

ASME B30.3-2012
(Revision of ASME B30.3-2009)

Tower Cranes

**Safety Standard for Cableways,
Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks,
and Slings**

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD



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Mechanical Engineers**

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3-0.2.1.2-2	Guyed Tower Crane	3
3-0.2.1.2-3	Luffing Boom Tower Crane — Fixed-Base, Freestanding Crane	4
3-0.2.1.2-4	Braced Crane	5
3-0.2.1.3-1	Internal Climbing Crane	6
3-0.2.1.4-1	Travel Base for Freestanding Crane	7
3-0.2.2-1	Types of Fixed Bases	8
3-2.4.2-1	Core Failure in Rotation-Resistant Rope	29
3-3.3.4-1	Standard Hand Signals for Controlling Tower Cranes	38
3-3.4.3-1	Danger Zone for Cranes and Lifted Loads Operating Near Electrical Transmission Lines	40
 Table		
3-3.4.3-1	Required Clearance for Normal Voltage in Operation Near High-Voltage Power Lines	40



FOREWORD

This American National Standard, Safety Standard for Cableways, Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks, and Slings, has been developed under the procedures accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This Standard had its beginning in December 1916 when an eight-page “Code of Safety Standards for Cranes,” prepared by an ASME Committee on the Protection of Industrial Workers, was presented at the annual meeting of the ASME.

Meetings and discussions regarding safety on cranes, derricks, and hoists were held from 1920 to 1925, involving the ASME Safety Code Correlating Committee, the Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers, the American Museum of Safety, the American Engineering Standards Committee (AESC) [later changed to American Standards Association (ASA), then to the United States of America Standards Institute (USASI), and finally to ANSI], Department of Labor — State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Industry — State of Pennsylvania, and the Locomotive Crane Manufacturers Association. On June 11, 1925, AESC approved the ASME Safety Code Correlating Committee’s recommendation and authorized the project with the U.S. Department of the Navy Bureau of Yards and Docks and ASME as sponsors.

In March 1926, invitations were issued to 50 organizations to appoint representatives to a Sectional Committee. The call for organization of this Sectional Committee was sent out October 2, 1926, and the committee organized November 4, 1926, with 57 members representing 29 national organizations.

Commencing June 1, 1927, and using the eight-page code published by ASME in 1916 as a basis, the Sectional Committee developed the “Safety Code for Cranes, Derricks, and Hoists.” The early drafts of this safety code included requirements for jacks but, due to inputs and comments on those drafts, the Sectional Committee decided in 1938 to make the requirements for jacks a separate code. In January 1943, ASA B30.2-1943 was published, addressing a multitude of equipment types, and in August 1943, ASA B30.1-1943 was published, just addressing jacks. Both documents were reaffirmed in 1952 and widely accepted as safety standards.

Due to changes in design, advancement in techniques, and general interest of labor and industry in safety, the Sectional Committee, under the joint sponsorship of ASME and the Bureau of Yards and Docks (now the Naval Facilities Engineering Command) was reorganized on January 31, 1962, with 39 members representing 27 national organizations.

The new Committee changed the format of ASA B30.2-1943 so that the multitude of equipment types it addressed could be published in separate volumes that could completely cover the construction, installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and operation of each type of equipment that was included in the scope of the ASA B30.2. This format change resulted in the initial publication of B30.3, B30.5, B30.6, B30.11, and B30.16 being designated as “Revisions” of B30.2, with the remainder of the B30 volumes being published as totally new volumes. ASA changed its name to USASI in 1966 and to ANSI in 1969, which resulted in B30 volumes from 1943 to 1968 being designated as either ASA B30, USAS B30, or ANSI B30, depending on their date of publication.

In 1982, the Committee was reorganized as an Accredited Organization Committee, operating under procedures developed by ASME and accredited by the American National Standards Institute.

This Standard presents a coordinated set of rules that may serve as a guide to government and other regulatory bodies and municipal authorities responsible for the guarding and inspection of the equipment falling within its scope. The suggestions leading to accident prevention are given both as mandatory and advisory provisions; compliance with both types may be required by employers of their employees.

In case of practical difficulties, new developments, or unnecessary hardship, the administrative or regulatory authority may grant variances from the literal requirements or permit the use of other devices or methods, but only when it is clearly evident that an equivalent degree of protection is thereby secured. To secure uniform application and interpretation of this Standard,



administrative or regulatory authorities are urged to consult the B30 Committee, in accordance with the format described in Section IX of the Introduction, before rendering decisions on disputed points.

