



BC Crane Safety Framework

Recommendations of the Crane Safety Table | September 2026

LAND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT

Members of the Crane Safety Table would like to recognize and honour the many distinct First Nations communities on whose territories contributions to this document were made. With gratitude and respect, we acknowledge that the land on which we primarily work are the unceded territories of the ləkʷəŋən (Lekwungen, also known as Songhees and Esquimalt Nations), the xʷməθkʷəy̓əm (Musqueam), Skwxwú7mesh Úxwumixw (Squamish Nation), and səliłwətaʔ (Tsleil-Waututh Nation), the q̓íc'əy' (Katzie Nation), and the kʷikʷəłəm (Kwkwetlem Nation).

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MESSAGE FROM THE HONOURABLE JENNIFER WHITESIDE, MINISTER OF LABOUR



BC is uniquely positioned to be the engine of economic development in Canada. We have the resources, geography, proximity to diverse markets, and above all the highly educated and skilled labour forces to build our economy. Examples can be seen in every community where tower cranes punctuate the skyline. B.C. has more cranes in operation than ever before.

People are truly at the heart of B.C.'s growing economy. Supporting the workers who build our communities, and the infrastructure our province needs to thrive, is essential. Our government is committed to ensuring this vital work is done under the safest conditions possible. In the last five years there have been seven fatalities involving tower cranes in B.C. These workers were

beloved by their families and community and must not be forgotten.

There has been much progress in improving the safe operation of cranes on construction sites in B.C., yet we know more must be done. I asked employers, unions, contractors, WorkSafeBC, and technical experts in June 2025 to come together to identify the gaps in safety related to crane operation and provide recommendations to ensure the safest possible conditions on B.C. construction sites. The contributions and efforts of the Crane Safety Table are crucial to the ongoing safety of workers and the public.

The Table – comprised of representatives from the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, WorkSafeBC, SkilledTradesBC, the BC Association for Crane Safety, Technical Safety BC, the Council of Construction Associations, the BC Construction Association, the International Union of Operating Engineers Local 115, BC Building Trades, the International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers Local 97, and the BC Federation of Labour – came together with safety as their unity of purpose and engaged in their deliberations in a thoughtful, comprehensive manner.

By bringing together industry, labour and technical experts, the Table is charting a path to improve crane safety in B.C. Participants share a commitment to identifying risks, strengthening oversight, and advancing training that workers need to safely do their jobs.

This work is already driving meaningful action, and workers lives will improve as a result. We have developed a Skilled Trades Certification for tower crane operators and are expanding training for mobile crane operators. This step, recommended by the Table, will help standardize training and create clearer entry points into these trades. And by building on recommendations made by the Table, we are introducing a mandatory crane licensing and permitting program through WorkSafeBC to strengthen protections for workers and enhance oversight.



We know there is more to do, and improving crane safety will require sustained effort from all of us. Together, however, we can build on this progress and ensure that British Columbia remains a leader in protecting workers, and our government remains committed to this invaluable work. Thank you to the members of the Crane Safety Table for their leadership and dedication to making B.C.'s workplaces safer.

In solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Jennifer Whiteside'.

Jennifer Whiteside
September 21, 2026

INTRODUCTION

On behalf of the BC Crane Safety Table, we are pleased to present this framework for *Crane Safety for the Province of British Columbia*, including priorities for action and recommendations for implementation.

We acknowledge that Table members bring diverse perspectives, experiences and expertise to this table, resulting in varied recommendations to respond to key safety priorities.

However, the core objective of the Table: *to identify and minimize risks associated with crane operation and related rigging as much as possible, with the goal of eliminating them wherever feasible — thereby protecting workers, the public, reducing injuries, and ultimately preventing future fatalities*, is universally supported by Table members, and these are the key principles and considerations we have applied to our discussions and deliberations.

We remain committed to ongoing information sharing and collaboration in the identification and implementation of initiatives that improve the safety of workers and members of the public.

While the recommendations are submitted on behalf of the Table as a whole, it is important to acknowledge that there was not always unanimous agreement amongst members with respect to the recommendations and their impact on workers, businesses, and the public. These differing perspectives were given thoughtful consideration at the Table.

We are confident in the recommendations put forward in this report and believe they will contribute to the critical goal of enhancing crane safety for workers and the public in BC.

Sincerely,



Ministry of
Labour



Ministry of
Post-Secondary Education
and Future Skills



SKILLEDTRADESBC



Crane Safety
Crane Certification and Licensing Authority





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

In the last five years, there have been seven fatalities involving tower cranes in BC. In 2021, a catastrophic failure resulting in five worker fatalities and one non-fatal worker injury occurred while workers dismantled a tower crane at a construction site in Kelowna. In 2024, crane-related incidents at the Oakridge Mall construction site in Vancouver and a residential construction site in Victoria resulted in two more fatalities.

Enhancing crane safety has long been a priority for regulators and industry stakeholders. To this end, BC's current crane safety framework includes regulations that specifically aim to ensure the safety of workers operating and working around cranes, as well as a robust crane and mobile equipment safety initiative.

However, crane-related safety risks continue to rise despite the significant regulations and initiatives aimed at improving the safety of crane operators, other workers and members of the public at construction worksites. This is because:



Tower crane activities are inherently high-risk work with severe and/or irreversible hazards, meaning accidents can have catastrophic consequences.



