

Safe operation of cranes on building and construction sites - new regulations

October 2003

New regulations are due to come into effect in October 2003 affecting the operation of cranes on Western Australian building and construction sites. This information sheet sets out what the new regulations require..

What do the new regulations require?

1. New requirements for cranes, hoists and building maintenance units

Where there is a crane, hoist or building maintenance unit at a workplace, the person in charge of that workplace, must ensure that the crane, hoist or building maintenance unit is maintained, inspected and operated:

- > In accordance with written instructions developed at the time of design or manufacture by the person who designed or manufactured the crane, hoist or unit;
- > If it's not practicable for the person in charge of the workplace to get those instructions, then in accordance with any written instructions approved by the Commissioner; or
- ^a If it's not practicable for the person in charge of the workplace to get either form of instructions (eg: they were not provided with the plant and it is not practicable to trace the original designer or manufacturer or the Commissioner has not approved any), then in accordance with the AS 2550.1 and any other part of AS/NZS 2550 that is relevant, and with AS 1418.1 and any other part of AS/NZS 1418 that is relevant.

There are some special provisions applying to Elevated Work Platforms (EWPs) being used in the fruit growing industry. Information on the application of these new requirements for the operation of EWPs in the fruit growing industry is provided in a separate fact sheet.

WorkSafe

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2. New minimum requirements for crews to work with crane operators

Cranes with maximum rated capacity of over 60 tonnes

A crane with a maximum rated capacity of more than 60 tonnes cannot be used at a construction site unless there is at least one experienced crane operator and two other crew involved in the use of that crane. The other crew must be qualified as either doggers or riggers with experience in the use of such cranes.

This requirement does not apply to vehicle loading cranes.

Cranes with a maximum rated capacity of 10 tonnes and over

A crane with a maximum rated capacity of equal to or more than 10 tonnes, but less than or equal to 60 tonnes, cannot be used at a construction site unless there is at least one experienced crane operator and one dogger involved in the use of that crane.

This requirement does not apply to vehicle loading cranes.

Vehicle loading cranes and cranes with a maximum rated capacity of under 10 tonnes

If a vehicle loading crane or a crane with a maximum rated capacity of less than 10 tonnes, has a boom length of more than three metres or a boom capable of extending more than three metres, then it cannot be used at a construction site unless there is at least one experienced crane operator and one dogger involved in the use of that crane.

3. Reporting of incidents involving cranes – broader application to all workplaces

The person in charge of the workplace must notify the WorkSafe Western Australia Commissioner of any event or occurrence that causes a crane to be damaged or to malfunction to the extent that risk of injury or harm occurring to a person at the workplace increases. This provision applies to all cranes listed in schedule 4.1 and 4.2 of the Occupational Safety and Health Regulations 1996, and applies to all workplaces not just construction sites.

4. Clarification of requirements for records of training for the purposes of applying for a certificate of competency

New provisions relating to 'records of training' clarify Western Australia's requirements for a person seeking to obtain a certificate of competency under the National Certification Standard for Users and Operators of Industrial Equipment [NOHSC: 1006 (2001)].

A person who applies to the Commissioner to obtain a certificate of competency in accordance with the National Standard must supply a record of training that includes:

- > their name and address;
- > for each specific type of industrial equipment the applicant used and operated during the training, sufficient information to show the tasks performed and the outcomes achieved by the applicant;
- > for each occasion the applicant used and operated each specific type of industrial equipment -
- > the date and time when the equipment was used and operated;

- the name of the person who oversighted or supervised the applicant's use and operation of the equipment, and the number of the person's certificate of competency; and
- a signed statement by that person stating that he or she oversighted or supervised the applicant while they were using and operating the industrial equipment.

5. New requirements to fit external rated capacity indicator lighting and audible alarms on all cranes other than non-slewing cranes

All cranes, other than non-slewing cranes, need to be fitted with external rated capacity indicator lighting and audible alarms where it is practicable to do so within six months of the new regulations coming into effect.

The new provisions set out requirements for:

- green, amber and red lights to be emitted according to the percentage of the crane's rated capacity being lifted; and
- audible alarms to be fitted inside and outside the crane only if a load being lifted by the crane is greater than 100 per cent of the crane's rated capacity.

The percentage of the a crane's rated capacity at which a light is emitted or an alarm sounds can differ by up to two per cent to the percentages set out in the regulations under certain prescribed conditions (all of which must apply), including:

- that the crane is operated in accordance with written instructions developed at the time of design or manufacture by the person who designed or manufactured the crane.

Where can I get more information?

WorkSafe has a number of publications that provide general information on working safely with plant or on general duty of care responsibilities. Contact our publications officer on 93278775 or visit our website at www.safetyline.wa.gov.au and click on the 'Essentials' heading. While you're there, check out the 'First Step Guide' and other resources designed to help you make your workplace safer.

This publication is available on request in other formats to assist people with special needs.

