

## Crane suspended work platforms

# Perform trial lifts before worker use

NOTE: This WorkSafe Bulletin is a revision of an earlier Investigations Bulletin (IB 01-01) and includes the January 2005 amendments to the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation.

On October 31, 2000, one worker was killed and another injured while working from a work platform suspended from a crane.

Before workers use a platform suspended from a crane, a trial lift must be performed with the platform empty to ensure it is safe for workers.

### Regulatory Requirements

Work platforms that are supported by a crane or hoist must be used in accordance with a standard acceptable to the Workers' Compensation Board—see section 13.2(1)(b) of the Occupational Health and Safety Regulation. The associated OHS Guideline G13.2-1, “Standards acceptable to the Board,” references *WCB Standard WPL 2-2004, Design, Construction and Use of Crane Supported Work Platforms*. Clause 13.3 of this standard deals specifically with performing trial lifts:

A trial lift with the unloaded platform, from the location where workers enter the platform to all locations to which workers will be hoisted, must be done prior to placing workers on the platform. This trial

lift is to determine that all work locations can be reached without contacting obstructions, that all controls function properly, and that the all-up weight indicated on the data plate remains within 50% of the crane or hoist rating throughout the range of intended operation.

*WCB Standard WPL 2-2004, Design, Construction and Use of Crane Supported Work Platforms* is available on the WCB web site <[worksafebc.com](http://worksafebc.com)>. Click on “Occupational Health and Safety Regulation” and then choose “WCB Standards” for a listing of WCB standards you can download.