More tower cranes are in operation around the province than ever before.



Tower crane work takes place on increasingly complex multi-employer worksites where safety-related roles and responsibilities are not always clear.



There has been an absence of mandatory technical training for those engaged in crane operations.



Current supervisor-to-trainee ratios are inconsistent in industry.

In response, the Minister of Labour struck the Crane Safety Table (the **Table**) on June 18, 2025, to initiate engagement with membership from key experts and stakeholders to inform the development of a provincial framework of recommendations for government consideration to improve crane safety in the province (see **Appendix B – Crane Safety Table Terms of Reference**).

The Table is made up of regulators and stakeholders who share a common vision and purpose for worker safety, but exercise independent mandates and have independent responsibilities and accountabilities.

Following the first Table meeting, the Ministry of Labour (the **ministry**) compiled a list of the safety concerns and issues raised by the Table members into a matrix. Table members were invited to submit written feedback on the matrix to ensure accuracy. Following the submissions, ministry staff invited Table members to one-on-one meetings to review their positions in greater detail.

The matrix was refined and used as a guide to facilitate deeper discussions about the safety gaps and opportunities identified in BC's crane sector. As the members progressed through discussions on the safety-related topics, expert stakeholder groups, including WorkSafeBC, the BC Association for Crane Safety, and the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills, presented on their respective areas of knowledge to inform the best approaches to addressing identified safety gaps.



OBJECTIVES

To guide dialogue, Table members articulated the following four objectives.

1 Engage partners and build cross agency relationships

- Further build collaboration between parties with an interest in and responsibility for crane safety, including government, WorkSafeBC, SkilledTradesBC, regulators, labour organizations, and the construction sector.

2 Assess current state of crane safety

- Review current and ongoing state of safety regarding crane operations and crane related rigging on worksites.
- Identify the scope and spectrum of contributing factors to crane safety, such as certification and training, state of equipment, and the regulatory framework.
- Share existing and/or pursue new data related to key safety outcomes and trends, including cross jurisdictional and cross sector research.
- Leverage this information to support continuous improvement and identify future priorities.

3 Identify gaps and remove barriers to improve outcomes

Review current and planned initiatives to identify and accelerate additional opportunities and actions, such as:

- Strengthening the legislative and regulatory framework;
- Enhancing compliance and enforcement;
- Expanding training and supports to workers;
- Reviewing licensing and certification related to crane safety and crane-related rigging; and,

- Identifying future needs for improving safety considering the province's ambitious capital plan.

4

Improve internal and public communication of current and planned initiatives

- Work together to increase public, worker and stakeholder awareness of crane safety initiatives to improve information sharing and access to training, tools, and resources.

Ultimately, in pursuing these objectives, the Table seeks to support a vision to make BC a leader in crane safety – with the highest standards of training, certification, technology and oversight – to protect workers and members of the public on every project, every time.



KEY PRINCIPLES

Based on the objectives outlined in the previous section, Table members articulated the following key principles to inform engagement and the identification of priorities for action.



Safety Paramountcy

- Safety is the overriding priority in crane operations.
- All policies, practices, and decisions must prioritize the prevention of harm to workers and the public.



Collaboration

- Combining the expertise and input of cross-sector stakeholders is key to arriving at the best, most impactful outcomes.



Evidence-Based

- Available data and evidence on root causes and best practices that are current and relevant should inform solutions.
- Key sources of information should include WorkSafeBC and BC Crane Safety.



Accessibility

- Potential impacts to all parties should be taken into account (e.g. ability to access virtual or in-person training, prohibitive costs or travel requirements, language barriers, etc.).
- In particular, the unique interests and needs of groups such as rural and remote workers, Indigenous people, women, youth and workers who speak languages other than English should be considered and supported as necessary.



Thoughtful Implementation

- Initiatives should be implemented in a way that allows for sufficient time to meaningfully change regulatory and oversight frameworks, thus supporting employers to shift their practices and processes as needed without compromising worker safety.



Measurable Outcomes

- Wherever possible, initiatives should be measurable over time and outcomes should be used to inform continuous improvement and future opportunities in crane safety.



CURRENT CONTEXT AND CONSIDERATIONS

Most cranes operate safely and without incident in BC. Our province stands out in North America for having:



Mandatory provincial certificate – stricter than all other Canadian jurisdictions.



Strong interprovincial mobility through the Red Seal program – unique to Canada.



Recent enhanced safety regulations including the *Notice of Project – Tower Crane* (NOP-TC) requirement. The NOP-TC is unique to BC, requiring advance notice to the regulator prior to any erection, dismantling, or repositioning of a tower crane.



Recognition of international credentials from select jurisdictions.



