

The Crane, Hoist and Monorail Alliance



OVERHEAD CRANE SAFETY TIPS CARD

Before Operating the Crane and Applying the Load

Fatalities or serious injuries can occur if overhead cranes are not inspected and used properly in accordance with manufacturer guidelines. Fatalities may occur when workers are struck by a load, or caught-in between the load and another object.

The following are some safety tips for overhead crane operators to follow before operating the crane and applying the load.

- Be familiar with the operation of the crane and trained on the safe operation of the crane.
- Be familiar with the Operation section of the manual furnished by the original manufacturer of the crane.
- Be familiar with the operations to be performed.
- Know hand signals used for hoist and crane operations if a signal person is used in the operation.
- Obey a stop signal regardless of who gives it.
- Other than a stop signal, accept signals only from persons authorized to give hand signals.
- **Do not** adjust or repair a crane or hoist unless qualified and authorized to perform maintenance.
- **Do not** use a hoist load limiting device as a means to measure the load.
- **Do not** operate crane if any damage or malfunctions exist.
- Report any damage or malfunctions to the supervisor.
- Center crane and hoist over load.
- **Do not** use the hoist wire rope as a sling to wrap around the load.



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- Attach the load to the hoist hook by suitable means such as slings or lifting devices.
- Only attach loads to the hoist hook that do not exceed the rated load capacity of the crane or hoist.
- Verify that the attachment part of the sling or other lifting device is properly seated in the base, bowl, or saddle of the hoist hook.
- Verify that the latch, if provided, of the hook will not support any part of the load.
- Verify that the load or any part of the load will not be applied to and/or not supported by the tip or point of the hook.
- Verify that load will be properly balanced when it is lifted.
- Verify that side loads will not be applied to the crane or hoist when the load is lifted.
- Verify that hoist wire rope is not kinked or twisted, and that wire rope parts are not twisted about each other.
- Verify that hoist wire rope is properly seated in the drum grooves and sheaves.
- Notify personnel in the area that a load will be lifted and verify that all personnel are clear of the load.
- Verify that when the load is lifted it will clear all material, machinery, or other obstructions in the area.

DISCLAIMER

Though the OSHA and Crane, Hoist and Monorail Alliance, the Alliance participants developed this safety tips card for informational purposes only. It does not necessarily reflect the official views of OSHA or the U.S. Department of Labor. June 2010



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