

## 29.72

## Tag Line Use

**Updated: March 25, 2013**

### **I. Purpose**

This DOSH Directive provides enforcement guidance regarding the requirements of WAC 296-155-53400(63) as they relate to suspended loads.

### **II. Scope and Application**

This Directive applies to all DOSH enforcement and consultation activities statewide. The changes in this Directive updates the rule references in WRD 29.72, issued July 3, 2000, and replaces any previous guidance on the subject, whether formal or informal.

### **III. Background**

There has been some confusion regarding the application of “tag line” requirements in WAC 296-155-53400(63) and the meaning of the phrase “swing freely” as used in the rule.

The definition of “swing” is “to move rhythmically back and forth suspended or as if suspended from above.” The applicable definition of “suspended” is: “to hang so as to allow free movement.” (both definitions are taken from the *Webster’s 2, New Riverside Dictionary*, 1994 edition). It follows, therefore, that a load, suspended from a crane hoist line, may be free to move without “swinging freely.”

### **IV. Enforcement Policy**

A. All loads that suspend from a crane or similar equipment do not require a tag line. WAC 296-155-53400(63) states: “Tag lines or restraint lines must be used when rotation or swinging of the load is hazardous or if the load needs guidance.” *If* the suspended load swings freely (not under control) **and** no tag line or guide rope is being used, the employer is in violation. However, if the suspended load does not swing freely, the lack of a tag line or guide rope is not a violation.

Similarly, ASME B30.5-1994, section 5-3.2.1.4 (m), specifies that “Tag or restraint lines should be used to control swinging of the load, “when crane travel causes the load to swing; section 5-3.2.1.4 (o) specifies that “A tag or restraint line shall be used when rotation of the load is hazardous.”

DOSH rules addressing similar hazards take a similar approach. WAC 296-56-60083(7)(o)(ii) requires that “Loads requiring continuous manual guidance while in motion shall be provided with tag lines, and WAC 296-304-07011(3) requires tag lines “on loads likely to swing or to need guidance.”

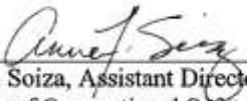
B. The tag line requirement of WAC 296-155-53400(63) applies whenever **any** of the following occur:

- The load suspended by the crane in a static (non-moving) condition swings, or is likely to swing back and forth (due to wind or other external factors), creating a control hazard.
- The movement of the crane or boom causes, or is likely to cause the load to swing out of control, creating a hazardous condition.
- The load rotates, has rotated, or is likely to rotate in such a manner as to be out of control, creating a hazardous condition.

Tag lines are not required when **all** of the following are true:

- The suspended load can be expected to remain still when in a static (non-moving) condition and does not swing or rotate in a hazardous manner.
- The movement of the crane or boom cannot be expected to cause the load to swing or rotate in an uncontrolled manner that may create a hazard.
- The operator is in control of the movement of the load and a hazardous condition is not created.

Approved:

  
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For more information about this or other DOSH Directives, contact the Division of Occupational Safety and Health, P.O. Box 44610, Olympia, WA 98504-4610, or call (360) 902-5436.

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