Safety codes and standards are intended to enhance public safety. Revisions result from committee consideration of factors such as technological advances, new data, and changing environmental and industry needs. Revisions do not imply that previous editions were inadequate.

The first edition of B30.3 Construction Tower Cranes was published in 1975 as a “partial revision” to B30.2-1943 (R1952) and was the first volume dedicated to tower cranes. New editions were published, in 1975, 1984, 1990, 1996, 2004, and 2009, with the 2009 edition revising the title of B30.3 to Tower Cranes and reflecting the revised scope that now included both construction and permanently mounted tower cranes (formerly addressed in B30.4). Responsibilities for members of the lifting team were also added in that edition. This 2012 edition includes major changes and additions to the scope of work for erecting, dismantling, and climbing, and takes into account wind zone regions across the United States. Strength and stability requirements have also been modified to align with the new European standard EN 14439. The inspection section now includes requirements for “Major Inspections” that are to be conducted at 60-month intervals. This edition is a complete rewrite of the 2009 edition and includes many new subjects and requirements updated to reflect the changing work environment in which tower cranes operate.

The edition of the B30.3 Volume was approved by the B30 Committee and by ASME, and was approved by ANSI and designated as an American National Standard on December 21, 2012.



ASME B30 COMMITTEE

Safety Standard for Cableways, Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks, and Slings

(The following is the roster of the Committee at the time of approval of this Standard.)

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SAFETY STANDARD FOR CABLEWAYS, CRANES, DERRICKS, HOISTS, HOOKS, JACKS, AND SLINGS

B30 STANDARD INTRODUCTION

(12)

SECTION I: SCOPE

The ASME B30 Standard contains provisions that apply to the construction, installation, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and use of cranes and other lifting and material-movement related equipment. For the convenience of the reader, the Standard has been divided into separate volumes. Each volume has been written under the direction of the ASME B30 Standard Committee and has successfully completed a consensus approval process under the general auspices of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

As of the date of issuance of this Volume, the B30 Standard comprises the following volumes:

- B30.1 Jacks, Industrial Rollers, Air Casters, and Hydraulic Gantries
- B30.2 Overhead and Gantry Cranes (Top Running Bridge, Single or Multiple Girder, Top Running Trolley Hoist)
- B30.3 Tower Cranes
- B30.4 Portal and Pedestal Cranes
- B30.5 Mobile and Locomotive Cranes
- B30.6 Derricks
- B30.7 Winches
- B30.8 Floating Cranes and Floating Derricks
- B30.9 Slings
- B30.10 Hooks
- B30.11 Monorails and Underhung Cranes
- B30.12 Handling Loads Suspended From Rotorcraft
- B30.13 Storage/Retrieval (S/R) Machines and Associated Equipment
- B30.14 Side Boom Tractors
- B30.15 Mobile Hydraulic Cranes
(withdrawn 1982 — requirements found in latest revision of B30.5)
- B30.16 Overhead Hoists (Underhung)
- B30.17 Overhead and Gantry Cranes (Top Running Bridge, Single Girder, Underhung Hoist)
- B30.18 Stacker Cranes (Top or Under Running Bridge, Multiple Girder With Top or Under Running Trolley Hoist)
- B30.19 Cableways
- B30.20 Below-the-Hook Lifting Devices
- B30.21 Manually Lever-Operated Hoists
- B30.22 Articulating Boom Cranes
- B30.23 Personnel Lifting Systems
- B30.24 Container Cranes
- B30.25 Scrap and Material Handlers
- B30.26 Rigging Hardware
- B30.27 Material Placement Systems
- B30.28 Balance Lifting Units
- B30.29 Self-Erect Tower Cranes
- B30.30 Ropes¹

SECTION II: SCOPE EXCLUSIONS

Any exclusion of, or limitations applicable to the equipment, requirements, recommendations or operations contained in this Standard are established in the affected volume's scope.

SECTION III: PURPOSE

The B30 Standard is intended to

(a) prevent or minimize injury to workers, and otherwise provide for the protection of life, limb, and property by prescribing safety requirements

(b) provide direction to manufacturers, owners, employers, users, and others concerned with, or responsible for, its application

(c) guide governments and other regulatory bodies in the development, promulgation, and enforcement of appropriate safety directives

SECTION IV: USE BY REGULATORY AGENCIES

These volumes may be adopted in whole or in part for governmental or regulatory use. If adopted for governmental use, the references to other national codes and standards in the specific volumes may be changed to refer to the corresponding regulations of the governmental authorities.

