

NEW OSHA STANDARD

The new crane law, OSHA 29CFR 1926.1400 Crane Construction Standard, that was released on August 9, 2010 for the construction industry with most provisions becoming effective November 8, 2010 incorporates many changes that affect employer Responsibilities. In an effort to assist organizations, employers, and supervisors, following is a brief list of some of the major requirements:

Employers are required to provide the qualification or certification training to employees so that for qualified persons such as Signal Persons, Riggers and Crane Operator they can become qualified or certified as applicable at no cost to the employee.

Operator - Qualification and Certification - The employer must ensure that, prior to operating any equipment covered, the person is qualified or certified to operate the equipment under this regulation. Operators have until November 8, 2014 to become qualified.

Signal Person - The Employer of the signal person must ensure that each signal person meets the qualification requirements prior to giving any signals. In order to demonstrate that he/she meets the requirement of the new crane standard, they must pass an oral or written test, and a thorough practical test. Signal Persons have until November 8, 2010 to become qualified.

Rigging - Qualified Riggers must be used for any hooking, unhooking or guiding a load, assembly, disassembly of equipment, and other tasks. Riggers have until November 8, 2010 to become qualified.

Refresher Training - must be provided by the employer in relevant topics for each employee when, based on the conduct of the employee's knowledge, there is an indication that retraining is necessary.

Maintenance and Repair Personnel - The employer must ensure these personnel have been trained and evaluated, prior to operating equipment in the performance of the assigned duties, when working on equipment.

Assembly/Disassembly of Lattice Boom or Tower Cranes - must be directed by a person, who meets the criteria of both a competent person and qualified person, or by a competent person, who is assisted by one or more qualified persons.

Before beginning **Multi-Crane/Derrick Operation**, in which the operation will be provided by one or more cranes/derricks, the operation must be planned and directed by a person who meets the criteria for both a competent person and a qualified person, or by a competent person who is assisted by one or more qualified persons (lift director).

Working around **Power Lines** requires that the employer must evaluate each employee to confirm that the employee understands the information provided in the training. In addition, dedicated spotters who are trained in accordance with safe crane operations around power lines are required in general as spotters when operating near power lines.

The new regulations on **Crane Inspections**, now requires that Mobile and Tower Cranes require Daily, Monthly and Annual Inspections. Each shift a Competent Person must visually inspect the crane. Monthly, a Competent Person must visually inspect the crane and the inspection must be documented. Annually, the equipment must be inspected and documented by a Qualified Person which is a more stringent requirement than a competent person. Similarly, any equipment that has been modified or repaired and all equipment post-assembly must be inspected by a qualified person.

For the complete text of OSHA 29CFR 1926.1400 visit www.cicb.com and follow the link on the home page.