

UPDATE: Regulatory Requirements for Use of Mini Cranes

This Industry Notice summarizes the regulatory requirements for the use of mini cranes in conjunction with construction work in New York City. This notice does not apply to sign hanging work.

What is a mini crane?

Mini cranes are defined as a mobile crane (wheel or tread mounted) with a boom length (including jibs or any extensions) not exceeding 50 feet, and with a manufacturer's rated capacity of three (3) tons or less.

NOTE: Cranes may be manufactured and marketed as mini cranes, but are not considered such in New York City if they exceed the above stated parameters

Permit Requirements

An Alt-2 permit, with the EQ-Construction Equipment work type selected, must be obtained prior to the use of a mini crane.

Plan Requirements

The plans filed with the permit application must be developed by a New York State licensed Professional Engineer. At a minimum, the plans should detail:

- The machine make and model
- Capacity
- Pertinent site conditions
- Location and configuration of the crane
- Maximum and minimum swing radius and load path of the boom and load
- Minimum clearance for the boom. If necessary, operation restrictions necessary to prevent contact must be clearly shown.
- Pick and landing zones, and if applicable, pedestrian and traffic controls
- Loads imposed, and any reinforcements needed to support the crane
- Tiebacks to secure the machinery
- Wind thresholds.

Operator Qualifications

The operator of the mini crane must either be licensed as a New York City Hoisting Machine Operator or hold a valid certification for the operation of the crane, acceptable to the Department, issued by the manufacturer of the crane for the specific make and model of crane to be operated.

EXCEPTION: If the mini crane is used in conjunction with structural steel erection work, or is used to perform a critical pick, the operator must be a licensed New York City Hoisting Machine Operator.

At this time the following manufacturer certification programs have been accepted by the Department:

- Sypdercrane
- Jekko Mini Crane
- Valla

*NOTE: The forthcoming 2022 Construction Codes will establish a separate Hoisting Machine Operator license for mini cranes. The Department will provide further details about the separate Hoisting Machine Operator license class for mini cranes in the future; **the previously announced effective date of January 1, 2022 has been postponed.** In the interim, operators of mini cranes are encouraged to maintain a written operators log detailing jobs worked, including date, address, make and model of crane operated, type of operation performed, and number of hours operated. These records will be useful in documenting experience when applying for a license in the future.*

Rigging

If the mini crane has a manufacturer's rated capacity in excess of one (1) ton, the rigging crew and rigging supervisor **must** be trained or certified in accordance with Section 3316.9.2 of the New York City Building Code.

Lift Director

The use of a mini crane does not require a Lift Director.

Other Requirements

Crane inspection, maintenance, repair, operation, including wind and weather requirements of 1RCNY 3319-01 apply to mini cranes.