

# *safety* Crane Users

## The essentials of safe crane operation

### **Crane users or site owner**

Ensure that people, equipment and material are kept out of the work area.

Crane users have a vital role to play in crane safety and accident prevention.

The crane user is one who requires a crane to perform a lifting task and they may lack basic crane and lifting experience.

The crane user's initial responsibility is to provide the crane owner/supplier with sufficient basic information to enable the correct choice of crane and associated equipment to be made and to determine whether expert supervision is required.

The crane owner/supplier must obtain from the user a clear understanding of the job to be done, site conditions, restrictions and hazards. Where there is any doubt about conditions on site it is recommended that an inspection is made by a competent and experienced supervisor.

The crane user must provide clear access to the site and an adequately prepared work area for the crane.

The correct choice of crane as to type, capacity and reach is vitally important.

Most accidents can be avoided by careful job planning. It is vital that crane users and those in charge at the site alert the crane operator and crew members of potential hazards or unusual operating conditions.

# Site Supervisors

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### For site supervisors / riggers/ doggers

Since more and larger cranes are being used on today's major construction sites it is increasingly necessary that all site personnel involved or in charge of crane and lifting operations be trained in the basic principles of crane safety.

Site supervisors, riggers, doggers and everyone who works around cranes must obey all warning signs and have regard for their own safety and the safety of others. The person in charge must have a clear understanding of the work to be done, consider all dangers at the site, and develop a plan to do the job safely. Explain the plan to all concerned.

Personnel setting up cranes or handling loads must know proper machine erection and rigging procedures.

The primary duty of a dogger is to assist the operator in the safe and efficient operation of the crane and the job in hand including the safe slinging of the load. When an operator's vision is obscured or when operating in hazardous areas such as near power lines or near people, a dogger must be used. A dogger may also be necessary at other times.

A dogger must be conversant with the crane being used and the mode of operation so that each job can be safely co-ordinated with the operator and other team members. A dogger must have good vision and sound judgement, know standard crane signals and be able to give signals clearly and must have enough experience to be able to recognise hazards and signal the operator to avoid them.

A dogger must be positioned and clearly seen to safely observe the entire operation.