SECTION V: EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) *Effective Date.* The effective date of this Volume of the B30 Standard shall be 1 yr after its date of issuance.

¹ These volumes are currently in the development process.



Construction, installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and operation of equipment manufactured and facilities constructed after the effective date of this Volume shall conform to the mandatory requirements of this Volume.

(b) *Existing Installations.* Equipment manufactured and facilities constructed prior to the effective date of this Volume of the B30 Standard shall be subject to the inspection, testing, maintenance, and operation requirements of this Standard after the effective date.

It is not the intent of this Volume of the B30 Standard to require retrofitting of existing equipment. However, when an item is being modified, its performance requirements shall be reviewed relative to the requirements within the current volume. The need to meet the current requirements shall be evaluated by a qualified person selected by the owner (user). Recommended changes shall be made by the owner (user) within 1 yr.

SECTION VI: REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Requirements of this Standard are characterized by use of the word *shall*. Recommendations of this Standard are characterized by the word *should*.

SECTION VII: USE OF MEASUREMENT UNITS

This Standard contains SI (metric) units as well as U.S. Customary units. The values stated in U.S. Customary units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI units are a direct (soft) conversion from the U.S. Customary units.

SECTION VIII: REQUESTS FOR REVISION

The B30 Standard Committee will consider requests for revision of any of the volumes within the B30 Standard. Such requests should be directed to

Secretary, B30 Standard Committee
ASME Codes and Standards
Three Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016-5990

Requests should be in the following format:

- Volume: Cite the designation and title of the volume.
Edition: Cite the applicable edition of the volume.
Subject: Cite the applicable paragraph number(s) and the relevant heading(s).
Request: Indicate the suggested revision.
Rationale: State the rationale for the suggested revision.

Upon receipt by the Secretary, the request will be forwarded to the relevant B30 Subcommittee for consideration and action. Correspondence will be provided to

the requester defining the actions undertaken by the B30 Standard Committee.

SECTION IX: REQUESTS FOR INTERPRETATION

The B30 Standard Committee will render an interpretation of the provisions of the B30 Standard. Such requests should be directed to

Secretary, B30 Standard Committee
ASME Codes and Standards
Three Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016-5990

Requests should be in the following format:

- Volume: Cite the designation and title of the volume.
Edition: Cite the applicable edition of the volume.
Subject: Cite the applicable paragraph number(s) and the relevant heading(s).
Question: Phrase the question as a request for an interpretation of a specific provision suitable for general understanding and use, not as a request for approval of a proprietary design or situation. Plans or drawings that explain the question may be submitted to clarify the question. However, they should not contain any proprietary names or information.

Upon receipt by the Secretary, the request will be forwarded to the relevant B30 Subcommittee for a draft response, which will then be subject to approval by the B30 Standard Committee prior to its formal issuance.

Interpretations to the B30 Standard will be published in the subsequent edition of the respective volume, and will be available online at <http://cstools.asme.org>.

SECTION X: ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

The equipment covered by the B30 Standard is subject to hazards that cannot be abated by mechanical means, but only by the exercise of intelligence, care, and common sense. It is therefore essential to have personnel involved in the use and operation of equipment who are competent, careful, physically and mentally qualified, and trained in the proper operation of the equipment and the handling of loads. Serious hazards include, but are not limited to, improper or inadequate maintenance, overloading, dropping or slipping of the load, obstructing the free passage of the load, and using equipment for a purpose for which it was not intended or designed.

The B30 Standard Committee fully realizes the importance of proper design factors, minimum or maximum dimensions, and other limiting criteria of wire rope or chain and their fastenings, sheaves, sprockets, drums,



and similar equipment covered by the standard, all of which are closely connected with safety. Sizes, strengths, and similar criteria are dependent on many different factors, often varying with the installation and uses. These factors depend on

- (a) the condition of the equipment or material
- (b) the loads
- (c) the acceleration or speed of the ropes, chains, sheaves, sprockets, or drums

- (d) the type of attachments
- (e) the number, size, and arrangement of sheaves or other parts
- (f) environmental conditions causing corrosion or wear
- (g) many variables that must be considered in each individual case

The requirements and recommendations provided in the volumes must be interpreted accordingly, and judgment used in determining their application.



ASME B30.3-2012 SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Following approval by the ASME B30 Committee and ASME, and after public review, ASME B30.3-2012 was approved by the American National Standards Institute on December 21, 2012.

ASME B30.3-2012 includes editorial changes, revisions, and corrections, as well as the following changes identified by a margin note, **(12)**.

