OSHA's Proposed Cranes & Derricks Rule

OSHA is proposing a rule to protect employees from the hazards associated with hoisting equipment when used to perform construction activities. Under this proposed rule, employers would first determine whether the ground is sufficient to support the anticipated weight of hoisting equipment and associated loads. The employer then would be 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. Finally, the employer would be required to ensure that the equipment is in safe operating condition via required inspections and employees in the work zone are trained to recognize hazards associated with the use of the equipment and any related duties that they are assigned to perform.

The section of subpart N of 29 CFR part 1926 that applies to cranes and derricks is Sec. 1926.550. That section relies heavily on national consensus standards that were in effect in 1971. There have been considerable technological changes since the 1971 OSHA standard was issued. For example, hydraulic cranes were rare at that time but are now prevalent. Although the OSHA standard remains largely unchanged, the construction industry has updated the consensus standards on which the OSHA standard is based. For example, the industry consensus standard for derricks was most recently updated in 2003, and that for crawler, locomotive and truck cranes in 2004.

In recent years, a number of industry stakeholders asked the Agency to update Subpart N's cranes and derrick requirements. They were concerned that accidents recently completed the Kendall Coffee Shop at the Kendall Campus for Miami-Dade College. This 5,000 SF renovation of an existing below-ground space included moisture control, a new store-front, new kitchen and equipment, new chilled water infrastructure, new plumbing & electrical infrastructure, new flooring, paint, and stainless steel counters and columns. Ferguson is pleased to announce the opening of a new 18,000-square-foot, showroom located at 2860 North Federal Highway in Fort Lauderdale.

(continued on Page 4)
Each month Construction FOCUS features a CASF member company, selected by drawing a business card from among those attending the monthly networking breakfast. The next breakfast, sponsored by Stiles Construction Company, will be held on Thursday, December 11, 7:30 a.m. at the Courtyard by Marriott-Cypress Creek in Ft. Lauderdale.

"Exceptional quality and features at an exceptional price are the hallmarks of the Aerial Floor System. The precise concrete system saves production time by being entirely custom-made at Aerial Floor LLC and installed using our own welders, engineers and cranes. It's virtually a 'turnkey' floor solution," says Marty Rosep, Sales Manager for Aerial Floor LLC.

In business for over 15 years, Aerial Floor LLC has become an important player in the residential and commercial construction industry in South Florida. Their processes have proven to be so successful and buyer-friendly that Aerial Floor LLC has more than doubled in size in the last five years. They have been an active CASF member since 2000.

The floors are an entirely safe system that is highly customizable. The pre-cast composite floor systems produced by Aerial Floor LLC are outstanding in terms of strength, durability, speed of installation, as well as cost. Produced at their own facility, Aerial floor units are fabricated in widths of up to 8 feet and lengths of up to 40 feet, are typically composed of 17" deep steel bar joists embedded into 3" concrete panels (depth of joist may vary), at 3000 psi and poured around embedded 6/6, i.e. 6"X 6" welded wire mesh, into slightly cambered molds. They are then transported to the site and placed at 3 ½" on top of the tie, bond or steel beams of the structure, precisely

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*Construction Focus is the official publication of the Construction Association of South Florida. Article suggestions and submissions for publication consideration should be forwarded to the Executive Vice President.*
Recognizing exceptional workmanship for fifty years, CASF’s 50th Annual Craftsmanship Awards banquet paid tribute to 94 winners in front of a record crowd of 625 people on November 6, 2008 at the Signature Grand.

Member Pics

CASF is always looking for ways to provide exposure to our members and the excellent work they do. We continually ask our members to send in their press releases for the Member News column of FOCUS. Recently we requested pictures from the membership for the Junior Achievement Finance Park project we are doing and it dawned on us that everyone has pictures of work they are performing throughout South Florida. So, email your pictures to jsiegle@casf.org with the name of the project and we will put them in FOCUS for all to see.

Here are some of the pictures we recently received:

- William R. Nash, Cos. - Good Sam Hospital
- Beauchamp Construction Company
- S+S Painting and Waterproofing
- GSD Contracting-Commerce Bank
- Hollywood Woodwork, LLC
OSHA's Proposed Rule
(continued from Page 1)

Dents involving cranes and derricks continued to be a significant cause of fatal and other serious injuries on construction sites and believed that an updated standard was needed to address the causes of these accidents and to reduce their numbers. They emphasized that the considerable changes in both work processes and technology have made much of Subpart N obsolete.

To coincide with the proposed rule on Cranes and Derricks in Construction, OSHA has initiated a National Crane Safety Initiative to address safety hazards during construction crane operation. The Crane Safety Initiative also builds on a number of steps taken by OSHA earlier this year to raise awareness on crane safety and increase enforcement of the current standards, including launching local emphasis programs in a number of regions to inspect high-rise construction, stakeholder outreach and additional training on crane safety.

"Three important features of this initiative are that it will provide information and outreach to the construction industry and other stakeholders, offer enhanced resources to OSHA inspectors who address crane safety and implement a National Emphasis Program on Crane Safety," said Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health Edwin G. Foulke Jr. "The Bureau of Labor Statistics recently reported the 2007 fatality rate was the lowest in recorded history, including a reported five percent reduction in fatalities for the construction industry. This initiative builds upon this successful record."

Through its agency partners in the construction industry, OSHA will increase awareness of and provide information on how to avoid crane hazards. The agency's compliance safety and health officers will receive enhanced resources on crane safety. Additionally, the National Emphasis Program will incorporate increased targeted inspections of construction work sites to identify crane hazards and promote compliance with workplace crane safety requirements.

OSHA's proposed rule on cranes and derricks addresses the key hazards associated with construction cranes and derricks. For more information, go to OSHA's website at http://www.osha.gov.