



MIOSHA Fact Sheet

Construction Safety & Health Division

Crane Operator Certification

Cranes and other lifting equipment are indispensable tools on many Michigan construction worksites. The MIOSHA Construction Safety and Health Division has investigated 15 accidents since 2003 involving cranes resulting in 3 fatalities, multiple injuries and untold hundreds of thousands of dollars in property damage.

Crane operator certification is a requirement in **Construction Safety Standard Part 10, [Lifting and Digging Equipment](#)**. MIOSHA recently issued a [Crane Operator Certification Extension Policy](#) that extended the deadline for crane operator to be *certified* from November 8, 2014 to November 10, 2017. In the interim, a *qualified* crane operator is required to operate cranes and other lifting equipment as specified in Rule 1008a.

A certified crane operator will be required for most but not all types of cranes by the 2017 deadline. In addition, a certified crane operator may be required for other types of lifting equipment. Rule 1001a identifies equipment that is covered by Part 10 and addresses equipment that is exempt. Equipment requiring and not requiring a certified crane operator are listed separately below:

Equipment Requiring a Certified Crane Operator

- Truck cranes.
- Tower cranes.
- Crawler cranes.
- Cranes on barges.
- Boom trucks.
- Mobile cranes such as wheeled rough terrain and all terrain.
- Luffing boom and self-erecting cranes.
- Pedestal cranes.
- Portal cranes.
- Automobile wreckers and tow trucks when used in construction for anything other than clearing wrecks or hauling vehicles.
- Articulating/knuckle-boom cranes when used to deliver materials such as steel joists, beams, columns, steel decking, or components of systems engineered metal buildings; precast concrete members or panels; roof trusses, (wooden, cold formed metal, steel or other material); and prefabricated building sections such as but not limited to, floor panels, wall panels, roof panels, roof structures, or similar item onto a structure. A certified crane operator would also be required if the articulating/knuckle boom crane was holding, supporting or stabilizing materials while being attached to a structure.

Equipment and Operations NOT Requiring a Certified Crane Operator

- Wheel loaders, backhoes, loader backhoes, and track loaders.
- Concrete pumps.
- Automotive wreckers and tow trucks - **only** when used to clear wrecks and haul vehicles.
- Digger derricks used in work subject to Part 16 - [Electrical Power Transmission and Distribution](#) or Part 30 - [Telecommunications](#).
- Machinery originally designed as vehicle-mounted aerial devices for lifting personnel and self-propelled elevating work platforms.
- Telescopic or hydraulic gantry systems.
- Stacker cranes.
- Powered industrial trucks, such as forklifts, **except** when configured to hoist and lower by means of a winch or hook and horizontally move a suspended load.
- Mechanic truck with a hoisting device used in activities related to equipment maintenance and repair.
- Machinery that hoists by using a come-a-long or chain fall.
- Dedicated drilling rigs.
- Gin poles - when used for the erection of communication towers.
- Tree trimming and tree removal work.
- Anchor handling or dredge-related operations with a vessel or barge using an affixed A-frame.
- Roustabouts.
- Articulating/knuckle-boom cranes - **limited exclusion** when delivering certain sheet goods or building supply packaged material (e.g., sheets of sheet rock, sheets of plywood, bags of cement, sheets or packages of roofing shingles, and rolls of roofing felt) directly to the structure.
- Derricks.
- Sideboom cranes.
- Excavators.
- Equipment with a maximum manufacturer-rated hoisting or lifting capacity of 2,000 pounds or less.

Employees who work around cranes are required to have training with respect to hazards they are exposed to under [Part 1, General Rules](#). The components of an accident prevention program must include inspections specific to a worksite that identifies hazards and training for employees on how such hazards can be reduced or eliminated. This would include hazards associated with cranes such as awareness of moving cranes and staying away from a suspended load.

For additional assistance, please contact the Construction Safety and Health Division at 517-284-7680 or the Consultation Education and Training Division at 517-284-7720. Construction Safety Standards and other information regarding employee safety and health in construction are located on the MIOSHA website at www.michigan.gov/mioshaconstruction.

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CONSTRUCTION SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
530 WEST ALLEGAN STREET • P.O. BOX 30645 • LANSING, MI 48909-8145
OVERNIGHT MAIL ADDRESS: 525 WEST ALLEGAN STREET, LANSING, MI 48933
www.michigan.gov/miosha • 517-284-7680
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