



## **Occupational Health and Safety Authority**

### **Guidelines for Lifting of Persons using Cranes**

It is not uncommon, especially in the construction industry, to witness the lifting of workers by a crane with the use of a metal cage. Since the majority of cranes are designed for lifting loads, this operation should only be carried out if the crane is specifically designed to also lift persons. However the regulations allow for an exemption in the case of exceptional circumstances when it is not feasible to perform the required work by less hazardous methods or equipment. In that case the measures and requirements mentioned below should be followed.

#### **Excerpt from Subsidiary Legislation 424.30, Work Equipment (Minimum Safety and Health Requirements) Regulations (L.N. 282 of 2004)**

##### *SCHEDULE*

##### *MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS CONCERNING THE USE OF WORK EQUIPMENT*

*4.3. Persons may be lifted only by means of work equipment and accessories provided for this purpose.*

*Without prejudice to the Act and the General Provisions Regulations, exceptionally, work equipment which is not specifically designed for the purpose of lifting persons may be used to this effect, provided appropriate action has been taken to ensure safety in accordance with national legislation and, or practice laying down appropriate supervision.*

*While workers are on work equipment designed for lifting loads the control position must be manned at all times. Persons being lifted must have reliable means of communication. In the event of danger, there must be reliable means of evacuating them.*

The above requirement in the regulations specifies that lifting of persons with equipment which is not designed for this purpose, for example cranes that are designed for lifting loads, can only be done in exceptional circumstances and by taking appropriate measures. An exceptional circumstance is one where it can be proven that no other safer means of lifting persons can be used. It is recommended that in the case of cranes and lifting attachments to be used for lifting persons, the

examinations by the competent persons are carried out every six months. In this case the requirements below have to be fulfilled by the employer:

1. preparation of a site specific risk assessment for the particular lift by a competent person
2. copy of the risk assessment to be available on site
3. valid examination report of the crane by a competent person available on site
4. valid examination report of the cage and attachments used, by a competent person available on site
5. the crane controls must be manned at all times during the lift
6. reliable and effective means of communication between the workers being lifted and the crane operator
7. reliable means of evacuating the workers being lifted in case of emergency
8. ensure that both the crane operator and the workers to be lifted are adequately trained for the job
9. effective control of traffic if there exists a possibility of vehicular impact.

The Risk Assessment must include a brief description of the work (including location, identification of crane and cage), the number of workers to be lifted, method of attachment of the cage to the crane's hook, anchorage points and a declaration that the work cannot be carried out by any other safer means. The employer is obliged to ensure that the control measures identified in the risk assessment are implemented. The employees shall cooperate with the employer in implementing the safety measures.

OHSA, August 2013

Every effort has been made to ensure that the information in this document is correct and provided in good faith according to current best practice - it is also strongly recommended that one should consider all relevant regulations related to this subject.