



Maintenance Is Essential to Crane Safety

OSHA Periodic Inspections Policy and Procedure -- OSHA 1910.179 Overhead Cranes Regulations

OSHA inspections frequency depends on crane activity, service severity, and environment. Inspections cover crane aspects like structure, fastenings, sheaves, drums, mechanical parts, brakes, load indicators, power-plants, chain drive, and electrical components. Inactive cranes need specific inspections before use, and standby cranes require biannual inspections. Identified deficiencies must be thoroughly examined for potential safety hazards.

Periodic Inspection

Complete inspections of the crane shall be performed at intervals. Any deficiencies such as listed shall be carefully examined and determination made as to whether they constitute a safety hazard:

- Deformed, cracked, or corroded members.
- Loose bolts or rivets.
- Cracked or worn sheaves and drums.
- Worn, cracked or distorted parts such as pins, bearings, shafts, gears, rollers, locking and clamping devices.
- Excessive wear on brake system parts, linings, pawls, and ratchets.
- Load, wind, and other indicators over their full range, for any significant inaccuracies.
- Excessive wear of chain drive sprockets and excessive chain stretch.
- Electrical apparatus, for signs of pitting or any deterioration of controller contactors, limit switches and push-button stations.

Cranes not in regular use: paragraphs (j)(2) and (3) & (m)(2)

- A crane which has been idle for a period of 1 month or more, but less than 6 months.
- A crane which has been idle for a period of over 6 months.
- Standby cranes shall be inspected at least semi-annually.

Frequent Inspection

Daily Visual Inspection & Monthly Certified Inspection:

- Hooks with deformation or cracks.
- For hooks with cracks or having more than 15 percent in excess of normal throat opening or more than 10 twist from the plane of the unbent hook.
- Hoist chains, including end connections, for excessive wear, twist, distorted links interfering with proper function, or stretch beyond manufacturer's recommendations.
- All functional operating mechanisms for excessive component wear.
- Rope reeving for noncompliance with mfg recommendations.

