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Updates to Australian Standards for Cranes

The Australian Standards for cranes are being transformed to make them more relevant for developments in crane technology. Australia and New Zealand has a joint Standards committee for cranes, ME005. John Miller (Ports of Auckland and former CA Councilor) is the CA nominated committee member. The other NZ committee members are nominated by Work safe NZ and Engineering NZ. There are two series of standards, AS1418 (technical specifications) and AS2550 (safe use practice). AS2550 is equivalent to the NZ Approved Code of Practice Cranes. The joint AS/NZS standards are for Elevating Working Platforms and Vehicle Loading Cranes. All other standards are Australian only.

The main changes to the AS standards are to replace the original standards' documents with nominated ISO or EN Standards with amendments to apply them in Australia. The disadvantage is the AS standard will only be a one- or two-page list of amendments and you will then have to purchase the ISO or EN standard as well. The advantage is the older, out-of-date AS standards will be replaced with an up-to-date version. Also, the ISO or EN standards will be more relevant to the mostly European equipment being used by most crane operators.

Here in NZ, our Approved Code of Practice for Cranes allows the use of recognised standards including British, European, Japanese, USA and Australian.

If you have any questions about standards, please do not hesitate to contact the Crane Association and they will pass the query on to their technical sub-committee or an industry expert.

The above article was provided by:

John Miller
Operations Engineer
Engineering
Ports of Auckland Ltd
Tinley Street, Auckland Central 1010

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