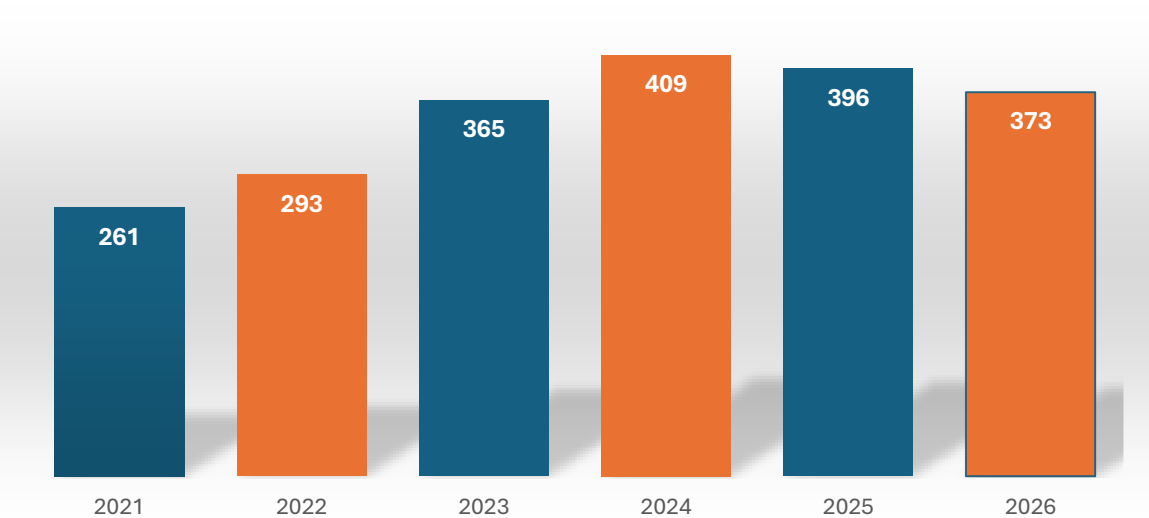
Crane equipment inspection – along with Ontario, BC has the most robust and stringent annual inspection and certification criteria in North America.

However, WorkSafeBC has concluded that the safety risks associated with tower cranes in BC are increasing as more cranes are in operation than ever before, and this work is taking place in increasingly complex, multi-employer worksites.

For example, WorkSafeBC advised that a total of 576 tower cranes owned by 127 different employers have operated in the province since October 2024. Approximately 25% of these cranes are owned by prime contractors, while the remaining 75% are split between crane rental companies and sub-contractors working for the prime contractor. This ownership distribution adds a layer of complexity to safety oversight.

In 2021, there were a total of 261 active tower cranes on worksites in BC. That number increased to a five-year high of 409 cranes in 2024 and sat at 373 cranes as of January 2026, as shown in Figure 1 below.

Figure 1: Number of active cranes on BC worksites, 2021 – 2026

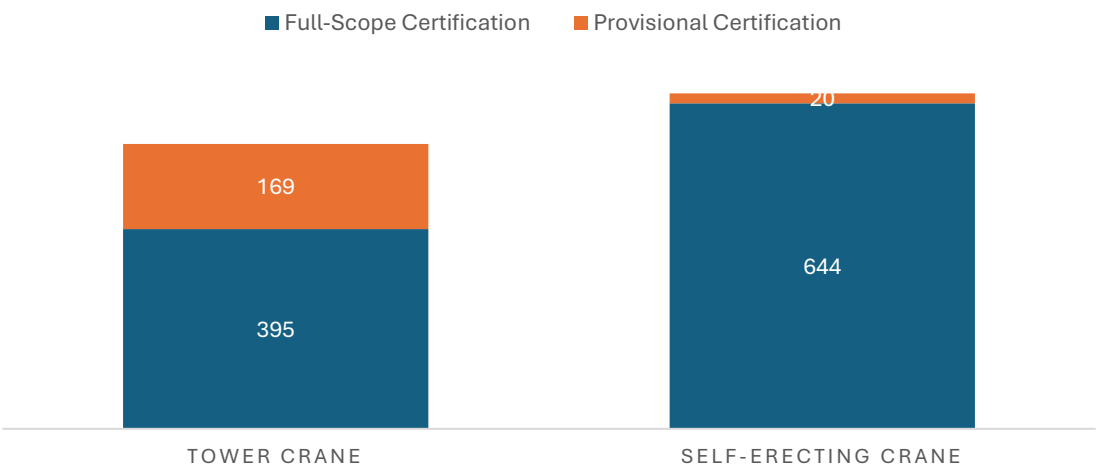


Data source: WorkSafeBC

In comparison, data compiled by WorkSafeBC shows there were 106 active tower cranes in Toronto and a combined total of 127 tower cranes operating in 11 major cities across the United States in January 2026.

Additionally, according to data from BC Crane Safety, the number of tower crane operators in BC is also significant, as shown in Figure 2 below.

Figure 2: Number and type of tower crane operator certifications in BC, 2026



Data source: WorkSafeBC

In 2024, there were 406 provisional tower crane certificates issued, representing a 58% reduction in provisional operators in two years.

To work as a crane operator in BC, a person must hold designation in at least one of 11 crane classifications issued through the BC Association for Crane Safety (see **Appendix C – Hierarchy of Crane Classifications and Crane Type Iconography**).

SkilledTradesBC offers apprenticeship training and certification in five crane classifications, including two Red Seal crane trades: Mobile Crane Operator and Tower Crane Operator. The BC Association for Crane Safety offers certifications in the six other crane classifications. Currently, apprenticeship training and certification are not required to legally work as a crane operator in BC.

Crane operators, including those who are qualified in other jurisdictions, can also register as a trade qualifier to become certified through an expedited process.

