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OSHA Cranes & Derricks in Demolition and Underground Construction

Highlights_GREEN

THe final rule

* Provides workers in demolition and underground construction the same protections offered to other construction workers.
* Revised the previous standard to clarify safety procedures and employer responsibility.

Employer Obligations

* Verify operators are qualified to operate affected equipment.
* Determine whether the ground can support equipment and loads.
* Assess work zone hazards that would affect the safe operation of hoisting equipment.
* Conduct safety inspections of affected equipment.
* Provide hazard recognition training for employees.

On April 23, 2013, OSHA issued a [final rule](http://www.osha.gov/pls/oshaweb/owadisp.show_document?p_table=FEDERAL_REGISTER&p_id=23630) to apply crane and derrick construction standards to demolition and underground construction work. The final rule became effective on May 23, 2013.

This final rule was issued to provide workers in the demolition and underground construction industries with the same protections given to other construction workers involved in the use or operation of cranes and derricks. The final rule also made several revisions to clarify safety standards and employer responsibility.

The final rule did not impose any new requirements on the operation of cranes and derricks. Instead, it extended the latest standards of the Safety and Health Regulations for Construction (29 CFR part 1926) to demolition and underground work.

This Compliance Overview presents a general summary of the final rule.

Links and Resources

OSHA cranes and derricks in underground construction [final rule](https://www.federalregister.gov/documents/2013/04/23/2013-09153/cranes-and-derricks-in-construction-underground-construction-and-demolition)

OSHA cranes and derricks in construction [webpage](https://www.osha.gov/cranes-derricks/)

OSHA [standard](https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.800) for underground construction

# Application of Crane and Derrick Standards to Demolition and Underground Construction Work

This final rule was issued to afford workers in the demolition and underground construction industries the same protections given to other construction workers involved in the use or operation of cranes and derricks. These protections relate to requirements for operation, assembly and disassembly, as well as standards for power line and wire rope safety.

The final rule extends to states and territories with approved state plans. Approved state plans were required to either:

* Adopt amendments at least as effective as the final federal rule for their crane and derrick operation standards in demolition and underground work; or
* Prove that the changes are not necessary because their existing standards are the same or at least as effective as the OSHA final rule.

State plan compliance was required by Nov. 23, 2013. States and territories with state plans limited to state and local government employees are under the same obligations to the extent that they engage in demolition and underground work. A list of states and territories with OSHA-approved state plans is available [here](https://www.osha.gov/dcsp/osp/index.html).

# Revisions to the Demolition and Underground Construction Standards

The final rule amended the underground construction standards to restore a provision that allows employers to use cranes in order to provide workers with routine access to underground worksites through a shaft. Under the final rule, employers no longer have to show that alternative conventional means of access are more hazardous or impossible.

In addition, the final rule added language to the existing demolition standards to clarify that employers are responsible for meeting **all** of the requirements specified in the standards for Cranes and Derricks in Construction, not just the requirements related to equipment. Employers must also comply with crane and derrick requirements that do not apply directly to equipment, such as personnel training, operational aids and work area control.

Finally, OSHA also used the final rule to correct several minor grammatical errors in the existing demolition and underground construction standards.