

Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Unit

OHS ALERT

Man Box Work Requires Secondary Brake on Mobile Crane Winch Drum

For any Man box work with a mobile crane, the crane must have a secondary brake on the winch drum.

If you can't see two brake calipers on the winch drum, the crane does not meet standards for man box work.

The only exception would be where paperwork from an engineer shows that a secondary brake has been fitted.

WorkSafe Victoria has informed owners, operators, manufacturers, and hirers of the requirements for a dual braking system where the crane is required to suspend a workbox for the purposes of hoisting personnel.

Several incidents where crane components have failed have been investigated. If the cranes had been suspending personnel in workboxes at the time of these failures, the incidents could have resulted in the serious injury or death of the personnel.

Minimum standards for cranes to suspend workboxes

Only cranes that comply with the requirements of the Australian Standard can be used to lift personnel in a workbox.

These standards require the crane has:

- (i) at least two brakes, independent of each other where failure of a brake or any single component in the brake – drive train will not result in loss of control of the load, or
- (ii) a brake acting directly on the hoist drum and a hoisting mechanism or other brake capable of holding the load when not under power.

Note: For cranes that utilise a luffing hoist the above shall also apply for the luffing hoist.

Contact the CFMEU Health and Safety Unit if you have any concerns:

9341 3444



Pictured: two brakes fitted to the winch drum.

Safety is union business.
Stand up. Speak out. Come home.