

Environmental and Occupational Health & Safety Unit

OHS ALERT



Tower Cranes Signage on the Boom

Crane Boom Signage – It's not all about the free advertising!

Company signage on tower crane booms might be a great way for them to advertise, but as we know only too well in this industry – there's always more to it than meets the eye!

In this case, whenever signage is put onto a boom, it actually changes the original design of the crane itself. This means that the “new addition” to the crane, that is the sign, **MUST** be approved and signed off by a structural engineer; and we say that engineer must be experienced in how tower cranes are designed and how they operate in the “real world” of the construction industry.

Signage on the boom of a tower-crane can potentially put an extra 20% load on the crane. This adds an extra burden to the already high risk and hazardous operations that our tower crane operators face in making sure the crane and the load are safe when working – especially on windy days.

This is why we say **there should be no signage on the boom of a tower crane.**

UNLESS: There is documentation from the manufacturer of the crane or an engineer stating the signage on the boom does not affect the safe use of the crane, or the wind speed of the crane needs to be derated for safe use.

eg. Safe use of a tower crane without signage on the boom: 20mps, with signage: 10mps.

So, if your crane has a sign on it, demand to see the manufacturer or engineer “approval” and the **NEW** safe wind speed operating rating of the crane.

If you are in any doubt, contact your OHS rep, your organiser, or contact the CFMEU OHS Unit for advice.

Safety is union business.

STAND UP. SPEAK OUT. COME HOME.