

Safety Checklist

Tower Crane Safety for PCBU's

This checklist can be used by principal contractors and site supervisors to manage the risks of tower crane activities on construction sites.

Principal contractors and builders have a duty to provide and maintain a working environment that is safe and without risks to health and safety. This includes ensuring proper planning, consultation and communication, safe systems of work, the right safety equipment at the right time and plant that is adequately maintained.

The major risks associated with tower crane activities include falling loads and collisions between the tower crane, other cranes, attachments or objects.

This tower crane safety checklist is designed to help identify potential issues or risks associated with crane operations including safe slinging and load movements, planning, consultation and communication, licence checks, log books and equipment maintenance. It is NOT intended to be exhaustive and reference should be made to appropriate legislation, standards, Codes of Practice and Guides.



On-the-spot fines of up to \$3,600 for businesses and \$720 for individuals may be issued to those placing workers lives at risk by not adequately protecting them when working at heights, or for undertaking high risk work activities without holding the appropriate high risk work licence e.g. crane operations.

If you answer no to any of the following questions, you may be in breach of your duties under the work health and safety legislation, or its associated Codes of Practice.

PC / PCBU registered name:	Date:	Time:
Checklist completed by:	Position:	
Site address:		
Crane owner / company:		

Tower Crane Records		
Ask yourself these questions	Y	N
Is the Tower crane registration certificate available on site? (Current and registered address matches site address)		
Are Pre-erection inspection records available?		
Is a major inspection report available if the crane is over 10 years of age?		
Is a crane commissioning report available?		
If there is signage attached to the crane, is an engineer's report available that provides approval of crane signage?		
If working near overhead powerlines, has a 'letter of advice' from the Electricity network operator been provided?		
Comments		

Tower Crane Pre-Job Planning		
Ask yourself these questions	Y	N
Is there evidence of adequate consultation between the principal contractor, crane company and workers regarding job planning? (Consider loads to be lifted, lifting/landing zones and site setup)		
Have collision and snagging hazards within the load path been considered? (Overhead power lines clearances and surrounding structures)		
Did a representative from the crane company visit and assess the site prior to the crane arriving?		
Has a site-specific SWMS been prepared and do you have a copy of the crane SWMS?		
Has the crane crew been inducted onto the site?		
Have you ensured that there is a qualified person for the crane operations being undertaken? (Dual lifts, concrete tilt up panels, steel erection etc) e.g. Dogger, Rigger basic, intermediate, or advanced as applicable		
Is the crane appropriate for the radius and load of the proposed lifts?		
Comments		

Site Conditions		
Ask yourself these questions	Y	N
Is the tower crane adequately secured to prevent unauthorised access and is there adequate site signage? (Is it fenced/hoarded and warning signs)		
Are there controls in place to minimise the risk of workers and others from being struck by falling objects from tower crane loads? (Is a Hoarding required, is the Hoarding a class “B” & Engineered certified, if there is no hoarding do you have adequate controls in place?)		
Are there controls in place to prevent tower crane loads striking or snagging other structures e.g. buildings, scaffolds? (Consider the location of loading zone, height of crane, length of slings, slew and trolley travel inhibitors on the crane and in use, walked the load path in consultation with the operator and dogger, are powerlines insulated or isolated)		
Are workers and others prevented from entering the loading zone? (Adequate fencing, traffic control, is the loading zone visible to the operator, if out of view is there a dogger)		
Is there appropriate communication in place between the supervisor and CT/CS operator? (In case of emergencies, is there a 2-way radio / horn, has emergency communication been discussed in the lift plan)		
Does the supervisor have systems in place to manage their workers HRW licence currency and validity? (Is there a register of all operators/doggers and their licence details)		
Does the Supervisor have systems in place to ensure newly licenced operators / doggers are supervised and supported? (Do they check the level of skills and experience of operator/ dogger, the operator is familiar with the specific crane they are operating, is there peer-to-peer mentoring and supervision)		
Comments		

More information

Safety information

Safe Work Australia ‘Guide to Tower Cranes’
Safe Work Australia ‘General guide to cranes’

Codes of practice

[Work near overhead powerlines code of practice](#)
[Managing risks of plant in the workplace code of practice](#)
[How to manage work health and safety risks code of practice](#)
[Construction Work](#)

Australian Standards

AS/NZS 2550.4 Cranes, hoists and winches – Safe use Part 4: Tower cranes
AS 2550.1 Cranes, hoists and winches – Safe use Part 1: General

Also see www.safework.nsw.gov.au or call 13 10 50.

Disclaimer

This publication may contain information about the regulation and enforcement of work health and safety in NSW. It may include some of your obligations under some of the legislation that SafeWork NSW administers. To ensure you comply with your legal obligations you must refer to the appropriate legislation. Information on the latest laws can be checked by visiting the NSW legislation website www.legislation.nsw.gov.au

This publication does not represent a comprehensive statement of the law as it applies to particular problems or to individuals or as a substitute for legal advice. You should seek independent legal advice if you need assistance on the application of the law to your situation. This material may be displayed, printed and reproduced without amendment for personal, in-house or non-commercial use.

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