

Guide for Crane Operators



If you are a crane operator, this guide will help keep you and other workers safe on site.

There are three main reasons for serious incidents involving cranes:



Your Safety Is Important

As a crane operator, you must:

- hold the appropriate High Risk Work (HRW) licence
- have the right crane for the job
- be operating a crane that is in good working order, regularly maintained with current registration
- have on hand documents such as the operator's manual, load charts and maintenance records
- always complete pre-start, operational and shut down checks. This includes inspecting lifting gear like chains, slings, ropes, cables and hooks used to attach loads.
- check there are safe systems of work in place for set-up, placement and crane operations
- be able to operate the crane safely including enough clearance, appropriate ground conditions, right load and clear lifting path.

Responsibility Matters

Persons Conducting a Business or Undertaking (PCBU) have a duty to provide and maintain a working environment that is safe and without risks to health and safety.

PCBUs / Principal Contractor (PC) have a responsibility under Work Health and Safety (WHS) laws to ensure:

- pre-operation activities are completed
- the site is appropriate and clear, including the identification of underground services via the before you dig (BYDA) plans and service searches that may impact mobile crane lifting operations
- obtain a geotechnical report to assess ground conditions for suitability
- consultation with the crane operator and dogger to coordinate the lifting activities and establish roles, responsibilities and exclusion zones
- Monitor and assess weather conditions.

Crane suppliers, have a responsibility under WHS laws to ensure:

- the job is adequately planned by consulting with the PC/PCBU to ensure issues such as safe access, positioning and set up of the crane and other related site-specific hazards are identified and controlled
- safe systems of work are in place for set-up, placement and crane operations
- the crane is [registered](#) with SafeWork NSW
- inspection, testing and maintenance is carried out in accordance with the manufacturer's requirements
- operators hold a current and valid [high risk work licence](#)
- the appropriate pre-start checks are undertaken on site
- doggers and riggers hold the appropriate class and valid high risk work licence
- workers are adequately instructed on the safe work systems.

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

Work Safely

As a crane operator you should ensure safe systems of work are in place for planning, set-up and load movement.

You can do this by:

- speaking with the PC/site supervisor about site conditions, crane set-up, lifting activities, site specific hazards, roles, responsibilities and exclusion zones
- asking to see the safe work method statement
- checking the ground condition and clearances with travel and load paths
- maintaining safe approach distances to overhead powerlines, surrounding structures and other moving plant
- avoid suspending loads over workers or others. If this is not possible, ensure risk controls are in place e.g., hoarding.

Did you know?

5

Operators with less than 5 years' experience are likely to be involved in an accident.

New operators need support like supervision, ongoing training and mentoring to maintain and build their skills, awareness and expertise.

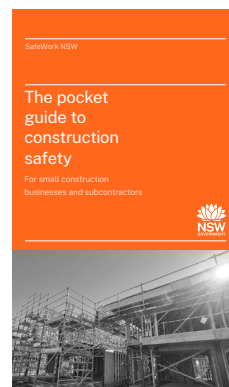
If you are a new operator –ask for support.

If you are an experienced operator, support your colleague –share your experience and knowledge.

We have resources for you

Pocket Guide to Construction

Download or order your own hard copy.



Speak Up Save Lives app

If you see something unsafe in the workplace, we want you to speak up and tell the site supervisor or your employer.

The Speak Up Save Lives app lets you report an unsafe work situation, while giving you the option to remain anonymous.

Download the app from the App store or google play or visit speakup.safework.nsw.gov.au/



Listen to a Safety Podcast

For more information visit safework.nsw.gov.au and search

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.

Catalogue No. SWNSW_33809_22
SafeWork NSW, 92-100 Donnison Street,
Gosford, NSW 2250
Locked Bag 2906, Lisarow, NSW 2252
Customer Experience 13 10 50
Website www.safework.nsw.gov.au
© Copyright SafeWork NSW 0321