<i>Page</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Change</i>
ix-xi	B30 Standard Introduction	Revised in its entirety
1–11	Chapter 3-0	Revised in its entirety
12–25	Chapter 3-1	Revised in its entirety
26–27	Section 3-2.1	Revised in its entirety
27–28	Section 3-2.2	Revised in its entirety
28	Section 3-2.3	Revised in its entirety
28	3-2.4.1	Revised
28–29	3-2.4.2	Subparagraphs (a)(1) and (b)(2) revised
29–30	3-2.4.3	Subparagraphs (b) and (d) revised
31	3-3.1.2	Revised
34–35	3-3.1.4.3.1	Subparagraph (b) deleted and subsequent subparagraphs redesignated
35–36	3-3.2.1	Subparagraphs (b)(3), (b)(4), (e)(2), (e)(4), (e)(7), and (e)(8) revised
37	3-3.4.3	Subparagraph (a)(3) revised
38–39	Figure 3-3.3.4-1	Revised



TOWER CRANES

Chapter 3-0 Scope, Definitions, and References

(12)

SECTION 3-0.1: SCOPE OF B30.3

Within the general scope of the B30 Standard, as defined in Section I of the B30 Standard Introduction, the B30.3 Volume applies to “construction tower cranes” and “permanently mounted tower cranes” that are powered by electric motors or internal combustion engines and that adjust their operating radius by means of a luffing boom mechanism, a trolley traversing a horizontal jib, or a combination of the two. The cranes may be mounted on “fixed bases” or “traveling bases” and may have tower and supporting structure arrangements that permit the crane to climb in a structure being built or that permits increasing the crane’s tower height as the structure rises. Variations of the above physical characteristics that provide the same fundamental operating characteristics are included in the scope of this Volume; however, the requirements of this Volume are only applicable to the cranes within this scope when they are used in lifting operations. Mobile cranes configured with tower attachments (refer to ASME B30.5) and self-erecting tower cranes (refer to ASME B30.29) are not within the scope of this Volume.

SECTION 3-0.2: DEFINITIONS

3-0.2.1 Types of Cranes

3-0.2.1.1 By Type of Application

construction tower crane: a hammerhead, luffing, or other type of tower crane that is regularly assembled and disassembled for use at various sites. It is usually characterized by provisions to facilitate erection and dismantling, and may include features to permit climbing or telescoping.

permanently mounted tower crane: a hammerhead, luffing, or other type of tower crane that is erected for longer term use at one location (5 yr or more). The configuration of the crane usually remains unchanged during the entire installation period.

3-0.2.1.2 By Method of Load Positioning

hammerhead tower crane: a tower crane with a horizontal jib and a load trolley that traverses the jib to change load radius (see Figs. 3-0.2.1.2-1 and 3-0.2.1.2-2).

luffing boom tower crane: a crane with a boom pinned to the superstructure at its inner end and containing load hoisting tackle at its outer end, and with a hoist mechanism to raise or lower the boom in a vertical plane to change load radius (see Figs. 3-0.2.1.2-3 and 3-0.2.1.2-4).

3-0.2.1.3 By Support Arrangement

braced or guyed tower crane: a tower crane with tie-ins or guys attached to the tower to permit the crane to be erected or climbed to greater than the maximum free-standing height (see Figs. 3-0.2.1.2-2 and 3-0.2.1.2-4).

freestanding tower crane: a tower crane that is supported on a foundation or structural support without assistance from braces, guys, or other means (see Figs. 3-0.2.1.2-1 and 3-0.2.1.2-3).

internal climbing tower crane: a tower crane arranged to raise itself from floor to floor in a building as construction advances (see Fig. 3-0.2.1.3-1).

3-0.2.1.4 By Ability to Travel

fixed-base tower crane: a freestanding, braced, guyed, or ballasted platform tower crane that is mounted on a foundation or structural support and does not travel (see Figs. 3-0.2.1.2-1 and 3-0.2.1.2-3).

traveling tower crane: a freestanding tower crane mounted on a ballasted platform furnished with trucks that ride along rails (see Fig. 3-0.2.1.4-1).

3-0.2.2 General

accessory: a secondary part or assembly of parts that contributes to the overall function and usefulness of a machine.

administrative or regulatory authority: governmental agency, or the employer in the absence of applicable governmental jurisdiction.

appointed: assigned specific responsibilities by the employer or the employer’s representative.

authorized: approved as satisfactory by a duly constituted administrative or regulatory authority.

axis of rotation: the vertical line about which a crane swings.

