Articulating Boom Crane: Permitting and Licensing Requirements

Crane owners and operators are reminded of the following code requirements pertaining to articulating boom cranes ("knuckleboom cranes").

Prior approval of the Department of Buildings ("DOB") is not required to use an articulating boom crane at a jobsite, provided all of the following are met:

- The articulating boom crane is used exclusively to load or unload a truck or trailer;
- The length of the boom does not exceed 135 feet; and
- The material is not raised vertically more than 100 feet during the unloading process.

If an articulating boom crane is used for any other type of work at a jobsite – including but not limited to deliveries at a jobsite beyond the maximums specified above; holding steel, HVAC equipment, hoist towers, scaffolding, sidewalk shed components, or any other loads in place while they are bolted or otherwise affixed; or assisting in the demolition of a building – the following requirements must be met prior to the use of the articulating boom crane:

- The crane must possess a Certificate of Approval ("prototype approval");
- The crane must possess a Certificate of Operation ("CD" or annual registration);
- The crane must possess a Certificate of On-Site Inspection ("CN"); and
- The crane must be operated by a licensed New York City Hoisting Machine Operator ("HMO") who possesses an endorsement on their license to operate an articulating boom crane.

Contractors and operators found to be using an articulating boom crane in a non-compliant manner are subject to being issued stop work orders and violations by the department. Site safety managers and site safety coordinators who discover an articulating boom crane operating at their jobsite in a non-compliant manner and fail to report such operation to the department are subject to being issued violations by the department.

For more information about the requirements in general, please see Section 3319.3 of the New York City Building Code.

For more information on obtaining a certificate of approval, operation, or on-site inspection, please visit here.

For more information on obtaining an endorsement to an HMO license, please visit here.

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