequency of use of the crane. These are often conducted in-house.

Periodic Inspections must be conducted on a one-to-twelve-month interval, depending on the frequency of use of the crane, environmental conditions, and severity of use. This can be conducted in-house or by an outside company.

Both the Frequent and the Periodic Crane Inspection Checklists are available on the [NJCE Safety Resources](#) webpage under the header [Forms, Documents and Checklists](#), subheader Inspection Checklists.

Cranes that have been idle for a period of 1 to 6 months shall be given an inspection meeting the requirements of the “frequent inspections” before being placed in service. Cranes that have been idle for a period longer than 6 months must be given an inspection meeting the requirements of both “frequent inspections” and “periodic inspections” before being placed in service.

Crane truck inspections and regulations are covered in a Safety Director Bulletin: [Crane Truck Regulations](#).

