



# OSHA REGIONAL NOTICE

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Occupational Safety and Health Administration

**DIRECTIVE NUMBER:** CPL- 04-00-016.7

**EFFECTIVE DATE:** October 1, 2017

**SUBJECT:** Region Wide Local Emphasis Program – Cranes in Construction

**REGIONAL IDENTIFIER:** Region I

## ABSTRACT

- Purpose:** This notice renews a Region-Wide Local Emphasis Program (RW-LEP) for the purpose of scheduling and conducting inspections in the construction industry to address the hazards associated with crane operations.
- Scope:** This notice applies to all Federal (OSHA) Area Offices in Region I.
- References:** OSHA Instructions:  
CPL 04-00-001, November 10, 1999; Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs (LEPs).  
CPL 02-00-160, August 2, 2016; Field Operations Manual (FOM).  
CPL 02-00-51 Enforcement Exemptions and Limitations under the Appropriations Act, May 28, 1998; revised Appendix-A, effective January 10, 2017.  
U.S. Department of Labor Strategic Plan – 2014-2018.
- Cancellations:** OSHA Regional Notice CPL- 04-00-016.6, Local Emphasis Program – Cranes in Construction, October 1, 2016
- State Impact:** All 21(d) State Consultation Programs throughout Region I will be informed of the Regional Local Emphasis Program and will be invited to participate in any continuing outreach activities.
- Originating Office:** Boston Regional Office.
- Contact:** Ameer Bhatt, Assistant Regional Administrator  
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By and Under the Authority of

Galen Blanton  
Regional Administrator

## **Executive Summary**

This notice is a renewal of the OSHA Regional Instruction CPL- 04-00-016.7, October 1, 2013 Region-Wide Local Emphasis Program (RW-LEP) for the purpose of scheduling and conducting inspections in the construction industry to address the hazards associated with crane operations at workplaces in Region I, New England.

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**I. Purpose:**

This notice renews a region-wide local emphasis program (RW-LEP) for the purpose of scheduling and conducting inspections in the construction industry to address the hazards associated with crane operations, and to ensure that employers whose employees operate cranes establish adequate programs for conducting thorough inspections of cranes in accordance with applicable regulations.

This emphasis program consists primarily of two elements. The first element of this program is compliance assistance, which was performed by the Region I Area Offices to raise employer and employee awareness regarding the hazards associated with cranes and the applicable OSHA safety regulations. The State 21(d) Consultation Programs participated in the outreach and compliance assistance phases of this LEP.

The second element is an enforcement targeting initiative that will allow the Region I Area Offices to focus inspection resources on a hazard rarely targeted by programmed construction inspection programs (e.g., Dodge reports).

**II. Scope:**

This directive applies to all Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Area Offices in Region I.

**III. References:**

OSHA Instruction CPL 04-00-001, November 10, 1999; Procedures for Approval of Local Emphasis Programs (LEPs).

OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-160, August 2, 2016; Field Operations Manual (FOM).

OSHA Instruction CPL 02-00-051, Enforcement Exemption and Limitations under the Appropriations Act, May 28, 1998, (including annually updated Appendix A).

OSHA Instruction CPL-02-01-057, October 17, 2014, Compliance Directive for the Cranes and Derricks in Construction Standard

29 CFR 1926 Subpart-AA Cranes in Construction

U.S. Department of Labor Strategic Plan – 2014-2018.

**IV. Action:**

The Region I Area Directors shall ensure that compliance officers are familiar with the contents of this notice and that the inspection procedures described by this directive are followed.

**V. Renewal Effective Date:**

October 1, 2017.

**VI. Expiration:**

Unless extended by the Regional Administrator, this regional emphasis program will expire on September 30, 2018.

**VII. Background and Program Description:**

As a result of the continued significant increase in heavy construction activity in and around Region I, there has been a corresponding increase in the use of cranes. Among the serious hazards that workers are potentially exposed to are: loads being passed over or near work areas, crane collapse or loss of load as a result of crane overloading or component failure, contact with overhead energized power lines, struck-by hazards in the swing radius and cranes that tip over due to their use on unstable soil or lack of proper ground support.

A report published in November 2008, prepared for members and committees of Congress titled "Worker Safety in the Construction Industry" reported from 2003 to 2007 there were 167 fatalities involving cranes. Fatal occupational injuries by primary and secondary source of injury for all fatal injuries and by major private industry fact sheet published for 2013, by the US Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) reported that of the 72 workers fatally injured in crane-related incidents, 10 were employed in the private construction industry. In addition, OSHA's investigation of several recent accidents in the Region I area offices has identified a potential problem in the operation, operator training and maintenance of cranes.

