

DOSH DIRECTIVE

Department of Labor and Industries

Division of Occupational Safety and Health

Keeping WA workers safe.

8.70 Crane Safety Inter-program Coordination

Date: September 29, 2009

I. Purpose

This directive establishes inter-program coordination related to the crane certification safety program and the protocol regarding how staff within DOSH interact when staff encounter issues related to cranes or rigging.

II. Scope and Application

This directive applies to all DOSH staff and operations statewide. It replaces all previous instructions on this issue, whether formal or informal.

III. References

- RCW 49.17.400 through 440
- Chapter 296-155 WAC, Part L, Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Elevators, and Conveyors
- Chapter 296-56 WAC, Part E, Cargo Handling Gear and Equipment
- Chapter 296-304-140 through 200 WAC in the Shipbuilding, Ship Repairing and Shipbreaking rules

IV. Background

The department has established a construction crane and operator certification safety program within DOSH following legislative action in 2007 to adopt RCW 49.17.400 through 440. The program consists of a Crane Safety Manager, Crane Safety Supervisor, Customer Service Specialists, and four specially trained CSHO's located statewide. The CSHO's have construction safety backgrounds with a specialty in crane safety. They also are required to successfully pass several written examinations, which are the same examinations that private industry crane certifiers must pass in order to become an accredited crane certifier for the construction industry.

The department also has a less formal crane certification program which has existed for many years and applies to Maritime Material Handling Devices, which is independent of the construction industry's requirements. These requirements are found in Chapter 296-56 WAC, Part E, for longshoring operations and Chapter 296-304-140 through 200 for shipyards and boatyards. Some of the accredited private industry certifiers evaluate cranes in both the maritime and construction industries. The department has established a single database that tracks all of the cranes and certifiers for both industries. All Marine and Dock staff as well as the staff in the Crane Certification Safety Program have access to that database.

V. Operational Guidance:

It is anticipated that the Crane Certification Safety Program will operate in a manner similar to other specialty areas such as the Maritime Safety Program and the High Voltage Electrical Safety Program. When specialists are available, they should be used within their respective specialized areas of expertise.

A. Crane Certification Safety Program CSHO's.

Crane Certification Safety Program CSHO's will sometimes observe safety issues which are not crane or rigging related at worksites they are visiting which need to be addressed. An example is improper staging or lack of appropriate fall protection. They are expected to address those safety issues with the employer while they are at the worksite if there is an imminent danger hazard. If the circumstances encountered are too complex or involve additional potential hazards, the CSHO should make a referral to the regular field compliance program after obtaining guidance from their supervisor, or if not available, from the appropriate Regional safety supervisor.

Crane Certification Safety Program CSHO's are not expected to perform comprehensive "wall-to-wall" inspections of construction sites. Their inspection activities are generally limited to cranes and rigging, however, they are expected to follow the procedures for inspections described in the Compliance Manual and at a minimum, must review the employer's accident prevention program.

B. Non-Crane Certification Safety Program CSHO's.

When a referral, complaint or accident investigation involves a crane or rigging, the Crane Certification Safety Program CSHO assigned to that Region should be included in the investigation and may be designated the lead investigator with the concurrence of the Regional Compliance Manager. Only experienced and qualified accident investigation CSHO's may be designated to lead an investigation.

A properly trained and experienced CSHO should address all general crane safety issues which are easily correctible and readily documented. For instance, if a CSHO observes an imminent danger situation in which a mobile crane is

operating too close to energized power lines, or one in which a crane is clearly not setup properly such as having inappropriate support under outrigger pads, the CSHO is expected to address the issues with the employer at the time of the hazard. The CSHO who is onsite can make the determination whether he/she needs a Crane Safety Program CSHO present in this instance or may contact their supervisor for advice.

C. Consultation Staff.

Consultation staff are expected to be familiar with Part L in Chapter 296-155 WAC and should perform consultations as usual regarding cranes or rigging in the construction industry. There may be times when the consultant may need to refer to a crane technical expert, at which time the consultant and their supervisor should contact the Crane Safety Supervisor or the Crane Safety Manager for assistance.



A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Stephen M. Cant", is written over a solid black horizontal line.

Approved:

Stephen M. Cant, CHH, Assistant Director

Department of Labor and Industries
Division of Occupational Safety and Health

For further information about this or other DOSH Directives, you may contact the Division of Occupational Safety & Health at P.O. Box 44600, Olympia, WA 98504-4600 – or by telephone at (360) 902-5495. You may also review policy information on the DOSH website (<http://www.lni.wa.gov/Safety>).