While working towards full certification, operators may be issued a Provisional Certificate from BC Crane Safety. This temporary designation, which allows operators to work under appropriate supervision, requires passing an exam and can be renewed up to three times.

In recent years, some provisional tower crane operators were reluctant to attempt to become fully certified because a lack of formal Tower Crane Operator technical training curriculum in BC created uncertainty around their ability to pass the required exam. To begin to address this, SkilledTradesBC worked closely with the International Union of Operating Engineers to develop Tower Crane Operator technical training, which launched in 2025.



PRIORITIES

Reflecting the key sources of injury and fatality, as well as data and trends in the use and operation of cranes in the province, the Table has identified the following priority areas for review to determine where additional advancements can be made to improve outcomes.



Operator Qualification and Competency

- Workers operating cranes are required to have the knowledge, skills, and ability to conduct their work safely.
- Methods and systems available for training must support worker competency.



Supervisory Qualification and Competency

- On-site supervisors are obligated to ensure that safety at the worksite is paramount, and the employer's regulatory obligations are met.



Contractor Capacity and Accountability

- Contractors are ultimately responsible for ensuring a safe worksite where cranes are in use.



Assembly, Climbing, Repositioning and Disassembly

- Construction, shifting, moving and deconstruction of a tower crane on a construction worksite.



Rigging and Lifting Operations

- “Below the [crane] hook” operations related to both securing a load and securing the load to the crane hook in a safe manner.

PROGRESS TO DATE

Operator Qualification and Competency

The Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (the **OHSR**), administered by WorkSafeBC, includes provisions that aim to ensure worker safety while operating and working around cranes and hoists.

One key requirement under the OHSR is that cranes must be operated only by persons with a certificate issued by a person acceptable to WorkSafeBC. In addition, all crane operators in BC, no matter their credential level, must register with BC Crane Safety. Mandatory operator certification was introduced in BC in 2007 (in comparison, mandatory certification was first introduced at the federal level in the US in 2019).

In November 2025, BC Crane Safety launched a digital certification process for crane operators. BC Crane Safety is piloting a renewable credential, which will allow crane operators to maintain up-to-date knowledge and skills while tracking their activity, equipment type and hours.

BC Crane Safety is required to ensure its operator certification program aligns with ISO 17024 – Personnel Certification to support alignment with international standards for certified workers.

In the same month, the Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills announced a \$241 million investment (over the next three years) to strengthen B.C.'s trades training system in order to double funding to SkilledTradesBC by 2028/29. This landmark investment will increase SkilledTradesBC's annual funding from \$107 million to \$214 million by 2028/29.

Among other goals, this funding will advance Skilled Trades Certification beginning with tower and mobile crane operators to improve safety, raise wages, and support stable career pathways for workers. SkilledTradesBC is looking into timing requirements necessary to implement Skilled Trades Certification for the Tower and Mobile Crane operator trades, as part of an assessment phase.

Supervisory Qualification and Competency

Since October 2024, employers have been required to submit a Notice of Project – Tower Crane (the **NOP-TC**) to WorkSafeBC at least two weeks before any tower crane work begins, including assembly, climbing, repositioning, or dismantling. The NOP-TC enables WorkSafeBC to understand who will perform the work, and when, where, and how it will be carried out.

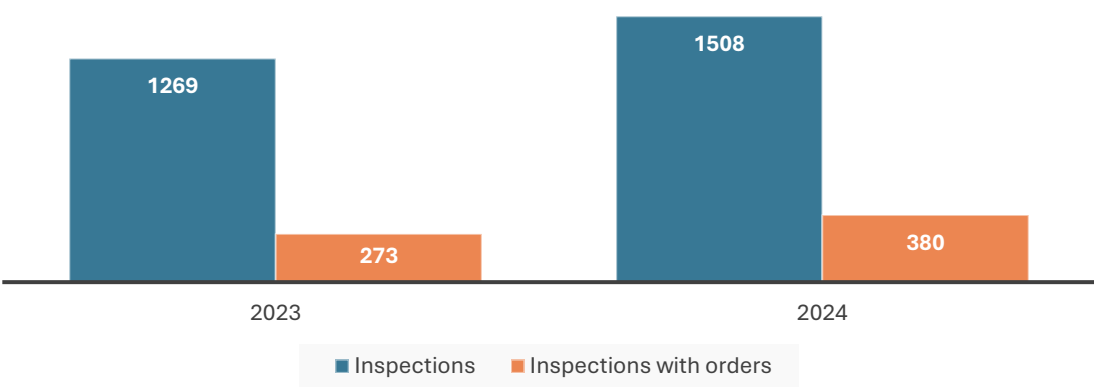
Information that must be confirmed in the NOP-TC includes:

- names of all employers responsible for the crane activity;
- the nature and scope of the crane activity;
- safe-work procedures specific to the workplace;
- the qualifications of the qualified supervisor; and
- identification information for the tower crane.

The NOP-TC provides WorkSafeBC with more precise information on tower crane activities in BC, helping guide its inspectional approach, enhancing safety efforts, and facilitating engagement before the work begins. In its first year, WorkSafeBC received more than 900 NOP submissions. WorkSafeBC continues to work with employers to ensure that submissions include the right planning and safety information. Where employer NOP-TC submissions are incomplete or reveal gaps in risk controls, WorkSafeBC officers follow up with inspections, as appropriate.

