

Memo

Date: December 10, 2024

To: Tower Crane Owners and Applicable Associations, Engineering firms, Constructors and Operating Engineers

From: Brian Barron
Senior Manager
Construction Health and safety Program

Subject: Enforcement direction for the load test requirements under section 161 and 161.1 of O. Reg 213/91

On January 1, 2024, amendments to the tower crane sections of O. Reg 213/91 for Construction Projects came into force.

O. Reg. 241/23 and O. Reg. 242/23 amend both O. Reg. 213/91 (Construction Projects) and O. Reg. 420/21 (Notices and Reports). These amendments have been consolidated into the e-Laws version of the respective regulations.

These changes to the regulations have been made to increase the safety requirements for cranes and hoisting operations in Ontario as well as the reporting requirements for certain events. The manufacturer of a tower crane or an engineer shall determine its rated load-carrying capacity in accordance with CSA Standard Z248-17. After the erection of a tower crane but before the tower crane is put into service, load tests shall be performed on the tower crane in accordance with clause 6.3.3 of CSA Standard Z248-17. Load tests shall be carried out as specified by the manufacturer. In the absence of specifications from the manufacturer, load tests are to be conducted in accordance with CSA Z-248-17 Code for Tower Cranes clause 6.3.

In addition, Operational tests identified in ss. 161(1) are to be conducted after the tower crane is erected on the project and before it is used; and at one-week intervals thereafter while the crane is erected on the project. Overload limit devices for a tower crane shall be tested using test blocks designed for the purpose that have their weight clearly marked on them and the test blocks shall be kept on the project while the crane is erected.

While a tower crane is in use at a project its components shall be inspected by a competent worker in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions in accordance with section 161.1 which was adopted from Z-248-17 clause 6.4 Inspections.

The CSA Standard Z-248 Technical Standard committee is conducting a review clause 6.3 regarding load tests. Until this review is completed, it is expected that the overload limit devices on a tower crane at a project to be tested prior to the tower crane being first put into service and at least weekly thereafter. The line-pull limit switch is to be tested prior to the tower crane being first put into service at the project and per manufacturer's instruction or at least annually thereafter.

Thank you,

Brian Barron
Senior Manager
Construction Health and Safety Program
Occupational Health and Safety Branch