

**Greetings all. In today's bulletin, we will talk about crane licensing review.**

How well do you think the current crane licence classes reflect industry work practices and equipment? How well do the High-Risk Work Licence requirements ensure crane operators can perform their work safely?

**Current Crane Licence**

Under the model WHS Regulations, crane work activities are deemed 'high-risk work' and require a licence to perform them. The current crane licence class includes:

- Tower crane (Class CT)
- Self-erecting tower crane (Class CS)
- Derrick crane (Class CD)
- Portal boom crane (Class CP)
- Bridge and gantry crane (Class CB)
- Vehicle loading crane (Class CV)
- Non-slewing mobile crane (Class CN)
- Slewing mobile crane – with a capacity of up to 20 tonnes (Class C2)
- Slewing mobile crane – with a capacity of up to 60 tonnes (Class C6)
- Slewing mobile crane – with a capacity of up to 100 tonnes (Class C1)
- Slewing mobile crane – with a capacity of over 100 tonnes (Class C0)

A crane HRW licence (crane licence) allows a person to use a crane in a particular licence class anywhere in Australia (including Victoria, despite VIC not implementing the model WHS laws).

To get a crane HRW licence, the candidate needs to complete HRW training with a Registered Training Organization (RTO) in the appropriate crane HRW licence class and be assessed as competent by an accredited assessor endorsed by State Regulators.

**What are the issues?**

**The training and assessment required to obtain slewing mobile crane HRW licences do not reflect the capabilities of modern cranes. In addition, the types of HRW Licence available are overly focused on differences in load capacity.**

The current HRW framework for slewing mobile cranes was set based on the old crane models available at the time. The crane's capacity defines the different licence classes (see the list above, 20t, 60t,

and 100t). Still, with the advancement of designs, new crane models these days are more compact for road travel and have more built-in capacities and functions. They also have different configurations compared with old crane models. A crane with a lower capacity is not necessarily easier to operate than a crane with a higher capacity.



Different cranes with the same capacity may require different skill sets to operate (i.e., a crawler crane vs. an all-terrain crane, a hydraulic boom crane vs. a lattice boom crane). The training course conducted by RTOs would not usually have adequate resources for the trainees to obtain hands-on experience with operating different types of cranes. This would rely on the continued skill development of the trainee through work experience. But there is no requirement for continuous skill development of the trainee before they are qualified for the licence in the licensing framework. This gap needs to be filled.

A small number of RTOs set prerequisites for C1 and C0 crane licence classes. For example, to apply for a C1 licence, the trainee needs a dogging licence, C6 licence, and two years of proof of experience on a C2 crane or C6 crane. These requirements ensure that the trainees have practiced their training skills through practical work experience before applying for the next class of crane licence. In addition, these requirements



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assist in improving the operator's competency for the crane licence class they are currently holding. But, they are still not enough to qualify them for the next crane licence class.

### **Training of Crane operators in dogging and rigging work.**

Dogging skills are a fundamental first step for people to understand how crane lifting jobs work. Dogging skills (i.e., applying load estimation and slinging techniques to move loads) help the crane operator make decisions during the lift setup and operating process. It also assists the crane operator on how to communicate with a dogger to safely move a load while it is out of full view of the crane operator. Although a small number of RTOs require the crane licence trainee to have a dogging licence as a pre-requirement, the current licensing framework does not require the crane licence holder to have dogging skills. Therefore, a dogging HRW licence is not a pre-requirement for applying for a crane licence.

### **What do we suggest?**

- Remove the encompassment for non slew cranes (articulated cranes and telehandlers) and vehicle loading cranes from the slew crane licence.
- Instead of categorizing crane license by crane load capacity, we suggest that crane license class should be based on the different operating characteristics of different types of cranes.
- Introduce logbook requirements for crane licence assessment. Like car licence logbooks, the crane licence trainees should practice the skills they learn from their training before they qualify for the licence.
- Introduce prerequisite requirements on dogging licence or rigging licence (where applicable, depending on the type of crane licence) for crane operators.

### **Crane Licensing Review**

Following the 2018 review of the model WHS laws, WHS ministers asked Safe Work Australia to review the high-risk work licensing for cranes to ensure it remains relevant to contemporary work practices and equipment.

CICA will participate in the licensing review and provide our feedback to the reviewing panel. If you have some thoughts or suggestions on what reform is

required for the crane HRW licence, please see the link below to submit your comments.

Safe Work Australia Crane Licence Review Home Page:

<https://engage.swa.gov.au/crane-licensing-consultation>

Direct link to published comments:

<https://engage.swa.gov.au/crane-licensing-consultation/widgets/373349/documents>

### **Crane Licensing Review Survey**

To help us better understand the industry's view on the way forward for the crane licence framework, we welcome your feedback by way of a short 5-minute survey. Your response will significantly assist with the licensing review process. Please follow the link below for the survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/WV6NZM3>



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