

## **Safety Corner**

### **“New Crane Standard is Here”**

As reported in the last quarterly newsletter, the fast approaching new crane standard is here. The Office of the Federal Register published the final rule on August 9, 2010 with an effective date of the final rule of 90 days after the date of publication, which is November 8, 2010. There are a number of aspects of the new standard that we as operators should be aware of. The most important one being the “Certification” of crane operators. This portion of the new standard will be phased in over four years, and will be mandatory on August 9, 2014. The next area that will affect us will be the “Qualification” of riggers and signal persons. Effective November 8, 2010 of the standard, you will have to be qualified to give signals to an operator. You will be required to know and understand hand, voice, radio, telephone or other electronic transmission of signals as well as basic understanding of equipment operation, limitations and crane dynamics. You will be required to take a written or oral test and a practical test to be qualified. Also affective on this date is the qualification of riggers. The new standard basically states that if you are “engaged in hooking, unhooking, or guiding the load, or in the initial connection of a load to a component or structure and are within the fall zone” these materials must be rigged by a qualified rigger. In order to satisfy the standard we are developing a “Rigging and Signaling” course for our members which will include rigging as well as a signal practical test. You will be issued a card with your picture upon completion of the course. Please check our training schedule for dates and times for this “new” class.

You must be qualified by November 8, 2010.

Please “think twice” and be safe,

Bill O’Neil  
Co-Safety Officer