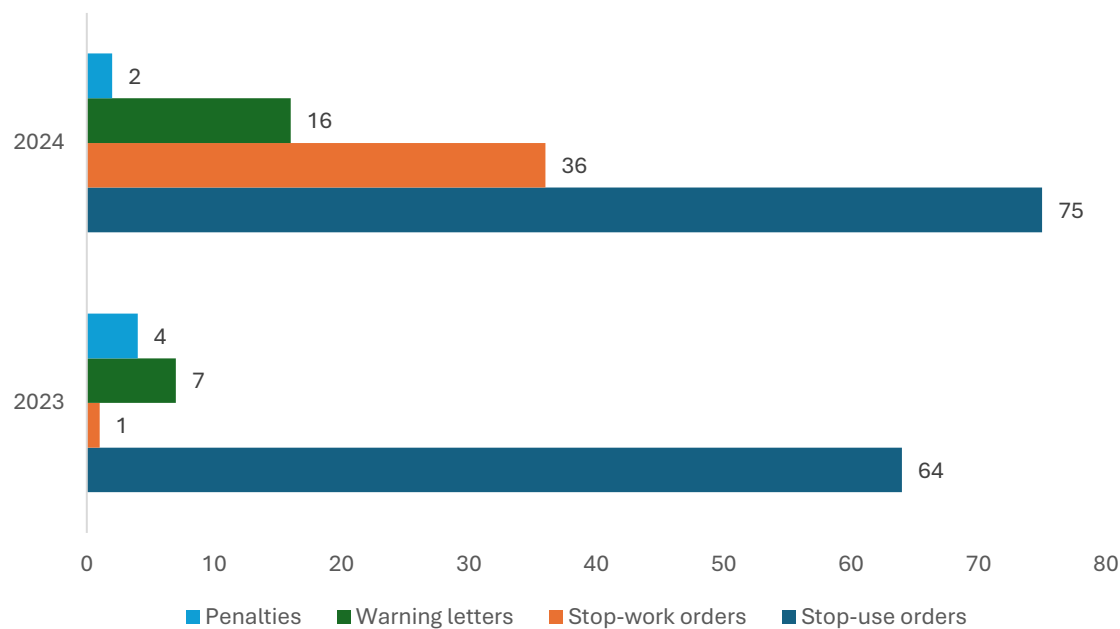
In 2024, WorkSafeBC’s Provincial Crane Inspection Team (the **PCIT**) conducted more than 1,500 inspections across BC and issued over 800 compliance-related orders, including 75 stop-use orders and 36 stop-work orders, as shown in Figures 3 and 4 below.

Figure 3: PCIT inspections, 2023 – 2024



Data source: WorkSafeBC

Figure 4: PCIT enforcement, 2023 – 2024



Data source: WorkSafeBC

WorkSafeBC has expanded the PCIT and established a consolidated team under a single manager to build consistent inspection, enforcement, and compliance with respect to crane safety across BC.

Contractor Capacity and Accountability

IUOE Local 115 offers a Tower Crane Coordination and Safety Awareness Presentation for prime contractors to assist them in understanding their role in relation to tower cranes.

WorkSafeBC Prevention Services has continued to engage directly with prime contractors and contractors directly over the past six months. Most of this outreach has focused on tower crane NOP-TC requirements, including the information that must be submitted, the online portal for submissions, the site documents binder, and safe work procedures template. Prevention Services has also both hosted and attended prime contractor industry sessions since October 2025, including continuous attendance at the Prime Contractor Technical Advisory Committee and their subcommittee for tower cranes.

The goal is to ensure supervisors are qualified and competent to oversee crane activities and to provide guidance on expectations for employer and prime contractor due diligence as well as overall site coordination.

As part of WorkSafeBC's Tower Crane Focus Strategy, current inspection efforts are zeroing in on the most critical controls needed to avert catastrophic incidents, such as dropped loads and structural failures.

The central areas of focus for inspections include:

- ensuring that supervisors and prime contractors fully understand and uphold their responsibilities;
- verifying the qualifications of crane operators and riggers;
- maintaining rigorous preventive maintenance schedules; and
- enforcing safe practices for both assembling and disassembling cranes.

These workplace inspections require employers not only to establish effective risk controls tailored to their specific tower cranes and associated hazards but also to communicate, implement, and consistently monitor these measures.



Rigging and Lifting Operations

Since September 2025, WorkSafeBC has been developing a competency framework for rigging in construction, defining the core knowledge, skills, and abilities required to perform rigging work safely. The framework was validated in early 2026 through engagement with industry and labour representatives and is expected to be finalized in Q2 2026.

The framework is intended to provide a consistent and defensible foundation for training and assessment. It also supports the development and enhancement of training and credentialling programs that improve safety outcomes.

Once complete, it will establish a clear standard for competent riggers and inform the design of training and assessment approaches to ensure workers performing rigging activities are appropriately trained.

Additionally, new rigging requirements will be stipulated for BC via Part 15 of the OHSR. Consultation on potential amendments must still be undertaken. The purpose of proposed amendments is to update regulatory requirements to reflect changes in standards and practices, and to mitigate identified industry risk drivers in tower cranes.

