



Summary of OSHA's New Crane Rule

July 29, 2010

The U.S. Department of Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) issued a new rule on July 28, 2010 addressing the use of cranes and derricks in construction. The previous rule, which dated back to 1971, was based on 40-year-old standards. The rule will be published in the August 9 *Federal Register* and take effect November 8, 2010.

The new rule is designed to prevent the four main causes of crane-related fatalities and injuries: electrocution, crushed by parts of the equipment (assembly/disassembly), struck-by the equipment/load (overturn/collapse), and falls. OSHA expects the final standard to prevent 22 fatalities and 175 non-fatal injuries each year.

The following is a list of the main changes in the new rule:

- ⑤ Significant requirements in this new rule include: qualification or certification of crane operators, assessment of ground conditions; use of synthetic slings in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions during assembly/disassembly work; and procedures for working in the vicinity of power lines.
- ⑤ Operators of most types of cranes must be qualified or certified under one of the options set forth in § 1926.1427. Employers have up to four years to ensure that their operators are qualified or certified, unless they are operating in a state or city that has operator requirements. *
- ⑤ Employers must comply with local and state operator licensing requirements which meet the minimum criteria specified in § 1926.1427. The certification requirements in the final rule are designed to work in conjunction with state and local laws. *
- ⑤ Employers must pay for all training required by the final rule and for certification or qualification of their currently uncertified or unqualified operators.
- ⑤ When employers with employees qualified for power transmission and distribution are working in accordance with the power transmission and distribution standard (§ 1910.269), that employer will be considered in compliance with this final rule's requirements for working around power lines.
- ⑤ Employers must use a qualified rigger for rigging operations during assembly/disassembly.

To access the new standard and for a list of frequently asked questions, [click here](#).

The TBB/AGC Safety Committee will be providing a series of educational resources for companies to assist in complying with OSHA's new Crane rule. For questions regarding this new rule, contact our West Texas AGC Chapter at (325) 676-7447.