



CRANES

Scope and Applicability Statement

This document provides general safety procedures and regulatory guidance for employers and workers in accordance with U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards under 29 CFR 1910 and 29 CFR 1926. These procedures apply to all workplaces where they are implemented as part of a comprehensive safety program.

Customization and Compliance Statement

Employers are responsible for ensuring compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal safety regulations. Workers must adhere to established safety protocols to prevent workplace injuries and illnesses.



Purpose

The purpose of this program is to outline the procedures for safe operations and the training requirements regarding crane and lifting devices, including all rigging, design, construction, installation, maintenance, and performance requirements.

Scope

This program applies to all employees who operate overhead cranes, hoists, and rigging equipment as part of their job duties. Third-party contractors hired to provide crane services with their own equipment must follow their own policies and procedures. Contractors hired to operate a company-owned crane may follow this procedure.

Key Responsibilities

Managers and Supervisors:

- Ensure that only trained, qualified, and certified operators operate lifting and hoisting equipment.
- Establish and maintain daily, monthly, and annual inspection programs.
- Maintain a recordkeeping log for safety checks, maintenance, and repairs.
- Ensure that employees and contractors are trained and qualified in crane operations and rigging safety.

Riggers & Operators:

- Inspect equipment before use and report any wear, needed repairs, or damage.
- Follow all requirements for the safe handling, storage, and use of lifting equipment.
- Report all equipment malfunctions immediately.

Procedures

General Requirements

- Operating controls shall be plainly marked to indicate the direction of movement.
- All manufacturer procedures for crane operation and safety must be followed.
- Load charts, rated capacities, and other operational instructions must be readily available.
- Operators must be qualified and certified through an accredited testing organization, an employer's audited program, military qualification, or government licensing.
- An operator in training may only operate a crane under the direct supervision of a certified operator.



Equipment and Load Handling

- Cranes must not be used unless ground conditions meet the manufacturer's specifications.
- All loads must be properly slung and hooked by a competent rigger.
- Safety devices, including limit switches, brakes, and foot pedal brake locks, must be tested at the beginning of each shift.
- A fire extinguisher must be available in the cab of each crane or hoisting device.
- Cranes must have clearly marked boundaries to prevent personnel from entering hazardous areas.

Overhead Power Line Safety

- A pre-operation hazard assessment must be conducted to determine the risk of contact with power lines.
- If equipment may come within 20 feet of a power line, additional protective measures must be implemented, such as de-energization or establishing minimum approach distances as required by OSHA.

Inspection and Maintenance

- Daily visual inspections must be conducted before each shift.
- Monthly inspections must be documented and retained for at least 12 months.
- Annual inspections must be performed by a qualified professional.
- Defective equipment must be removed from service until repaired.

Safe Lifting Practices

- The rated capacity of a crane or hoist must not be exceeded.
- Loads must be carried as close to the ground as possible.
- Tag lines must be used to control load movement.
- Operators must stop crane operations immediately if a safety concern arises.
- No employee shall stand or pass beneath a suspended load.

Rigging Safety

- Rigging must be inspected before each use and removed from service if defective.



- Slings, chains, and hooks must have legible working load limit markings.
- Hooks must have safety latches to prevent accidental dislodging.
- Employees must use tag lines to control the movement of suspended loads.

Signaling and Communication

- A signal person must be used when crane operation requires load guidance.
- Only designated signalers may give movement commands, but any worker may issue an emergency stop signal.
- Signals must be clear, standardized, and readily understood by both the operator and signaler.

Training Requirements

- Employees operating cranes must complete formal training before use.
- Training records must be maintained and include the trainee's name, training date, and instructor's signature.
- Retraining is required when deficiencies in crane operation are observed.