

Tech Tips - a periodic newsletter

MOBILE CRANE CABS

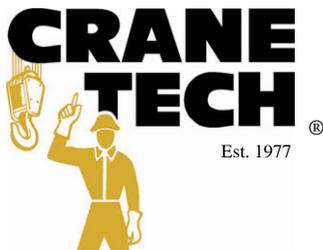
If you are not receiving your own copy of Tech Tips it's easy to register and receive all future issues.

Click [Register for Tech Tips](#) then just complete and submit the form. Your periodic Tech Tips will start to arrive soon.

Crane Tech respects your privacy. We will not distribute or sell your contact information and you can un-enroll at any time.

Enroll 2 & 3rd is Free

Did you know that when you enroll two students in select Crane Tech seminars the third student is free? Students attending the same class on same dates save 33% of tuition fees. Certain restrictions apply



*Safety Through
Education*

Greater Tampa Area

6037 Winthrop Commerce Ave.
Riverview, FL 33578

Phone: 813.248.4800
800.521.7669
Fax: 813.248.4820
Web: www.cranetech.com

© 2008—2010 Crane Tech

An organized and well-kept operator's cab may be an indication of the professionalism of the crane operator. Over the last 30 years, Crane Tech has seen many operator cabs that remain clean, organized and well kept. This generally indicates an operator who cares for their crane. More often than not, clean and organized cabs belong to the most professional operators; those who aim to bring the highest degree of professionalism to their job. When we find an operator's cab with accumulated dirt, tools, waste, newspapers, and other non-related reading materials we frequently find an unprofessional attitude. An unkempt cab can cause interference and distractions. An operator who does not care for the crane may lead to not caring for the job tasks required. When was the last time the operator cabs of your equipment were inspected? Supervisors and crane owners should inspect their operator cabs to observe their condition.

§OSHA Regulation 29 CFR 1910.180(i)(3)(ii) *"Tools, oil cans, waste, extra fuses, and other necessary articles shall be stored in the tool box, and shall not be permitted to lie loose in or about the cab."* OSHA also refers to clothing and personal belongings being stored and not to interfere with access or operation. It is the operator's responsibility to ensure the cab is maintained, organized, clean and uncluttered.

The operator's cab is designed to protect against weather. Modern cranes have electronic systems; such as load moment indicators, rated capacity indicators, rated capacity limiters, etc., which must be protected. See that doors are closed at night or during wet weather. The cab must also provide the operator with a clear and unrestricted view of the load, the boom tip, and the surrounding job site. Visibility to either side is provided to give the operator 180-degree or greater vision to the site. Cab windows shall be constructed with safety glass or equivalent and they must remain crack-free and clean at all times. A crack in a window can produce a blinding effect when sunlight or other forms of light refract off the crack. Windows that open provide ventilation and must be properly secured to prevent accidental closure. Windshield wipers are typically provided for the front and overhead windows. Wipers must effectively clear the window so vision is not obstructed, and wiper blades must be replaced regularly.

Tech Tip Continued:

The cab door must be restrained from opening and closing accidentally and be lockable to prevent unauthorized entry when left unattended. The door adjacent to the operator shall open outward (swinging doors) or if sliding, slide rearward to open.

A leading cause of injuries to equipment operators is falling from the equipment. Maintaining a "3 Point Contact" can help prevent falls while entering or exiting the cab. The 3-point contact rule requires that two feet and one hand or two hands and one foot remain in contact at all times. Handholds and steps shall be provided as needed, and they shall be securely fastened. The operator should not attempt to carry loose items while entering or exiting the cab. Have someone pass items up after entering the cab, or place items in the cab prior to entering. A small satchel can often hold needed items and be small enough to store out of the way.

Have you ever sat in an uncomfortable seat for three to four hours at a time? Remember those "pins and needles" in your backside? Don't underestimate the need for a comfortable crane operator seat. Some operators spend an entire shift in the seat, so they should be reasonably comfortable. A headrest is helpful when loads are handled at high boom angles.

Ensure that all mirrors are properly in place, clean and adjustable. Mirrors provide the required view to the rear of the operator. Additional mirrors may include those for viewing hoist drum(s), or outriggers in their extended and/or retracted position (See ASME B30.5-3.1.3(m)).

Make sure all cab systems and accessories remain in proper operating condition. Air conditioners, heaters, and other cab comforts may seem like non-essentials, but operators need to be sharp. And, don't forget to check on the cleanliness of the crane cabs. A clean cab translates to a more professional attitude.