
CITY OF CHICAGO

RULES



REGARDING CRANE OPERATIONS

Updated August 5, 2019



Mayor Lori Lightfoot

Commissioner Judith Frydland

Rules Regarding Crane Operations

BY AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE COMMISSIONER OF BUILDINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION 14A-1-104.4 AND CHAPTER 4-288 AND THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF CHICAGO, THE FOLLOWING RULES REGARDING CRANE OPERATIONS ARE ADOPTED HEREIN.

By Order of the Commissioner:

Signed: 
Commissioner Judith Frydland

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RULES FOR CRANE OPERATIONS

ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS

Rule No. 1. As used in these rules, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Board” or “Board of Crane Operator Examiners” means the board of crane operators examiners established pursuant to Section 2-116-250 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

“Certified welder” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Title 29 Section 1926.1401 of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 1926.1401).

“Chicago Building Code” or “building code” has the meaning ascribed to the term in Section 1-4-090 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

“Code” or “Municipal Code” has the meaning ascribed to the term in Section 1-4-090 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

“Commissioner” means the commissioner of buildings or his or her designee.

“Competent person” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Title 29 Section 1926.1401 of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 1926.1401).

“Crane” has the meaning ascribed to the term in Section 4-288-020 of the Municipal Code of Chicago.

“Department” means the department of buildings.

“Manufacturer” means the company or entity that manufacturer the crane, or their successor company or entity. For purposes of these Rules, if a manufacturer is no longer in business, then any replacement parts, repairs or modifications shall be allowed only upon the signed and stamped report of a structural engineer licensed by the State of Illinois.

“Qualified person” shall have the meaning ascribed to it in Title 29 Section 1926.1401 of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 1926.1401).

ARTICLE II – GENERAL OPERATIONAL RULES

Rule No. 2. The following requirements apply to the operation of any and all cranes when they are required to be operated by a licensed crane operator under Chapter 4-288 of the Code:

- (a) All ignition keys to the crane shall be removed and the crane secured to prevent unauthorized access or use at all times when the crane is not in operational use.
- (b) Replacement parts for either the hoisting or operational stabilization structural components of a crane shall be supplied from the crane manufacturer and the installation of any replacement part shall be performed per the manufacturer’s specifications.
- (c) The hoisting or operational stabilization structural components of a crane shall not be modified without the prior written consent of the manufacturer.
- (d) If the bolts of the hoisting or operational stabilization structural connection components of a crane are cracked, damaged or otherwise compromised, then all of the bolts in that structural connection component shall be replaced.
- (e) Any and all structural repairs or modifications requiring welding shall be performed by a certified welder and a report of the non-destructive test and test results shall be retained and available to the department upon request.
- (f) Comply with any other applicable provisions of Title 29 Section 1926.CC of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 1926.CC) (Cranes and Derricks).

Rule No. 3. The following requirements apply to the operation of any and all forklifts when they are required to be operated by a licensed crane operator under Chapter 4-288 of the Code:

- (a) *Reserved.*
- (b) Comply with any other applicable provisions of Title 29 Section 1926.CC of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 1926.CC) (Cranes and Derricks).

ARTICLE III – ADDITIONAL OPERATIONAL RULES FOR TOWER CRANES AND DERRICKS

Rule No. 4. The following requirements apply to the operation of any and all tower cranes or derricks when they are required to be operated by a licensed crane operator under Chapter 4-288 of the Code. A tower crane or derrick shall:

