



CICA – Vic / Tas Branch Crane Safety Bulletin #347 October 2024



Greetings all. Today's Bulletin is warning against skimping on crane maintenance during tough economic times.

When the economy takes a hit, many businesses look for ways to cut costs. It's natural to tighten the belt wherever possible—staffing, operations, equipment.

But when it comes to the crane industry, one area you simply can't afford to skimp on is **crane rigging gear** and **machine maintenance**. In tough economic times, it might be tempting to stretch your maintenance schedules or delay replacing rigging gear, but doing so could end up costing you a lot more in the long run.

Safety Comes First—No Exceptions

In the crane industry, safety is everything. No matter what state the economy is in, you have to keep your equipment in top shape to ensure the safety of your team and anyone around the job site.

Skimping on maintenance or continuing to use gear that's past its prime is a risk that can lead to accidents—and in the crane industry, accidents often come with high stakes.

If a sling snaps or a poorly maintained machine malfunctions, you're not just looking at potential injuries, but costly project delays, legal consequences, and even damage to your reputation.

Short-Term Savings, Long-Term Losses

Postponing maintenance or holding off on replacing gear might save a bit of money upfront, but it's a short-term fix that often leads to long-term problems.

Equipment breakdowns can bring entire operations to a halt, and when that happens, the cost of unplanned repairs or replacement far exceeds what you would have paid for regular maintenance.

In a tough economy, you need to be able to rely on your equipment more than ever to keep jobs on track and keep revenue flowing.

Compliance Isn't Optional

In Australia, we operate under some of the world's highest safety standards—and for good reason. Regular inspections, maintenance, and checks aren't just best practice, they're a legal requirement. When businesses start cutting corners on maintenance, they also risk falling out of compliance with local

regulations, which can lead to fines, shutdowns, or worse.

Staying compliant with safety standards helps protect your workers, your business, and your clients.

Neglecting this crucial area doesn't just expose you to risk; it puts your entire operation at stake. It's worth remembering that compliance is **non-negotiable**, even when the economic climate is challenging.

Protecting Your Investment

Crane machinery and rigging gear aren't small-ticket items. They're major investments, and like any investment, they need to be properly cared for to deliver long-term value. Regular maintenance extends the life of your equipment and ensures it performs at its best when you need it most.

By sticking to a regular maintenance schedule and staying on top of inspections, you're protecting the investment you've made in your gear and ensuring you get the best possible return.

The Right Gear for the Job

When times are tough, there's a temptation to make do with what's on hand, even if it's not ideal for the task at hand. But this is another false economy.

Using rigging gear that's not rated for the load or condition it's being used for is dangerous. It's crucial to always assess whether your gear is up to the task and in good condition. If it's not, replace it.

How CICA can Help

CICA provides its members with resources and tools to facilitate compliance and improve operations.

[CraneSafe](#) and [StartSafe](#) ensure machinery is maintained and up to standard. [CrewSafe](#) is about investing in your team.

These resources include maintenance guidelines and best practices that help maximise equipment life, prevent breakdowns and accidents.

Tough Times, Smart Decisions

We all know times can get tough, and businesses need to make smart decisions to stay afloat. But cutting corners on crane rigging gear and maintenance shouldn't be one of them.

The risks far outweigh the potential savings. Regular maintenance ensures you avoid costly breakdowns,



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meet compliance standards, protect your workforce,
and maximise the life of your equipment.

It's about **running a safe, compliant, and successful business**—no matter what the economic situation looks like.

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