

## Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Information in this fact sheet relates to the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* which applies from 1 January 2012.

### Licence to perform high risk work

On 1 January 2012, with the commencement of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011*, there have been a few changes to existing occupation licensing arrangements for high risk work (HRW).

#### Reach stacker (RS) greater than 3 tonnes capacity

From 1 January 2012, a reach stacker will be included as a class of high risk work (HRW) and will require a HRW licence.

The RS licence covers reach stackers of greater than three tonne capacity that incorporate an attachment for lifting, moving and travelling with a shipping container, however does not include a portainer crane.

In order to operate this type of reach stacker from 1 January 2012 a person will need to hold either:

- an RS licence, or
- a valid non-slewing mobile crane (greater than three tonne capacity) (CN) licence.

The option for a CN licence is to facilitate an easier transition into the new environment and is only available until 31 December 2012. This means a person will need to gain an RS licence in order to operate after this time.

#### Boiler operation

Under the new WHS laws the classes of boiler operators have been reduced from basic (BB), intermediate (BI) and advanced (BA) to only two classes. The new classes will be standard boiler (BS) and advanced boiler (BA).

There will be no changes to the licensing arrangements for BB or BA licences. This means a person holding a valid BB or BA

licence can continue to operate boilers covered by their current authority.

From 1 January 2012, a current BI licence holder can continue to do the work which is currently authorised by their BI licence until 31 December 2012. Under the new legislation however, a BI licence holder will need to upgrade to a BA licence in order to operate boilers with one or more of the following features:

- multiple fuel source
- a pre-heater
- a superheater
- an economiser.

The transitional period until 31 December 2012 allows BI licence holders time to upgrade their licence to a BA licence in order to continue operating these boilers from 1 January 2013.

After 31 December 2012, if a BI licence holder has not upgraded their qualification to a BA licence then they will be issued a BS licence and they will only be able to operate boilers with a single fuel source that do not have a preheater, superheater or an economiser attached.

#### Training

To obtain an RS licence or upgrade to a BA licence a person must have successfully completed formal training before submitting an application to Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ). Formal training includes the attainment of a national licence qualification in operating a reach stacker or advanced boiler operations, which has been obtained through a registered training organisation. In addition to this, the WHSQ prescribed assessment for these licences

must be conducted by an accredited assessor.

A licence holder looking to upgrade to a BA may be able to have prior learning recognised to reduce the amount of training required when upgrading to a BA licence. For more detail on recognition of prior learning policies, you should contact a registered training organisation as their policies can differ.

Trainees who were partway through the current training course for a BI licence at the end of 2011, and who successfully complete the training and assessment in 2012, will still be able to apply for a BI licence. A compliant applicant will be issued a BI licence and will be able to do the work of a BI under the superseded legislation until the end of the transition period on 31 December 2012.

BI licence holders who have not upgraded to a BA licence during the transitional period (as detailed in the previous section) will be issued a BS licence from 1 January 2013.

To find a registered training organisation that delivers any of the qualifications mentioned please access the Australian Government training website at [www.training.gov.au](http://www.training.gov.au).

### **Can bridge and gantry crane operators sling their own load?**

Under the new WHS legislation the operator of a bridge and gantry remote control crane (LBG) can continue to sling a load under the limited circumstances listed below:

- the bridge and gantry crane is operated by remote control and has no more than three powered motions
- the weight of the load to be lifted is predetermined by a competent person (for example, may be marked on the load)
- selection of the sling and slinging techniques for the load is predetermined by a competent person
- condition of lifting gear is predetermined by a competent person
- lifting points are predetermined by a competent person and marked on the load
- load is lifted within the view of the operator at all times; and
- standard lifting procedures have been documented and signed-off by a competent person.

Unless these circumstances are met, a holder of a high risk work dogging (DG) licence must be used to sling all loads.

A competent person includes a holder of a HRW (DG) licence or a HRW licensed rigger, or an engineer experienced in designing crane lifting procedures.

A holder of a previously issued LBG certificate can continue to sling their own load outside the limited circumstances until 31 December 2012. After this time they will be required to obtain either a HRW DG licence or a HRW bridge and gantry crane licence (CB).

The CB licensed operator of a bridge and gantry crane that is operated from a cabin or control station is not permitted to sling a load as it is not safe to leave the crane's controls with a suspended load.

When the CB licensed operator operates a bridge gantry crane via remote control the CB licensed operator can sling their own load.

### **Does a slewing mobile crane licence cover the operation of vehicle loading cranes and non-slewing mobile cranes?**

Following consultation with work health and safety regulators in other jurisdictions, it has been determined that certain encompassment arrangements that existed under the former workplace health and safety legislation will be maintained. As a result, holders of slewing mobile crane (C2, C6, C1 and CO) licences will continue to encompass:

- vehicle loading cranes with a capacity of 10 metre tonnes or more (CV) and
- non-slewing mobile cranes with a capacity exceeding 3 tonnes (CN).

This applies to holders of valid slewing mobile crane licences issued under:

- the former *Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2008* while they are operating under that licence; or
- the current *Work Health and Safety Regulation 2011*.

### **What happens to operator tickets issued prior to July 2008?**

WHSQ will continue to convert only those classes that are issued as a HRW licence.

Operators who hold tickets for earthmoving or particular crane (EPC) classes should retain this as evidence of having undertaken training and assessment in the operation of the particular plant.

### **Further information**

All existing categories of HRW will continue to be licensed under the current arrangements of photographic and renewable licensing, with

the first renewal cycle for Queensland occurring from 1 July 2013.

For more information about the new work health and safety laws in Queensland visit [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au) or call WHS Infoline on 1300 655 986.

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