- (a) Have a Construction Equipment Inspector from the department present whenever a tower crane or derrick is erected, tied-in, jumped or otherwise reconfigured.
- (b) Have on-site, and available for inspection by the department, a copy of the crane supplier's written certification and check-list with all crane specifications, signed by the crane supplier.
- (c) Be erected, tied-in, jumped, reconfigured or dismantled in accordance with the manufacturer recommendations and only under the direct supervision of a qualified and competent person.
- (d) Have the pick-points for the jib clearly marked or logged upon erecting the tower crane.
- (e) Have a free swing with sufficient clearance of a minimum of seven (7) feet of another structure or piece of equipment.
- (f) Where the jib, boom or load of a tower crane can conflict with another crane or crane load, then both cranes shall be staffed and operated by a licensed crane operator.
- (g) Have a functioning anemometer with the read-out positioned for operator accessibility.
- (h) Have a hard-wired communication system with at least two remote access points in the cab or operators station during all times of operation including load testing. Hardwire communication shall be required between cranes whenever a tower crane and any other type crane are operating within boom or jib radius of each other.
- (i) Have a lighting arrest, all power cords fitted with slip-rings, all inter-tower bracing secured, all wedges installed and secured, steel cable safeties or chains for the collars, and an electrical power disconnect at the base of the tower, all of the foregoing installed and maintained according to the manufacturer's specifications.
- (j) Have the base protected on all sides by concrete barriers not less than three (3) feet from all sides whenever the base can be abutted by a vehicle or motorized mobile piece of construction equipment.
- (k) Maintain the interior perimeter of the base and keep the base free of debris, materials and standing water.

- (l) Comply with any other applicable provisions of Title 29 Section 1926.CC of the Code of Federal Regulations (29 CFR 1926.CC) (Cranes and Derricks).

Rule No. 5. The following requirements apply to the operation of any and all tower cranes when they are required to be operated by a licensed crane operator under Chapter 4-288 of the Code. A tower crane when not in operation shall:

- (a) Be able to weathervane a full three hundred and sixty (360) degrees without obstruction or in the event that the crane is unable to weathervane fully, it shall be tied-down and secured according to the manufacturer's specifications or shall be staffed full-time by a licensed crane operator.
- (b) Have the spreaders removed.
- (c) If not operational for a period of thirty (30) or more days, be inspected by the supplier and have the slewing ring greased in accordance with the manufacturer's specifications.

Rule No. 6. The following requirements apply to the operation of any and all tower cranes or derricks when they are required to be operated by a licensed crane operator under Chapter 4-288 of the Code. A tower crane or derrick:

- (a) Shall not have the jib, boom or tower sections of a tower crane or derrick bolted or pinned together when transported to a job site for erection.
- (b) Shall not be jumped if the wind velocity exceeds twenty miles per hour (20 mph) at the tower crane superstructure.
- (c) Shall not have any other crane operation or excavation work performed within the radius of the tower crane when erecting the upper portions of the tower crane.
- (d) Shall not utilize shims between sections of the tower crane.
- (e) Shall not utilize previously used expendable-type anchor stools.
- (f) Shall not hoist a load in tandem with any other crane.
- (g) Shall not hoist a load over an occupied building without prior written notification to the owner of record of said other building.

Rule No. 7. An erected tower crane or derrick that has been inactive for a period of ninety (90) or more days shall be removed unless the crane permit holder (a) obtains written

permission from the commissioner to allow tower crane or derrick to remain in-place for an additional sixty (60) day period; and (b) continues to maintain the tower crane or derrick in full accordance with any accompanying security, safety, maintenance or other directives of the commissioner.

A permit holder may request additional extensions from the commissioner. The commissioner shall have the sole discretion to grant permission and to set any security, safety, maintenance or other requirements regarding an inactive crane or derrick at a construction site.

ARTICLE IV – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule No. 8. Penalties for violations of these rules shall be as provided in the Municipal Code of Chicago.

Nothing in these Rules shall limit or prohibit the department or the City of Chicago from pursuing any other penalties, fees, sanctions or remedies under any other authority granted to the department or the City under law.

Rule No. 9. Nothing in these Rules is intended to limit the powers or authority of the City of Chicago or the powers authority of other City departments; nor are these Rules intended to relieve a person or entity from full compliance with other provisions of the Municipal Code of Chicago or other rules and regulations promulgated by the department or any other City department.

Rule No. 10. The Commissioner reserves the right to suspend, repeal or amend these Rules at any time in accordance with law.

Rule No. 11. The provisions of these Rules are severable. If any part of these Rules, in whole or in part, is declared invalid or unconstitutional, that declaration shall not affect the part or parts which remains.