

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

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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.]

This guideline provides information to Board prevention officers and workplaces on the circumstances under section 20.102(2)(a) in which the Board expects it will be practicable to use a second crane or other hoist as a means for positioning workers to perform work tasks, and when it will not be practicable. The term "practicable" is defined in the *OHS Regulation* to mean "that which is reasonably capable of being done". The guideline also provides some information on the application of section 20.102(2)(b).

Practicability of using a second crane or other hoist

The issue of practicability varies somewhat depending on whether the operations are done using equipment based on the ground or a dock, or are performed using equipment based on a barge, scow or similar floating support.

- 1. Operations where equipment is used on the ground or a dock:** It is generally considered practicable to use a second crane, a boom-supported elevating work platform or other safe means to position workers to do tasks at height unless the area does not provide sufficient space or there are conditions that do not permit safe positioning of additional equipment. Examples of such cases include operations done on ground where access is limited or soil conditions preclude the use of additional equipment, and those done from a narrow wharf, jetty or dock area with substantial space restrictions.

If the space is adequate for the operation of a second crane or other hoisting device, it may still not be practicable to bring in the second piece of equipment if the work is extremely short duration or involves only a few lifts and is incidental to the job. Two examples are noted below.

- The work is solely for the purpose of 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 considered normal and acceptable practice.
- During marine construction and pile driving work there may be other short duration lifting tasks that need to be done, for example the top of a light standard may need to be installed or removed. For such tasks the pile driver and leads are disconnected from the crane, rendering the crane available for use in its usual or normal configuration, with one load line supporting workers in a platform and the other line used to position or support the part to be installed or removed.

However, if such crane tasks are more than incidental, for example the work will take more than a 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).

- 2. Operations where equipment is used on a barge or scow:** It is generally considered not to be practicable to use a second crane to lift a work platform or use an elevating work platform when operations are done from a barge, scow or similar floating equipment.

For example, if the secondary equipment is placed on the same barge or scow there usually will not be sufficient space to safely position the equipment. Also, in the case of an elevating work platform, 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, in circumstances where there is listing of the barge or scow resulting from loads being handled by the crane, or as a result of wind and wave action.

If the secondary equipment is placed on another barge or scow, or on a nearby dock or land area there may be hazards to workers created from the relative movement of the two pieces of lifting equipment, as a result of the listing of the barge or scow from loads being handled by the crane, or from wind and wave action.

Intention of section 20.102(2)(b)

This provision references section 13.29(1), and broadens the application of the requirements under that section to all hoisting gear, including the primary line, the line used to lift workers and, where applicable, the boom hoist. In other words, all hoisting lines must be operated as slowly as practicable when workers are being lifted on the platform and must be lowered under power, and no line may be used with a free running boom or hoisting winch controlled only by brakes. Section 13.29(2) and (3) continue to apply, but only to the line used to lift workers.