

Dogging and Slinging Techniques - Certificate Requirements

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Summary: This guidance note clarifies the circumstances under which a dogging certificate of competency is and is not required.

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Purpose

The purpose of this document is to clarify the definition of slinging techniques.

Regulations

The Occupational Health and Safety (Certification of Plant Users and Operators) Regulations 1994 define dogging as:

"the application of slinging techniques, including the selection or inspection of lifting gear, or the directing of a crane or hoist operator in the movement of a load when the load is out of the operator's view."

slinging techniques in relation to dogging are defined as:

"those slinging techniques that require judgement to be exercised in relation to the suitability and condition of lifting gear, and the method of slinging, by consideration of the nature of the load, its mass and its centre of gravity."

Certificate of Competency

A certificate of competency **is required** if:

- (i)** there is a need to apply slinging techniques that require judgement to be exercised;
- OR**
- (ii)** there is a need to direct a crane or hoist operator in the movement of a load when

the load is out of the operator's view.

A certificate of competency is **not required** where:

- (i)** the employer has ensured that loads can be safely slung without the need for judgement to be exercised; **AND**
- (ii)** loads being lifted or lowered by a crane or hoist are in full view of the crane/hoist operator at all times.

The practicality of safely slinging loads without the need for judgement to be exercised, will vary from workplace to workplace, depending upon the range of lifting work undertaken, the predictability of the loads and the complexity of the slinging methods.

In general, where high volume repetitive lifting occurs, such as in manufacturing workshops, there will be a reasonable likelihood that slinging techniques can be pre-determined and specified.

Where this can be achieved, the employer must ensure that persons engaged in slinging loads have been provided with sufficient training, instruction and information to enable them to correctly follow the specific procedures without exercising judgement. The use of purpose designed lifting frames or attachments will make this much easier to achieve. Where the loads vary within a known weight range and/or a known range of centres of gravity, the specified slinging methods will need to be suitable for the full range without the need to individually identify or estimate weights or centres of gravity.

The employer should ensure that the person charged with the responsibility for specifying pre-determined slinging methods, is competent to undertake the work. People with certificates of competency in dogging or rigging, or professional engineers experienced in designing crane lifting procedures are generally regarded as having appropriate competency.

Employers can choose to comply with the Regulations by ensuring that those engaged in slinging techniques hold appropriate certificates, or are directly supervised by people with appropriate certificates.

Alternatively, employers can comply with the Regulations by ensuring that lifts are pre-determined by a competent person and that the work instructions given to those engaged in slinging loads are adequate to ensure that the work is carried out safely without the need to exercise judgement.

Training

Whether a certificate of competency is required or not, the Occupational Health and Safety Act 2004 places responsibility on employers to provide information, instruction, training and supervision to employees as are necessary to enable them to perform their work in a manner that is safe and without risks to health. Similarly the OHS (Plant) Regulations 1995 provide that where a hazard related to plant and its associated systems of work is identified and assessed to be a risk, an employer must provide training, instruction and information to supervisors, and employees who are likely to be exposed to risks arising from the operation of the plant.

Acts and Regulations

Acts and regulations are available from Information Victoria on 1300 366 356 or order online at www.bookshop.vic.gov.au.

View the legislation at Victorian Law Today at www.legislation.vic.gov.au.

Standards Australia

Copies of standards can be obtained by contacting Standards Australia on 1300 654 646 or by visiting the web site at www.standards.com.au.

Further information

Should you require further assistance please contact your nearest [WorkSafe office](#).

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