

Background

The Department of Labor & Industries' Division of Occupational Safety and Health (DOSH) certifies cranes used in the construction industry. This certification program also requires that crane operators meet established guidelines to become qualified to operate cranes.

All businesses that use cranes and derricks for construction activities must follow the Cranes, Rigging and Personnel Lifting Rule, Part L, of Chapter 296-155 WAC. However, Part L doesn't apply when rigging activities fall outside of crane or derrick work because other rules, such as Part F-1, cover those activities.

My employee operates my crane at a construction site. What certification do I need?

Your operator must have a valid crane operator certificate, for the type of crane to be operated, issued by a crane operator testing organization which has an accredited program, accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency. In addition, you must control all hazards the crane may create and follow applicable safety and health rules.

I lease cranes to construction contractors and provide my crane operator, who is supervised exclusively by the contractor's foreman. Do I have any responsibilities?

Yes. You must ensure compliance with all safety and health requirements to protect your employee, the operator, from hazards associated with the crane and other construction activities. Moreover, you are responsible for safe operation of the crane. See WAC 296-155-53300, Operator Qualification and Certification.

How do I know if the crane I am leasing meets DOSH certification requirements?

A temporary or annual certificate of operation must be either posted in the crane cab or with the operator's manual, per WAC 296-155-53114(7). Be sure to check the expiration date on the annual certificate so you know it's current. If the certificate isn't available or you have further questions about the status of the crane, you may call a consultant near you at www.Lni.wa.gov/DOSHConsultation or request an onsite consultation.

I am the general contractor and my subcontractor will bring a crane onto the site. What are my responsibilities?

As the controlling contractor on the site, you are responsible for exercising reasonable care to detect and prevent hazards on the site. You must:

- Ensure that a qualified person is designated as the lift director.
- Ensure that work performed by the rigging crew is supervised by a qualified rigger. See WAC 296-155-53406.
- Allow crane operation near electric power lines only when the requirements of WAC 296-155-53408 have been met.
- Ensure that work involving the assembly and disassembly of a crane is supervised by an assembly/disassembly director. See WAC 296-155-53402.
- Identify and evaluate hazards (such as ground stability, hidden tanks, voids, utilities) in the area where the crane will be set up.
- Inform subcontractors about the hazards you have found.



- Establish a system to allow safe work between two or more cranes that may have overlapping work zones. See WAC 296-155-53400, General Requirements.

I operate my own crane at an active construction site and have no employees. Do crane and operator certification rules apply to me?

Yes. This helps ensure an acceptable and consistent standard of safety for all employees who are working in the vicinity of your crane and hoisting activities.

What are the rules if I send a maintenance employee to work on a crane at a construction site?

You must follow requirements in WAC 296-155-53304, Repair, Inspection and Maintenance Employee Qualifications, since these are specific to crane-related work. Also, you must follow other general safety requirements to ensure your mechanic is safe from other construction site hazards while he/she is working on the crane.

Do workplace health and safety requirements apply to crane rental companies that do not provide crane operators or maintenance personnel?

No, but the company is responsible for the condition of the crane. Furthermore, renters (lessees) will ask you for a copy of the temporary or annual certificate of operation and may ask for crane maintenance records.

What training must be provided to employees who work directly with cranes?

Employers are required to follow requirements in WAC 296-155-53409 to train equipment operators, signal persons, riggers, competent and qualified persons, and maintenance and repair workers. Additional training requirements are specified in other provisions of the standard.

Do crane safety requirements apply to me when my employees work around construction site cranes but aren't actually involved in crane activities?

No, but you must follow an Accident Prevention Program and other applicable safety and health rules to keep your employees safe from potential and reasonably foreseeable hazards when they work around cranes.

When is a "qualified" rigger required?

A qualified rigger is required:

- When a crane or derrick is used for hoisting materials and employees are in the "fall zone" either hooking, unhooking or guiding a load.
- During assembly and disassembly work, even when conducted outside of the fall zone.
- When using telescoping, powered industrial trucks (PITs) equipped with a winch or hook for hoisting and lowering loads. See WAC 296-155-52900(3)(b) for PIT exemptions.

When is a "qualified" signal person required?

A qualified signal person is required when the operator's view is obstructed during load handling, equipment travel, and whenever the operator or other affected personnel determine this is necessary. See WAC 296-155-53302 and 53406.

Do Part L requirements apply to employers using articulating boom cranes to deliver and unload drywall, bags of cement, roofing materials, and other goods to a construction site?

Yes. Although federal OSHA differs on this, your crane must meet DOSH's annual crane certification requirements, and your operators must be certified. Also, if you are using a rigger or a signal person, you will need to follow the applicable requirements of Part L.

Who do I contact if I have questions about compliance with the rule?

You may call the Crane Safety Program at 360-902-4943 or email LniCranes@Lni.wa.gov, or visit www.Lni.wa.gov/Cranes to find all applicable rules and information.