

Case 70. 27-year-old male foreman was killed when a 13,000 pound steel plate he was staging came loose from the hoist slings and pinned him against another steel plate stack.

On December 3, 2004, a 27-year-old male foreman was killed when a 13,000 pound steel plate he was staging came loose from the hoist slings and pinned him against another steel plate stack. The victim, working alone, was staging a 13,000 pound steel plate from the receiving bay in the steel storage warehouse using a 15-ton dual hoist crane. The crane was rated at a combined load of 30,000 pounds with each hoist bearing 7.5 tons. The victim had positioned himself between two storage stacks. The stack he was staging to was 63.5 inches in height. The stack behind him was 43 inches in height. At some point during the staging activity, the slings on the hoist were either removed or came loose from the steel plate at all but three attachment points. The load shifted or slid toward the victim. The plate pinned him in a backward direction over the shorter stack. He was able to whisper for help but could not maintain control of the control pendant to remove the load himself. The driver of the semi-truck that delivered the steel noticed the victim's condition and called for help. Several other employees arrived a short time later, found the pendant under the plate, reattached the slings and lifted the plate from the victim. The victim slid to the floor. The employees stayed with the victim until emergency response arrived. He was pronounced dead at the hospital.

MIOSHA issued the following Serious and Other citations to the employer:

Serious:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1852.
Train crane operator.

Inadequate operator training, employees not accurately establishing weight of loads lifted, not familiar with daily wire rope inspections, not aware of hook requirements, lifts loads at over 22,000 pounds with two hoists with a capacity of single hoist at 7.5 tons.

Serious:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1854(1).
Provide valid operator permit for crane operator.

No valid operator permits, overhead cranes, warehouse bay.

Serious:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1853(1).
Test crane operator.

No operator tests, overhead cranes, warehouse bay.

Serious:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1808(1).

Comply with the manufacturer's specifications and limitations applicable to the operation of the crane.

Loads over 22,000 pounds lifted with dual hoist cranes having two (2) 7.5-ton hoists each, two (2) 15-ton overhead cranes.

Serious:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1843(1).

Provide directional indications for pendant, radio, cab, and pulpit crane controls.

Inadequate identification of controls, control markings do not adequately specify which hoist, north or south is selected on the crane, 15-ton dual hoist overhead crane pendant.

Other:

GENERAL PROVISIONS, PART 1, RULE 15(1).

Insure that materials, including scrap and debris, are piled, stacked, or placed in a container so as not to create a hazard.

Inadequate stacking, wooden dunnage/cribbing shatters and breaks easily, potentially leaving stacks lacking some stability.

Other:

OVERHEAD AND GANTRY CRANES, PART 18, RULE 1843(6).

Provide proper storage of radio controlled crane transmitter.

No secure storage, 15-ton overhead crane control pendants.