



US Department of Labor's OSHA Publishes Final Rule on Cranes and Derricks in Construction

The final rule on cranes and derricks in construction will have a significant impact on Construction, Crane Rental and Crane Certification establishment. The new rule includes requirements for: inspection criteria, fall protection, signal person qualification, power line safety, ground conditions, authority to stop operations, operational aids and operator qualifications. Following is an excerpt of the OSHA Press Release and a link to the complete regulation.

WASHINGTON - The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration announced on July 28, 2010 that it is issuing a new rule addressing the use of cranes and derricks in construction, which will replace a decades-old standard. Approximately 267,000 construction, crane rental and crane certification establishments employing about 4.8 million workers will be affected by the rule published today.

The new rule is designed to prevent the leading causes of fatalities, including electrocution, crushed-by/struck-by hazards during assembly/disassembly, collapse and overturn. It also sets requirements for ground conditions and crane operator assessment. In addition, the rule addresses tower crane hazards, addresses the use of synthetic slings for assembly/disassembly work, and clarifies the scope of the regulation by providing both a functional description and a list of examples for the equipment that is covered.

The complete rule is available at http://www.osha.gov/FedReg_oseha_pdf/FED20100809.pdf. The regulation text is available at <http://www.osha.gov/cranes-derricks/index.html>. The new rule will take effect on Nov. 8, 2010.

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