

OSHA Training Toolbox Talk: Material Handling and Storage – Inspecting Overhead Cranes and Hoists

[Reference: 1910.179 / 1926.554]

Conducting a daily pre-shift inspection of overhead cranes and hoists can help detect seemingly small problems that could eventually result in a catastrophic accident. So before first use each shift, visually inspect your overhead cranes and hoists for the following conditions, as applicable:

- Check for any obvious visual signs of damage, such as bent or broken parts, loose bolts, or cracks in the structure.
- Inspect the wire ropes or chains for any signs of fraying, kinks, or excessive wear.
- Look for any oil leaks or fluid drips from the crane or hoist.
- Inspect the power cables, connectors, and plugs for any damage or exposed wiring.
- Check for the presence of a load rating plate and verify it is legible.
- Inspect the hook for any cracks, deformation, twisting, or excessive wear.
- Check that the latch or safety catch on the hook is functioning properly.
- Test all control buttons and switches to ensure they are functioning properly.
- Check the operation of the hoist, ensuring it moves smoothly and without unusual noise.
- Test the travel and load brakes to ensure they engage and release smoothly, and verify that the load brakes are holding the load when engaged.
- Check that the upper limit switch is functioning correctly by stopping the crane or hoist at the designated position. Do this with no load attached to the hoist while slowly inching the hoist to test the limit switch.
- Verify that all safety devices such as warning horns and travel alarms, where provided, are functioning as intended.

Remember, this checklist is a general guide. It is essential to consult the specific manufacturer's instructions and any relevant regulations or standards applicable to your location to ensure an adequate daily pre-use inspection is conducted. If you detect any problems with an overhead crane or hoist, take it out of service immediately. Damaged cranes and hoists must be tagged out with a "Danger Do Not Use" tag and reported to your supervisor ASAP.

Does anyone have anything to add to today's discussion on safety hazards to look for before using an overhead crane or hoist? Please sign the training certification form to ensure you get credit for attending today's toolbox training session.