

## ***OSHA Crane & Derrick Standard (Subpart CC), and how it will affect Iowa's Municipal Electric Utilities.***

OSHA's new Crane and Derrick standard (referenced as Subpart CC) was implemented November 8, 2010. This standard has been in the development stage for many years, and was finally realized mainly because of many serious and highly publicized accidents.

Subpart CC covers all cranes including electric utility use of digger derricks with two exceptions.

### **EXCEPTIONS FROM SUBPART CC.**

**The first exception** is when cranes or digger derricks are used in operations or maintenance of Electric Lines. **The second** is when digger derricks are used for auguring holes, setting poles, or hoisting pole-mounted equipment.

There is no exception to weight limits or size of poles or pole-mounted equipment. Under the rules, a pole mounted transformer could be hung on a pole by a digger-derrick and be covered by 1910.269 or 1926 subpart V. If the same apparatus were to be installed in a substation, the digger-derrick and equipment would be covered by the rules of Subpart CC. The digger-derrick exclusion for utility poles would not apply to digger-derricks setting poles exclusively for street lighting.

**Exclusions.** This subpart does not cover

Power shovels, excavators, wheel loaders, backhoes, loader backhoes, track loaders. This machinery is also excluded when used with chains, slings or other rigging to lift suspended loads.

Machinery originally designed as vehicle-mounted aerial devices (for lifting personnel) and self-propelled elevating work platforms.

Powered industrial trucks (forklifts), except when configured to hoist and lower (by means of a winch or hook) and horizontally move a suspended load.

Machinery originally designed as vehicle-mounted aerial devices (for lifting personnel) and self-propelled elevating work platforms.

Tree trimming and tree removal work.

***Does the final rule require crane operators to be qualified or certified?***

Yes. This final rule requires operators of most types of cranes to be qualified or certified under one of the methods 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. This also applies to digger-derrick operators when they are not doing line maintenance or construction. The operator must not only be trained, but a third party must certify them as operators. This certification can take one of two forms. The employer can send operators to a third party trainer, or the employer can provide the training and a third party can certify the employer-trained operators. The standards for certification of operators are found in 1926.1427 (j) (p. 48157) and appendix C (48176).

OSHA will allow four years to have this certification completed, or up until 2014. OSHA's intent is to make sure all current operators are determined to be competent by their employers.

***How does this new rule affect those states that administer their own OSHA-approved safety and health plan?***

State Plans must have job safety and health standards that are "at least as effective as" comparable federal standards. State Plans have the option to promulgate more stringent standards or standards covering hazards not addressed by federal standards.

***Does the standard require signal persons to be certified?***

No, signal persons do not have to be certified. However, the employer of a signal person must ensure that the signal person is qualified. This qualification must be done by a qualified evaluator, which may be a third party or an employee of the signal person's employer. The evaluator must demonstrate that he or she can accurately assess whether an individual meets the qualification requirements specified by this final rule for signal persons.

***Working near energized power lines.***

The standard for utility workers working near power lines is still controlled by 1910.269 or 1926 subpart V when working within the minimum approach distance. When the crews are not doing work on poles, structures or power lines, the work safety procedures are regulated by Subpart CC.

There are three options when working in the vicinity of power lines.

Option #1 would be to deenergize and ground the line.

Option #2 operator must maintain a minimum 20-foot clearance up to 350kv.

Option #3 would be to ask the utility for the voltage, and use Table A (with minimum clearance distance)

When utilizing options 2 & 3, the trigger distance requires new rules for non -qualified workers, including a mandate for an electronic approach warning, encroachment alarms, visible barricades or a dedicated spotter, whose sole role is to observe clearances.

If a dedicated spotter is used, he must comply with certain qualifications. A dedicated spotter must be a qualified signal person under 1926.1428.

### ***Inspections of Digger derricks.***

The standard contains criteria for daily, monthly and annual inspections. Documentation must be maintained for three months for monthly inspections, 12 months for annual inspections. Since digger derricks sometimes fall into the category of other than setting or working poles, they fall under the crane standard, and the inspection and documentation requirements apply.

### ***Maintenance Versus Construction***

The preamble clearly establishes that Subpart CC only applies to equipment used in construction. If utilities need to differentiate between Maintenance and Construction for the purposes of applying the Subpart CC standard, they need look no further than CPL 2-1.38 Enforcement of the Electrical Power Generation, Transmission and Distribution Standard. The CPL clearly lays out examples of what OSHA considers maintenance and what is construction.

Specific to this Subpart CC, the preamble briefly refers to digger derricks used in operations and maintenance as opposed to digger derricks covered under Subpart CC.

Forthcoming publication of revisions to 1910.269 is expected in February of 2011. Employers who use covered equipment for both general industry work and construction work would not be required to comply with Subpart CC when the equipment is used for general industry work and not construction work.

As such, cranes of any size, used in maintenance and operations as opposed to new construction should be exempt from coverage in Subpart CC. Crane operations in construction are covered in subpart V or 1926 and parts of

If any Municipal Utility operates a mobile crane other than a digger-derrick, feel free to call Tom Erickson, Electric Services Coordinator for the Iowa Association of Municipal Utilities @ 515-289-1999 ext. 223 or [terickson@iamu.org](mailto:terickson@iamu.org). with questions regarding the new rules.

In conclusion, employers must bring their operators up to competency levels, and must certify anyone who signals a crane or digger derrick operator to the signal person standards. Employers must also make sure all employees are properly trained for work near power lines. By 2014, employers must have their third party training or third party auditing of their employer training for operators in place.

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“Crane & Derrick Compliance”, Incident Prevention. November 2, 2010.

“Digger Derrick Pole Word exclusion. Altec Industries. November 2010.

Electronic Code of Federal Regulations. National Archives and Records Administration.