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## ACCESSING SAFETY KNOWLEDGE (ASK) SHEET: *Cranes and Derricks in Construction Final Rule*

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OSHA issued a new rule addressing the use of cranes and derricks in construction, which will replace a decades-old standard. Approximately 267,000 construction, crane rental and crane certification establishments employing about 4.8 million workers will be affected by the rule. The rule is scheduled to be published in the *Federal Register* on August 9, 2010.

"The significant number of fatalities associated with the use of cranes in construction led the Labor Department to undertake this rulemaking," said Secretary of Labor Hilda L. Solis. "After years of extensive research, consultation and negotiation with industry experts, this long overdue rule will address the leading causes of fatalities related to cranes and derricks, including electrocution, boom collapse and overturning."

The previous rule, which dated back to 1971, was based on 40-year-old standards. Stakeholders from the construction industry recognized the need to update the safety requirements, methods and practices for cranes and derricks, and to incorporate technological advances in order to provide improved protection for those who work on and around cranes and derricks.

"The rule addresses critically important provisions for crane operator certification, and crane inspection, set-up and disassembly," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA Dr. David Michaels. "Compliance with the rule will prevent needless worker injuries and death, and provide protection for the public and property owners."

The new rule is designed to prevent the leading causes of fatalities and prevent 22 fatalities and 175 non-fatal injuries each year such as:

- Electrocution
- Crushed-by/struck-by
- Hazards during assembly/disassembly
- Collapse and overturn

It also sets requirements for ground conditions and crane operator assessment. In addition, the rule addresses tower crane hazards, addresses the use of a qualified rigger and flagger for operations during assembly/disassembly, the use of synthetic slings for assembly/disassembly work, and clarifies the scope of the regulation by providing both a functional description and a list of examples for the equipment that is covered.

This final rule requires operators of most types of cranes to be certified under one of the options set forth in § 1926.1427. Employers have up to 4 years to ensure that their operators are certified unless they are operating in a state or city that has operator requirements. If a city or state has its own licensing or certification program, OSHA mandates compliance with that city or state's requirements only if they meet the minimum criteria set forth in this rule at § 1926.1427. The certification requirements in the final rule are designed to work in conjunction with state and local laws. This final rule clarifies that employers must pay for all training required by the final rule and for certification of equipment operators employed as of the effective date of the rule.

For More Information visit: <http://www.osha.gov/doc/cranesreg.pdf>

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