Thorough inspections of cranes in accordance with applicable regulations are the first line of defense against crane collapse or component failure during use. OSHA standards require employers to designate a competent person to conduct inspections prior to and during the use of cranes, and monthly. A thorough annual inspection of hoisting machinery is also required. Rigging equipment, including wire rope, chains and slings, and other lifting accessories must be inspected prior to use on each shift and as often as necessary during use to assure safe operating condition. As the high level of construction activity increases the demand for crane use, it is important to emphasize the need for accident prevention through thorough inspections of cranes in accordance with applicable regulations.

Throughout FY17, crane in construction accidents continue to occur within Region 1. They include, but not limited to: crane tip overs, struck-by hazards from the crane swing radius area, lack of inspection and the striking of overhead energized lines. These accidents have resulted in fatalities, permanent disabling injuries and other injuries along with significant property damage.

**VIII. Program Procedures:**

The selection of sites for inspection and the conduct of inspections shall adhere to the following:

- A. The Region I Area Directors will identify teams of experienced Compliance Officers designated to conduct activities and inspections under this LEP. Only CSHOs who have received training on conducting crane inspections will conduct inspections under this program.
- B. Throughout the duration of this program, designated CSHOs, during the course of their routine travel, shall observe cranes at construction jobsites, either in use or available for use, and identify these jobsites for scheduling for an inspection. Compliance Officers

shall attempt to contact the area office either to obtain supervisory authorization to begin an immediate inspection; or, in cases where the CSHO is unable to begin an immediate inspection, to notify the area office of the CSHO's observations. Supervisory approval to start the inspection will normally be granted to the CSHO provided that this inspection activity does not conflict with higher priority inspection activity, and provided that the CSHO has the necessary expertise and equipment to conduct the inspection.

- C. The scope of the inspections performed under this LEP will be limited to a review of crane inspection records, a physical inspection of the crane and rigging, employee interviews with respect to the crane, operator qualification, proximity overhead energized power lines, ground conditions to support the crane and its load and inspection of the operation of the crane. The CSHO will give particular attention to the thoroughness of crane inspections, whether these inspections are/were conducted in accordance with applicable regulations, and the specific inspection protocol for identifying and repairing critical defects. Any expansion of the scope of the inspection will be done strictly in accordance with guidelines in the Field Operations Manual (FOM).
- D. Once a construction site with a crane is identified through a sighting during routine travel, the designated CSHO will determine the inspection history of the site. Employers who are inspected under this LEP will not be selected for re-inspection at the same site under the LEP for three months following the last day of the previous inspection.
- E. In addition, during all programmed and unprogrammed construction inspections, if a crane is found to be in use or available for use on the jobsite, the inspection will include an inspection of the crane consistent with the guidelines of this LEP. Again, these crane inspections will be performed only by the personnel designated under this program. In some cases, a CSHO referral may be appropriate under the guidelines of the current FOM to ensure that cranes are inspected by a designated Compliance Officer.
- F. This LEP will not affect the selection of inspections under existing OSHA programmed and unprogrammed activities.

## **IX Recording in OIS:**

Programmed inspections under this LEP will be coded "**CRANE**" in the blank space of the State/Local Inspection Programs Field of the OIS equivalent OSHA-1. CSHO self-referrals are to be recorded as programmed inspections.

Any unprogrammed inspection or other programmed inspection where cranes are inspected as a portion of the inspection will also be coded "**CRANE**" in the blank space of the State/Local Inspection Programs Field of the OIS equivalent OSHA-1 in order to track the full extent of crane inspection activity.

## **X. Outreach and Compliance Assistance:**

Compliance assistance activities will continue for the purpose of informing interested parties of the existence, purpose and objectives of this regional emphasis program, as well as to foster programs of frequent and thorough inspection of cranes. In addition, the State 21(d)

Consultation Programs will be encouraged to participate in outreach and compliance assistance under this LEP.

**XI. Safety and Health Considerations for CSHOs**

Inspections under this LEP are to be conducted by CSHOs who have received the necessary training on the hazards most likely to be encountered regarding Work Zone activities. Designated CSHOs will be provided with and use appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE), which will be worn by CSHOs during on-site inspections. PPE shall include, as a minimum, safety glasses, hard hats, safety shoes or boots with impact protection, high visibility vests (class II), and fall protective equipment, where applicable. In addition, auxiliary amber safety lights shall be used in all vehicles while entering the work zones and any other area deemed necessary. The hardhats and high visibility reflective clothing/vest will be clearly labeled “OSHA”.

**XII. Evaluation:**

The Region Office will complete an evaluation report on the LEP. The report will include an assessment of outreach activities and key program performance indicators. The Area Director will submit an assessment of the following activities to supplement the evaluation report no later than November 15 or each year that the LEP is in effect.

- The number of LEP-related compliance assistance presentations conducted, the dates they were done, and a headcount or estimate of the number of attendees at each compliance assistance session.
- Abatement measures implemented.
- The number of crane inspection programs implemented by affected employers.

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