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**INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION of BRIDGE,
STRUCTURAL, ORNAMENTAL and REINFORCING IRON WORKERS**
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June 13, 2008

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Ann Burch, Director
Policy and Research Division
WorkSafe BC
PO B ox 5350 Stn Terminal
Vancouver, BC V6B 5L5

Dear Ms Burch:

RE: REGULATION AMENDMENTS 2008

I am writing on behalf of Ironworkers Local 97 which represents over 1500 Ironworkers. Many of our members work with cranes on a daily basis. Section 14.37.1 is sensible but it shows the problem with the operator owning the lift philosophy. Some in the Industry may like this philosophy as it decreases the need for qualified riggers. If deskilling the Trades is your goal, having the operator responsible for everything outside the cab is a slick way to do it.

Does the operator fulfill the requirement of 15.2?

The operator is allowed to refuse any lift under the "Refusal of Unsafe Work" provision. The riggers and the crane operators should work together as it is a team job. The operator doesn't lift at his whim but at the command of the rigger. The riggers should be responsible for the rigging, the path of the crane swing, the safe working load of the rigging, and along with the operator, the crane capacity at all points of the lift.

How can the operator tell from 100 feet away if the chokers are the right size for the load unless he does the rigging and the hoisting? The riggers and the workers receiving the load certainly have as much at stake as the operator.

It is the continued attempt to downgrade the need for qualified riggers that makes the requirement for more regulations centering on the crane and the need to engineer every lift.

IRONWORKERS LOCAL 97

June 13, 2008

Letter to: WorkSafe BC

Re: Regulation Amendments 2008

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Having been involved with over a hundred thousand lifts over my work career and representing an organization that has been involved in billions of lifts, I am very aware that the lack of compulsory trades in this province means more Occupational Health & Safety regulations. It means more engineering on lifts and a shifting of responsibility for the work being performed from the riggers to the crane operators.

Regulation 14.37.1 may be the start of a more realistic understanding of the relevant duties of the riggers and operators. Could you communicate to me what qualification does WorkSafe BC require for a person to be a qualified supervisor under Section 14.42?

I look forward to your reply.

Yours truly,



James Leland
Business Manager, FST

JL/mhs
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