

98-07: Crane Indicator Lights

Information

Action

INFORMATION

29 CFR 1918.85 (k) (7) provides rules for protection of employees who are *tied off to a spreader bar* while working on top of containers. The rule provides that:

(k)(7) When live (activated) container gantry lifting beams or attached devices are used as anchorage points, the following requirements apply.

(k)(7)(I) The crane shall be placed in the slow mode.

(k)(7)(ii) The crane shall be equipped with a remote shut off switch that can stop trolley, gantry and hoist functions and that is in control of the employees attached to the beam; and

(k)(7)(iii) A visible or audible indicator shall be present to alert the exposed employees when the remote shut off is operational.

Further, the Pacific Maritime Safety Code at rule 1515 (h) in part provides;

...Positive means shall be taken to prevent the movement of equipment when used as a tie-off points [sic].

When container lifting beams are used as tie off points, there shall be a shutoff switch to prevent the crane

from trolleying, hoisting or gantrying. There shall be a visible indicator to the men on the container tops. Said indicator shall be a light affixed to the bottom of the crane cab. When the light is on, the container beam is alive. When workers are tied off to a live beam, the crane shall operated only in "slow-mode." Such cranes shall be equipped with an indicator light by March 31, 1997.

The PCMSC requires the indicator light be on when the beam is alive. (That is, when the crane is operating in the slow mode and with people tied off.) It has been suggested that the indicator light on the crane cab should also be duplicated at the crane console so the crane operator will know when the light is on. Additionally, a light on the spreader trolley that can be seen by both the crane operator and employees simultaneously should be considered. The point is that the crane operator and the employees on the container top should both have the same indicator.

ACTION

Employers shall take note of the OSHA and PCMSC requirements.