Further amendments to the Parts 4, 13, 14, 20, 28 and 31 of the OHSR are under consideration. These changes would define the term “safe for use” where the OHSR requires equipment to be periodically certified, and clarify, update, and harmonize inspection and certification requirements. Periodic certification of tower cranes has also been expanded from self-erecting tower cranes to all tower cranes.

Assembly, Climbing, Repositioning and Disassembly

In March 2026, the Minister of Labour announced that BC will introduce a mandatory crane licensing and permitting program to strengthen safety oversight. The program, which will be administered by WorkSafeBC, will be designed to ensure those overseeing crane work meet consistent, high-quality safety requirements, including while overseeing work involving crane erection, climbing, repositioning and dismantling.

Crane Strikes

While the Table initially identified crane strikes as a priority for further action, information sharing and cross-sector discussions highlighted the significant progress that has been made in this area. The prevention of crane strikes remains a key safety consideration; however, members were pleased to reflect on this area of work as a success story.

For example, since March 2023, tower cranes working in proximity to high voltage electrical equipment, as well as tower cranes in overlapping operating zones, must be equipped with a zone-limiting device to prevent collision. The OHSR also requires a professional engineer to supervise the inspection of equipment and certify the equipment as safe for use after any crane misadventures or crane-to-crane contacts. The implementation of this regulation has reduced reported tower crane contacts by approximately 90%.

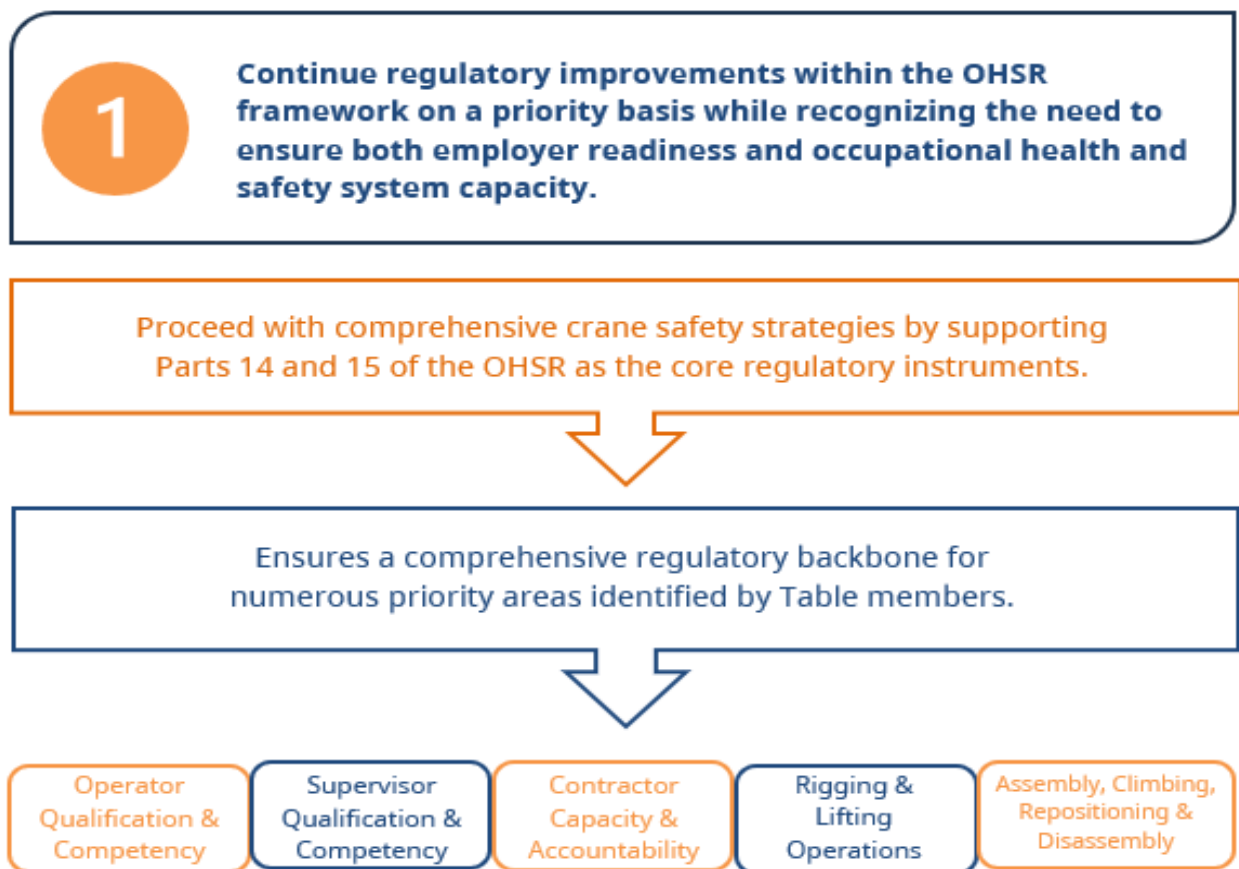
While Table members recognize the significant progress and ongoing work to improve crane safety in BC, they also recognize that opportunities exist to address gaps in crane safety that persist despite the comprehensive efforts to ensure the safety of crane operators, their colleagues and members of the public at construction worksites.



