

Appointed Person in Lifting Operations, Is it a need or a requirement?

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The term 'Appointed Person' (AP) is used in the Approved Code of Practice SS 536:2008, Code of practice for the safe use of mobile cranes and SS 559:2010, Code of practice for safe use of tower cranes.

In accordance with section 40B (3) of the Workplace Safety and Health Act 2006, the Workplace Safety and Health Council has approved Codes of Practice for providing practical guidance on safety and health to the industry. The Approved Codes of Practice (ACOP) is intended to be used as a yardstick to assess whether reasonably practicable measures have been taken to upkeep safety and health standards at the workplace. Also as per section 40(C) Approved code of practice is relevant to any matter which the prosecution must prove in order to establish the commission of the offence shall be admissible in evidence in the proceedings under WSH Act.

Who is an Appointed Person under ACOP

ACOP SS 536: The Safe use of Mobile Crane defines the appointed person as a competent person appointed in writing by the occupier or employer to carry out any supervision or inspection or to perform any task or duty prescribed under the letter of appointment.



In lifting operations, an appointed person shall formulate, develop and implement a Safe system of Work and be followed for every crane installation and lifting operation. This Safe system of work shall be comprehensive to include the planning, selection, preparation of

the site, erection, dismantling, maintenance, inspection, testing of cranes and equipment, the appointment of trained and competent personnel for lifts, adequate supervision of lifting operations, availability of cranes and equipment manual, prevention of unauthorised movement or use of a crane and effective communication of safe system of works to all parties.

In other countries like the United Kingdom, Under the Lifting Operations and Lifting Equipment Regulations 1998 (LOLER), duties on people and companies who own, operate or have control over lifting equipment are defined. This includes all businesses and organisations whose employees use lifting equipment, whether owned by them or not. All lifting operations involving lifting equipment must be properly planned by a competent person, appropriately supervised and carried out safely. BS 7121 Code of Practice for Safe Use of Cranes, states that "the competent person for planning lifting operations is referred to as the appointed person".

Duties & Responsibilities of an Appointed Person

SS 559 states that the appointed person shall establish and implement a programme for the safe installation/dismantling/use of cranes. The programme shall include the following:

1. Appointment of approved crane contractor for all lifting related activities
2. Selection of cranes and other lifting equipment
3. Establish lifting plan, Lifting team, Risk assessment, safe work procedure for lifting works
4. Implement PTW system
5. Inspection, maintenance plan and procedure for reporting defects and any incidents.

BS 7121 recommends that the appointed person is responsible for comprehensive planning of any lifting operation including approval of all risk assessments and method statements. He should be the person involved in the selection of crane(s) and lifting accessories.

The appointed person should coordinate with other site personnel to ensure full compatibility with other site works and establish effective communication and supervision of lifting works under his control.

To be an Appointed Person for lifting operations in Singapore, the Person shall demonstrate competency in Lifting in terms of knowledge, skill and experience. The employer shall carry out due diligence while appointing the AP and shall ensure that appointees have attended relevant courses such as the 5-Day Appointed Person-Lifting Operation Course.

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