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Press Release

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OSHA Revises Crane and Derrick Regulations; New Standards Effective Nov. 8

JUNEAU, Alaska—The Federal Occupational Safety and Health regulations for cranes and derricks and related sections of the Construction Standard have been revised. The State of Alaska has previously adopted the OSHA crane and derrick standard for construction, as amended, so these new standards will take effect Nov. 8.

“Although crane accidents have been on the rise, these comprehensive requirements should result in fewer serious crane-related accidents in Alaska,” Labor Commissioner Click Bishop said.

The change revises 29 CFR 1926 to address industry work practices necessary to protect employees during the use of cranes and derricks in construction. This final standard also addresses advances in the designs of cranes, derricks, related hazards, and employee qualifications to operate them safely. Among the revisions:

- Employers must determine whether the ground is sufficient to support the anticipated weight of hoisting equipment and associated loads.
- Employers are required to assess hazards within the work zone that would affect the safe operation of hoisting equipment, such as those of power lines and objects or personnel that would be within the work zone or swing radius of the hoisting equipment.
- Employers are required to ensure that the equipment is in safe operating condition via required inspections, and that employees in the work zone are trained to recognize hazards associated with the use of the equipment and any related duties they are assigned to perform.
- Crane operators must be qualified or certified and signal persons must be qualified and evaluated.

Full text of the final rule is available online http://www.osha.gov/FedReg_osha_pdf/FED20100809.pdf or contact Krystyna Markiewicz at 907-269-4955.

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