RECOMMENDATIONS

Initiatives such as enhanced training and certification requirements for operators and supervisors, the introduction of licensing and permitting for certain crane projects, and better oversight of equipment have been identified as pathways to further enhancing crane safety in BC.

For ease of reference, the Table's recommendations are represented by visuals that outline the goal of each recommendation, the intended outcome of each recommendation and the priority areas that each recommendation will address.



2

Expand Skilled Trades Certification to include tower and mobile crane operation with as much urgency as possible.

Include Tower and Mobile Crane Operator as a Skilled Trades Certification Trade.

Ensures that every prime contractor who oversees crane activities on construction worksites meets a standardized list of capabilities.

Operator
Qualification &
Competency

Supervisor
Qualification &
Competency

3

Introduce a licensing requirement for prime contractors.

Introduce a requirement for prime contractors to be licensed by WorkSafeBC to work with cranes in the construction sector.

Ensures that every prime contractor who oversees crane activities on construction worksites meets a standardized list of capabilities.

Contractor
Capacity &
Accountability

Rigging &
Lifting
Operations

Assembly, Climbing,
Repositioning &
Disassembly

4

Establish a permitting requirement for high-risk activities.

Implement a permitting program administered by WorkSafeBC

Requires duty holders to obtain a permit before undertaking specific high-risk activities, such as assembly and disassembly.

Contractor
Capacity &
Accountability

Rigging &
Lifting
Operations

Assembly, Climbing,
Repositioning &
Disassembly

5

Ensure appropriate supervision at worksites with tower cranes.

Designate a supervisor (or "Lift Director") at each construction worksite where one or more tower cranes are in operation.

Ensures that supervisors who meet a standardized list of competencies are responsible for the safety of workers and members of the public at or near worksites with tower cranes. Consideration should be given to adopting an international standard with respect to the duties and minimum provisions.

Contractor
Capacity &
Accountability

6

Implement mandatory, standardized training for crane-related rigging.

Require all workers who perform rigging in relation to tower and mobile cranes to complete a training program administered by an accredited body.

Specific, standardized training for crane-related rigging, including mandatory in-person components, ensures specific, standardized competencies.

Operator
Qualification &
Competency

Rigging &
Lifting
Operations

Assembly,
Climbing,
Repositioning &
Disassembly

7

Conduct a job analysis related to crane assembly and disassembly to make evidence-based decisions about training and supervision.

Engage labour and industry partners to conduct an assessment of competencies and the viability and sustainability of training programs.

Ensures that future training programs are viable, sustainable and address risk associated with crane assembly and disassembly.

Supervisor
Qualification &
Competency

Contractor
Capacity &
Accountability

Assembly, Climbing,
Repositioning &
Disassembly

8

Continue to involve experienced stakeholders in designing improvements.

Ensure that WorkSafeBC's processes for robust stakeholder consultation are followed in the development and implementation of any regulatory improvements.

Ensures that regulations are informed by well-rounded perspectives from workers, employers and industry experts.

Operator
Qualification &
Competency

Supervisor
Qualification &
Competency

Contractor
Capacity &
Accountability

Rigging &
Lifting
Operations

Assembly, Climbing,
Repositioning &
Disassembly

9

Prioritize communication between regulators, employers and workers.

Ensure there are opportunities for meaningful communication between regulators, employers and workers regarding any legislative and regulatory changes that will impact crane operations in BC.

Reduces confusion and supports compliance with new and updated requirements related to crane use at construction sites.

Operator
Qualification &
Competency

Supervisor
Qualification &
Competency

Contractor
Capacity &
Accountability

Rigging &
Lifting
Operations

Assembly, Climbing,
Repositioning &
Disassembly

Additionally, labour and industry representatives identified additional recommendations and considerations that require further discussion. These are available for review in **Appendix A – Additional Recommendations and Considerations.**



SUMMARY AND CONCLUSION

The recommendations presented above are intended to address the priorities identified by the Table in alignment with core principles. When combined with recent and emerging crane safety initiatives, these recommendations will address key gaps in the near term, effectively establishing a strong foundation for future developments.

In moving forward, the Table recognizes that each recommendation will require further development, detailed framing, and thoughtful consideration for effective implementation.

We also acknowledge that consensus will not always be possible, as members bring diverse mandates, experiences, and perspectives to this work. Nevertheless, every member of the Table remains firmly committed to continuing open dialogue, strengthening collaboration, and working together toward meaningful and sustained improvements in crane safety across BC.

APPENDIX A

Additional Recommendations and Considerations

Labour representatives introduced the following additional priority areas of consideration and recommendations for future discussion:

- Explore mandatory standardized training for erection, climbing, repositioning and dismantling of cranes.
- In the context of the significant role ironworkers play in the rigging and crane industry, it is important that Ironworker Generalist be implemented as a certified skilled trade as soon as possible. The commitment by government to add Ironworker Generalist to Skilled Trades Certification was made in September 2024, after a robust application process and consultation with SkilledTradesBC.
- With respect to Recommendation No. 6 – implement mandatory, standardized training for crane-related rigging – the appointed labour representatives note that high standards for rigging work already exist within established, apprenticeship model trades. Specifically, the Red Seal occupational standards for Ironworker Generalist and Tower Crane Operator include qualified crane signaling requirements and qualified rigger certificates that are issued as elements of these trades. These high standards should be pursued as the mandatory standard for all crane-related rigging work, and a standardized rigging training framework should be based on these existing high standards, to provide clear procedures, enhance safety compliance, and ensure consistent, controlled lifting operations across all projects.
- With respect to Recommendation No. 6 in the framework, the appointed labour representatives also recommend an endorsement model for rigging and that the accredited body responsible for administering the endorsement be SkilledTradesBC.
- With respect to Recommendation No. 3 – introduce a licensing requirement for prime contractors – the appointed labour representatives recommend that, to avoid creating gaps, consideration also be given to licensing requirements for owners of tower cranes and companies that erect, reposition and disassemble cranes, in addition to licensing for prime contractors.
- Ensure requirements for robust supervision plans and active, on-site, supervision are established and enacted.

