ASME B30.3 Interpretations

Replies to Technical Inquiries
December 1992 – October 1996

FOREWORD

This publication includes all of the written replies issued between the indicated dates by the Secretary, speaking for the ASME B30 Committee, Safety Standard for Cableways, Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks, and Slings, to inquiries concerning interpretations of technical aspects of ASME B30.3, Construction Tower Cranes.

These replies are taken verbatim from the original letters, except for a few typographical corrections and some minor editorial corrections made for the purpose of improved clarity. In some few instances, a review of the interpretations revealed a need for corrections of a technical nature: in these cases a corrected interpretation immediately follows the original reply.

These interpretations were prepared in accordance with the accredited ASME procedures. ASME procedures provide for reconsideration of these interpretations when or if additional information is available which the inquirer believes might affect the interpretation. Further, persons aggrieved by this interpretation may appeal to the cognizant ASME Committee or Subcommittee. ASME does not "approve," "certify," "rate," or "endorse" any item, construction, proprietary device, or activity.

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Interpretation: 3-3

Subject: Reconsideration of Interpretation 3-2, Lightning Protection

Date Issued: June 14, 1996

Question: Which persons does the Interpretation 3-2 intend the lightning protection to protect?

Reply: Section 3-1.16(h) states that "Lightning protection shall be provided." and Interpretation 3-2 states in part that the lightning protection shall be "capable of protecting persons from injury."

To clarify the wording of the interpretation, the volume does not intend that means be provided to protect people on the ground in the vicinity of tower crane. The "persons" referred to in the interpretation would be crane operators while in the cab of the crane.

Interpretation: 3-4

Subject: ASME B30.3-1990, Hammerhead Tower Cranes

Date Issued: October 18, 1996

Question (1): Is the term "erection personnel" as used in subsection (d) distinguished from the term "crane manufacturer's or a qualified person's recommendations" as used in subsection (b)?

Reply (1): The "erection personnel" referred to in clause (d) are the recipients of instructions from a qualified person, whereas the "crane manufacturer's or qualified person's recommendations" mentioned in clause (b) are sources of information.

Question (2): Do subsections (a) through (c) require the erection personnel to develop a written plan consisting of the assist crane's boom configuration, positioning, boom angle, radius from the center pin of the tower crane, landing areas, signal procedures, the need for a prelift meeting, the load weights of the components erected, and the sequence of events for the pick of each component part?

Reply (2): Clause (c) requires that procedures be established to implement the manufacturer's erection/dismantling instruction before the work commences. The volume does not specify the form the "procedures" are to take. The decision as to whether procedures shall be in writing, and their content, is left to the discretion and judgment of the qualified person that clause (b) stipulated shall supervise the work.

Question (3): What are the respective duties amongst the crane manufacturer, erection personnel, and assist crane in carrying out subsections (a) through (c)?

Reply (3): The volume lists recommendations and requirements on actions to be followed but does not address how duties are to be assigned among the parties.

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