



**Master
Builders
Association**
New South Wales



INDUSTRY PLANT CONSULTATIVE COMMITTEE

SAFETY ALERT

10-YEAR CRANE INSPECTION

This safety alert clarifies the requirements for a major inspection of cranes at the nominal 10-year interval, as specified in AS2550.1-2002 *Cranes, hoists and winches – Safe use – General requirements*, and other specific parts.

OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY REQUIREMENTS

Occupational health and safety legislation requires employers to ensure that maintenance and repair of plant are carried out, having regard to the instructions of the designer and manufacturer. AS2550 is called up in the *Code of practice for technical guidance* and provides practical guidance regarding major inspections for cranes.

RISK CONTROLS

All cranes must have a major inspection at the end of their design life, nominally 10 years for the mechanical components, unless the designer, or a specific part of AS2550, advises otherwise – it can be more or less than 10 years, depending on whether the history of the crane is known or unknown.

If the history of the crane is unknown, a major inspection must be undertaken 10 years from date of manufacture, unless the manufacturer, or a relevant part of AS2550, specifies a shorter time.

If the history of the crane is known, a competent person must determine the appropriate time for a major inspection. They will consider a number of factors, including:

- How the crane has been used, and how often – eg the number of lifting cycles undertaken, and the associated loads.
- Where the crane has been used – eg the location and environmental conditions of the worksites, and the storage conditions.
- The conditions under which the crane has been transported and the distance.
- The reported defects – eg periodic inspections reveal a significant deterioration in the condition of the crane.

A person with the necessary qualifications, skills and experience must conduct the major inspection. A number of people may be required to undertake a range of tasks, but one person should coordinate the inspection.

An inspection certificate should be issued to the crane owner, stating that the crane is, or is not, in a satisfactory condition for continued safe use. The certificate will also state when the next major inspection should be undertaken and what the life of the crane should be. The crane should not be used until it is certified to be in a satisfactory condition.

A copy of the certificate should be provided to principal contractors and workplace controllers. Principal contractors should confirm that the cranes used on their worksites are not overdue for a major inspection.

Some cranes also require plant item registration.

From 23 August 2010, mobile cranes with SP2 configuration (over-mass on one or more axle group) and a GVM more than 12 tonne will require an annual inspection to a safety standard as part of their registration renewal. For more information, visit rta.nsw.gov.au and search for 'ACIS'.

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FURTHER INFORMATION

For more information on plant item registration, call **13 10 50** or visit workcover.nsw.gov.au

For information regarding the criteria for a 10-year major service, visit the Crane Industry Council Australia (CICA) web site cica.com.au

More information can be obtained from the Master Builders Association at mbansw.asn.au and from the CFMEU at cfmeu.asn.au

Disclaimer

This publication may contain occupational health and safety and workers compensation information. It may include some of your obligations under the various legislations that WorkCover 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.

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