Industry representatives introduced the following additional priority areas of consideration and recommendations for future discussion:

- Explore expanding the licensing regime beyond prime contractors and conduct a thorough review seeking feedback to identify potential gaps in responsibilities to ensure all crane stakeholders are appropriately licensed. This could include licensing requirements for crane owners and firms who operate, rent, erect, dismantle, climb, jump and maintain tower cranes as well as labour supply firms that supply crane operators and riggers.
- Place an increased emphasis on WorkSafeBC-funded crane resources and training. This will support all crane stakeholders, promote best practices, and reduce reliance on licensing and enforcement as the primary mechanisms for improving industry performance.

APPENDIX B

Crane Safety Table Terms of Reference

Context

There have been multiple high profile crane safety incidents in British Columbia over the last several years. This includes a catastrophic failure in 2021 while workers dismantled a tower crane at a construction site in Kelowna, resulting in five worker fatalities.

While some progress has been made to improve crane safety in the province by stakeholders and regulators, there is currently no overarching provincial crane safety framework that articulates a common, cross agency vision and approach.

The Crane Safety Table is made up of regulators and stakeholders who share a common vision and purpose, but who exercise independent mandates and have independent responsibilities, and accountabilities. Common effort across all agencies is required to ensure maximum safety for crane operators, their coworkers, and the public on construction worksites.

Vision

To make British Columbia a leader in crane safety - with the highest standards of training, certification, technology and oversight – to protect workers and the public on every project, every time.

Purpose

The goal of the Crane Safety Table is to identify and minimize risks associated with crane operation and related rigging as much as possible, with the goal of eliminating them wherever feasible – thereby protecting workers, the public, reducing injuries, and ultimately preventing future fatalities.

The purpose of the Crane Safety Table is to: foster collaboration on the development of a framework; identify barriers and gaps to ensure the safety of operators; coordinate necessary regulatory and program changes to accelerate action on improving safety; ensure priorities are worked on simultaneously; and, improve information sharing and engagement with stakeholders and the public.

Objectives

1. Engage partners and build cross agency relationships

Further build collaboration between parties with an interest in and responsibility for crane safety, including government, WorkSafeBC, SkilledTradesBC, regulators, labour organizations, and the construction sector.

2. Assess current state of crane safety

Review current and ongoing state of safety regarding crane operations and crane related rigging on worksites. Identify the scope and spectrum of contributing factors to crane safety, such as certification and training, state of equipment, and the regulatory framework. Share existing and/or pursue new data related to key safety outcomes and trends, including cross jurisdictional and cross sector research. Leverage this information to support continuous improvement and identify future priorities.

3. Identify gaps and remove barriers to improve outcomes

Review current and planned initiatives to identify and accelerate additional opportunities and actions, such as:

- Strengthening the legislative and regulatory framework;
- Enhancing compliance and enforcement;
- Expanding training and support for workers;
- Reviewing licensing and certification related to Crane Safety and crane related rigging; and,
- Identifying future needs for improving safety considering the province's ambitious capital plan.

4. Improve internal and public communication of current and in-progress initiatives

Work together to increase public, worker and stakeholder awareness of crane safety initiatives to improve information sharing and access to training, tools, and resources.

Membership

- Ministry of Labour
- Ministry of Post-Secondary Education and Future Skills WorkSafeBC
- SkilledTradesBC
- BC Association for Crane Safety Technical Safety BC
- Council of Construction Associations
- BC Construction Association

- The International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE) Local 115
- BC Building Trades
- International Association of Bridge, Structural, Ornamental and Reinforcing Iron Workers (Ironworkers) Local 97
- BC Federation of Labour

Meeting Frequency

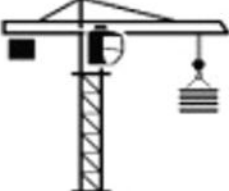
Monthly or on an ad hoc basis with all or select representatives, as needed.

Secretariat Support

The Ministry of Labour will provide facilitative and logistical support.

APPENDIX C

Crane Type Iconography and Hierarchy of Crane Classifications

		
Tower Crane	Mobile Crane	Mobile Crane 80 tonnes & Under
		
Stiff Boom Unlimited	Folding Boom Unlimited	Stiff Boom 40 tonnes & Under
		
Mobile Crane 20 tonnes & Under	Stiff Boom 20 tonnes & Under	Folding Boom 22 tonnes & Under
		
Folding Boom 10 tonnes & Under	Self Erect Tower Crane	

Hierarchy of Crane Classifications

