

Case 459. 55-year-old crane inspector died when he fell approximately 27 feet from an unsecured 5/8-inch plywood platform during a crane inspection.

A 55-year-old male crane inspector died when he fell approximately 27 feet from an unsecured 5/8-inch plywood platform during a crane inspection. The decedent and his coworker were performing a monthly crane inspection on a K2 crane at a manufacturing facility. The decedent utilized a Genie Z-60/34 Aerial Lift to raise him to the crane. He climbed out of the lift and onto the crow's nest platform catwalk to check the crane's collector shoes. The crow's nest platform catwalk had been made shorter sometime in the 1960s to accommodate larger equipment that had been in the building. The 5/8-inch plywood platform had not been secured to the frame of the crow's nest and was located approximately three feet from the crane shoes. The decedent was not required to wear fall protection on the catwalk as it had adequate barriers. When he stepped upon the plywood, it broke and as he fell to the floor he struck the lift and then the floor.

MIOSHA General Industry Safety and Health Division issued the following Serious citations to the employer at the conclusion of its investigation.

SERIOUS: OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, GI PART 18, RULE 408.11808(2): An employer shall designate a qualified person to perform all inspections of cranes as required by this part.

An employee was permitted to perform crane inspections without any verification or documentation by the employer that the employee had the required training, knowledge, proficiency, or certification to perform crane inspections.

SERIOUS: AERIAL WORK PLATFORMS, GI PART 58, RULE 408.15836(4): An employer shall not allow employees to exit an elevated aerial work platform, except where elevated work areas are inaccessible or hazardous to reach. Employees may exit the platform with the knowledge and consent of the employer. When employees exit to unguarded work areas, fall protection shall be provided and used as prescribed in construction safety standard Part 45. "Fall Protection", R 408.44501 to R 408.44502.

An employee was permitted to exit out of the Genie Z-60/34 Aerial Lift work platform to access the K2 crane in the *manufacturing* building to check the collector shoes without fall protection. (*MIFACE removed the name of the manufacturer and the building's identification*)