



Major Inspections of Cranes and Other Plant

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1. Background

This document has been produced to advise owners of cranes and other plant, of the need to ensure that major inspections are carried out in accordance with Australian Standards.

Substandard major inspections may leave the plant owner with the belief that the item of plant is safe to operate for several more years when it may not be.

When a major inspection is to be carried out, the items that shall be included for inspection, as a minimum, can be found by referring to the Australian Standard AS 2550 Cranes, hoists and winches – Safe use series.

2. WorkSafe Victoria requirements for major inspections:

- When the competent person is assessing the item of plant regarding the extent of the major inspection it should not be based solely on the hour meter as this is not a reliable record of use. The hour meter should be read in conjunction with the maintenance / utilisation records.
- The critical or working components of the items of plant to be inspected must be identified by the manufacturer or a competent person and these components are to be identified on the report.
- A significant AS 2550 criteria is for the inspection of all critical components. Phrases contained in the report that identify '*only accessible*' components have been tested or inspected may be in conflict with the requirements of AS 2550 if a critical component is located in a non-accessible area when the plant is in the assembled state. Where necessary, the item of plant shall be stripped down to ensure appropriate access to the critical components to allow a complete and thorough inspection.
- Relying on electromagnetic non-destructive testing of critical components such as pins and bushes, while in their assembled state will not identify whether the levels of wear remain within tolerance.

- The completed report must include the following (quoted from AS 2550.1):
 - (A) *The competent person shall specify the maintenance necessary to ensure its continued safe operation.*
 - (B) *The competent person shall identify components that require particular attention in subsequent periodic inspections.*
 - (C) *The competent person shall determine the reasonable practicability of applying the current requirements of AS 1418 series.*
- Item (C) above is of significant importance if the equipment originated overseas and was not built to Australian Standards.

3. Quality of Inspection Standard and Report – Your obligations

Plant owners have an obligation to ensure that their plant is maintained in accordance with the manufacturer's directions and the relevant Australian Standards or equivalent. Major inspections are a critical component of any maintenance program. As a customer of the major inspection service provider you must not accept a substandard major inspection and neither will WorkSafe. An acceptable major inspection report will incorporate, in addition to a summary statement, identification of the critical components assessed, their present condition and the maintenance requirements necessary to ensure the continued safe operation of the plant.

4. Further Information

Further advice on inspection, maintenance & repair of cranes and other plant may be found in:

- Australian Standard *AS 2550 Cranes, hoists and winches – Safe use series*
- Crane Industry Council of Australia (CICA) – *Guide to Major Inspections*



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