

WHY DO I NEED TO BE CRANE CERTIFIED?

WHICH TYPES OF CRANES REQUIRE CERTIFICATION?

DOES THE TYPE OF CRANE I USUALLY OPERATE FALL UNDER THE NEW OSHA CRANE STANDARD?

These are the most common questions I get asked regarding crane certification. The “new crane standard”, which was years in the making, is a very comprehensive and lengthy document. There were countless issues that needed to be addressed in the new document that were never addressed in the old standard. One of the most important topics discussed throughout the rulemaking process was, which type of crane would require certification and which would not. OSHA states that, “the standard applies to owner-operated equipment which, when used in construction, can hoist, lower and horizontally move a suspended load, unless such equipment is specifically excluded from coverage.” The following is a list of some of the applicable equipment that requires crane operator certification. Mobile cranes, including crawler mounted, wheel-mounted, rough terrain, all-terrain, commercial truck- mounted and boom truck cranes. Tower cranes (fixed jib and luffing jib) and self-erecting tower cranes, knuckle-boom cranes, derricks, floating cranes, cranes on barges, locomotive cranes, carry-deck cranes. Dedicated pile drivers, service/mechanic trucks with a hoisting device, monorail mounted cranes, pedestal cranes, portal cranes and straddle cranes. Equipment that is covered under the standard will still be covered when used with crane-attached or crane-suspended attachments. Such attachments include, but are not limited to: hooks, magnets, grapples, clamshell buckets, orange peel buckets, concrete buckets, draglines, personnel platforms, augers or drills, and pile driving equipment. There are some special rules/conditions, which may apply to certain pieces of equipment that may or may not require crane operator certification depending on the application and use of the equipment. Some examples of equipment that may fall under this special rule may include: service/mechanic trucks with a hoisting device, side-boom cranes, knuckle-boom cranes, overhead and gantry cranes. Undoubtedly there will be addendums and interpretations added to the crane standard in the future that may add, delete or modify the equipment listed here. My hope is if you are operating or want to operate one or more of these types of cranes that you have either acquired, or are in the process of obtaining, your operator certification.

Have a great summer!!!

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