

3880 St. Johns Parkway  
Sanford, Florida 32771  
800.832.2726  
www.CraneInstituteCertification.com



One Carlson Parkway, Suite 230  
Minneapolis, MN 55447  
763.476.4242  
www.CraneInstituteCertification.com

## Legacy of a Self Governed Industry: *Who Decides?*

*By Debbie Dickinson, Executive Director, Crane Institute Certification (CIC), Sanford FL; CIC certifies crane operators, inspectors, riggers and signalpersons; Certifications are NCCA accredited, OSHA recognized*

The crane and rigging industry is preparing for the November 9, 2010 effective date of the recently published OSHA regulations. As we get familiar with the new laws for compliance, we must also ask ourselves, whose job is it to know the best and safest way to make a lift? **Who decides?** Bill Parsons, Director of OSHA's Office of Construction Standards and Guidance and former Acting Director said on the day the new laws were made public:

*"The sad fact is that OSHA's rule governing cranes went largely unchanged for 41 years. I think everyone would agree that one fatality on a construction site is too many. This new law replaces an antiquated document that failed to keep pace with technology. It affects, in very positive ways, roughly 267,000 construction, crane rental, and crane certification establishments.*

*The Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH) recommended changes to the law in 1998 and 1999. The Cranes and Derricks Advisory Committee (C-DAC) convened in July 2003 as a negotiated rulemaking process and reached consensus on its draft document in July 2004. In 2006, ACCSH recommended that OSHA use the C-DAC consensus document as a basis for OSHA's proposed rule, which was published in 2008. Public hearings were held in March 2009, and the public comment period on those proceedings closed in June 2009.*

*Dr. Michaels, OSHA's Chief, explained, "The new rule is designed to prevent the leading causes of fatalities including electrocution, crushed-by/struck-by hazards during assembly/disassembly, collapse, and overturn. It also sets forth requirements for ground conditions and crane operator assessment. This rule also addresses tower crane hazards, the use of synthetic slings for assembly/disassembly work, and clarifies the scope by providing both a functional description and a list of examples for the equipment that is covered."*

Dr. Michaels, Director Parsons, and the C-DAC and ACCSH Committees are intent on saving lives and preventing serious injuries. Does that mean we are done? Is the new OSHA law the sum total of all we need to do? The legacy of the crane and rigging industry is to self-regulate. Our history includes compliance with OSHA Regulations and being tougher on ourselves than the Federal law requires. This industry, has for decades, maintained a healthy respect for and knowledge of OSHA Regulations and elected to abide by the ASME B30 Standards. The ASME Standards are voluntary, not law; OSHA Regulations are law. Standards are updated regularly and in most cases, provide even tougher requirements than OSHA Regulations.

3880 St. Johns Parkway  
Sanford, Florida 32771  
800.832.2726  
www.CraneInstituteCertification.com



One Carlson Parkway, Suite 230  
Minneapolis, MN 55447  
763.476.4242  
www.CraneInstituteCertification.com

What compels our industry to comply with OSHA *and* create and adopt standards that exceed government requirements? Crane and rigging work demands responsibility, knowledge and skill. It's a dangerous job. A lift, as small and light as hanging a sign, can put people, at risk. Those who work with or near cranes understand the power and the danger associated with every lift. There is a pride of work and ability that comes from the level of experience necessary to make lifts, particularly, critical lifts. Crane operators, riggers and lift directors realize that an entire job site—employment for dozens, possibly hundreds of people, plus the safety of the surrounding public—rests upon their shoulders.

These factors compel leading crane industry experts to serve on OSHA and ASME B30 Committees. Volunteers donate thousands of hours and dollars every year. They are compensated only through the satisfaction of the value they afford the industry. They continuously update Standards, though not required or mandated by law, to do so. They work for the good of the crane and rigging industry and the safety of the crews and the public.

Given the industry's willingness to submit to the more detailed ASME standard, what value does OSHA provide? OSHA has the authority to act. If an employer, crane operator or foreman takes short cuts on safety, OSHA has the authority to impose fines, stop work in progress and hold violators accountable. Thus, OSHA authority is a significant deterrent to bad decisions, which gives the rest of us the freedom to do the right thing.

By adhering to OSHA Regulations and ASME B30 Standards, the industry communicates that it is conscientious and reliable. The crane and rigging industry does not rely on Federal mandates alone to do the right thing. We are responsible for ourselves, crews, the surrounding public and equipment. It's our job to train, practice, plan well and be as safe as possible with every lift. Daily, this industry demonstrates safety consciousness and holds itself accountable to a high standard.

As the industry plans to comply with the most significant changes from OSHA in over 40 years, let's remember who we are. Our legacy as a self-regulated industry has been to be progressive on safety. We've always used the tools at hand and then some to operate safely and efficiently. Be proud. You've earned it. Keep up the good work and stay safe.