

*G20.102 Suspended work platforms in marine construction and pile driving activities*

Proposed February 24, 2005

Section 20.102 of the *OHS Regulation* states:

- (1) Suspended work platforms such as gilly boards, small boats and buckets used to support workers must meet the requirements for suspended work platforms in Part 13 (Ladders, Scaffolds and Temporary Work Platforms).
- (2) **Despite section 13.27(5), a secondary hoisting line on a crane may be used to suspend workers on a work platform in a marine construction or pile driving operation if**
  - (a) **it is not practicable to provide another means for positioning workers to perform work tasks,**
  - (b) **all the crane's hoisting gear that is being used conforms to section 13.29(1), and**
  - (c) **the total load attached to or suspended from all load lines of the crane does not exceed 50% of the rated capacity of the crane for the reach and configuration.**

[Enacted by B.C. Reg. \_\_\_\_\_, effective \_\_\_\_\_, 2006.]

The purpose of this guideline is to provide guidance to Prevention officers and workplaces on the circumstances under section 20.102(2)(a) in which the Board expects it will not be practicable to use a means for positioning workers other than using a work platform suspended from a secondary load line of a crane. The term "practicable" is defined in the *OHS Regulation* to mean "that which is reasonably capable of being done".

- If the crane is being used on a barge or scow it will generally not be considered practicable to use a second crane or other means of access such as a boom-supported elevating work platform positioned on the same barge or scow for the reason of lack of room to position such equipment. Also, in the case of an elevating work platform, with the movement (listing) of the barge or scow resulting from loads being handled by the crane, and from wind and wave action, it may not be possible to assure that the elevating work platform carrier will remain level within the limits normally required for safe operation of such equipment.
- If the crane is being used on a barge or scow, it will generally not be considered practicable to position a second crane or elevating work platform on a second barge or scow, or on a nearby dock or land area, as the movement of the crane on the barge with the handling of loads, and from wind and wave action, would not be synchronized with the other crane or elevating work platform, resulting in potentially hazardous "relative movement" between the two systems.

## **Proposed OHS Guideline: Part 20, Construction, Excavation and Demolition**

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- If the crane is being used on a narrow wharf, jetty or dock area, space restrictions may preclude the use of a second crane or alternative access equipment, such as a boom-supported elevating work platform.
- During land-based pile driving work, limited access or ground conditions may preclude the use of a second crane or a boom-supported elevating work platform.

It will generally be considered practicable to use a second crane or boom-supported elevating work platform, or other safe means, to position workers to do tasks at height if the work is taking place in an area providing sufficient space to position all the equipment on firm and near level ground or other solid surface, such as a dock. Two exceptions to this general understanding are noted below.

- It is not expected that an alternative means for positioning workers at height will be practicable on such a site solely to handle routine maintenance on the crane, pile driver or leads. For example, if it is necessary to re-thread a pile line on the leads, or to access the upper sheaves of the crane for maintenance such as lubrication, the use of a work platform suspended on a second load line while the pile driver and/or leads remain supported by another load line of the crane is to be considered normal and acceptable practice. During marine construction and pile driving work there are other lifting tasks that may need to be done, for example the top of a light standard may require removal. For such tasks the pile driver and leads are disconnected from the crane, and the crane is now available for use in its usual or normal configuration.
- It is not considered practicable for a boom-supported elevating work platform, or other safe means, to position workers to do tasks at height to be brought in if such "normal crane work" is incidental to the job and involves only a few lifts in an area providing sufficient space to position other equipment on firm and near level ground or other solid surface, such as a dock. However, if crane tasks in such areas are more than incidental, for example the work will take more than one day, and equipment such as a second crane or a boom-supported elevating work platform is reasonably available to the site, the Board expects the work to be planned and executed in a manner that complies with section 13.27(5).