

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland

Licensing for earthmoving or particular crane (EPC) occupational classes

Under new nationally harmonised work health and safety (WHS) laws, earthmoving or particular crane (EPC) occupational classes are not required to be licensed from 1 January 2012.

Plant which falls under the EPC class is as follows:

- backhoe
- front end loader
- excavator
- skid steer loader
- road roller
- grader
- scraper
- dozer
- bridge and gantry remote control crane.

A licence to operate EPC plant is still required under the current *Workplace Health and Safety Regulation 2008* until 31 December 2011.

No replacement EPC licences will be issued after 31 December 2011.

Why change?

Queensland has been working with other states, territories and the Commonwealth to harmonise WHS laws.

It has been agreed on a national level that as licensing is the highest form of regulatory intervention, that it should only be applied in situations with substantial risk of serious injury.

As a consequence, all load shifting classes of work were put through a rigorous assessment process to determine if they required licensing. These classes of work did not meet

the criteria for licensing as high risk work (HRW).

As a result, classes currently licensed under the earthmoving or particular crane (EPC) category in Queensland are not required to be licensed under the new harmonised WHS laws which take effect in Queensland from 1 January 2012.

Can a bridge and gantry remote control crane (LBG) operator sling their own load?

Under the new WHS legislation the operator of an 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 (e.g. 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).

What happens under the new laws?

From 1 January 2012 it is the duty of a person conducting a business or undertaking (PCBU) to ensure competency of the operator when plant is operated, so far as is reasonably practicable.

How can I demonstrate competency?

Evidence of appropriate training and instruction for the type of plant to be operated could include:

- a statement of attainment or other nationally recognised qualification
- training completed at an industry training school
- on-the-job training conducted by an experienced competent person
- current relevant experience.

Workplace Health and Safety Queensland (WHSQ) encourages formal competency-based training and assessment for the operation of this equipment.

What happens to EPC licences 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 EPC classes should retain this as evidence of having undertaken training and assessment in the operation of the particular plant.

The operation of forklift trucks and order-picking forklift trucks continues to require a HRW licence.

Further information

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

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