

## Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

## Road freight transport industry - Cranes and hoists

There are many different types of hoists and cranes used in the road freight transport industry, such as:

- manual and electric hoists
- bridge or gantry cranes
- vehicle loading cranes
- mobile cranes.

The operation of some of these cranes is known as a prescribed occupation, which means the operator has to be trained to operate the crane and have the correct certificate of competency. Mobile cranes that have a safe working load of ten tonnes or more (except those that are manually powered) will need to be registered with Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ).

People who operate cranes and hoists (where they are not required to hold a certificate for a prescribed occupation) still need to be trained to use the crane safely. They should be able to:

- perform a basic inspection of the crane before it is used each day to make sure there are no obvious faults
- identify the maximum load the crane or hoist can shift
- assess the weight of the load they wish to shift
- choose and use the appropriate chains/straps/lifting harness for the load
- operate the hoist or crane to safely shift the load

### Particular risks when using cranes include:

- The load or part of the load falling
  - always make sure the load is stable and secure. The load may need to be strapped into a bundle or put in a cage to make it safe to lift. Never shift loads over people and never leave a suspended load unattended.
- Hitting overhead power lines
  - always make sure the crane will not come near power lines.
- Hitting other objects when shifting the load
  - always make sure the path is clear and that you can see clearly where the load is going. An extra person may be needed to help for large loads or when it is difficult to see.

Hoists, cranes and associated equipment such as chains and straps need to be serviced and maintained according to the manufacturer's recommendations.

### Further information on the safe use of cranes and hoists can be obtained from:

- the Australian Standard 2550 Part 1 Cranes, hoists and winches – safe use
- the NOHSC Certification for Users and Operators of Industrial Equipment Standard 1006 (2001).

For more information on cranes, hoists and other workplace health and safety issues visit [www.worksafe.qld.gov.au](http://www.worksafe.qld.gov.au)

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**Workplace Health and Safety Queensland**, Department of Justice and Attorney-General

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