

INSPECTION RECORD KEEPING: Is There a Better Way?

When meeting regulatory compliance for crane, hoist, and rigging inspections, traditional inspection methods include in-house and subcontracted programs. With an in-house program, it takes coordination among multiple departments, and training is required to maintain all skill sets. While the advantage is controlling the inspection dates, there are also fixed indirect costs. Using a subcontractor, the training expense is nominal, and there is shared accountability. The advantage is spending less time in-house managing inspections, but companies are also dependant on a vendor.

At the Industrial Crane & Hoist Conference held in conjunction with ProMat in Chicago, Joe Ingle of Wolverine Crane, presented information on Crane Logic inspection and ERP management systems, which offers a streamlined approach to the inspection process. How does the process differ?

- A trained field technician visits the crane/hoist operator for inspection.
- The technician uses a Crane Logic tablet preloaded with customer data, including serial numbers for all parts to be inspected, service history, and historical records on each part, plus videos and photos from prior inspections with comments.
- The technician uses a hand-held video camera to capture new inspection data, which eliminates any subjective service calls while creating a permanent record of equipment status.
- After the inspection is completed, the technician

uploads video files to cranelogic.com for storage and adds comments and any deficiency reports.

■ The report is readily accessible to the customer, OSHA, and repair/scheduling personnel. The report also includes repair recommendations. Information in the reports is stored on the web to reduce paper usage and to add efficiencies in record keeping and greater data control.

■ With the system, customers can check inventory and schedule repair dates, improving productivity and reducing time and potential liabilities prior to repair.

The Crane Logic inspection system includes a Windows-based tablet for field data collection that uses either a stylus or touchscreen for input, as well as standard laptop-style keyboard; a camera with wireless capability for taking photos and short video of inspected crane system components; and the web-based Crane Logic inspection software.

To use the full potential of this technology, integrate the inspection module with the Crane Logic web-based ERP system for 24/7 access to inspection information and historical records across the entire organization. This allows users to interface with accounting, inventory, scheduling, service, and finance departments. The Crane Logic bridge also can be



integrated into an existing ERP system.

Efficiencies expected with this system include streamlined service management by uploading inspection reports to accelerate required service scheduling, repair estimating, inventory checks and part ordering. Real-time record keeping allows for all inspection reports, photos, videos, and technician comments are stored online, which eliminates time and staff disruptions to locate reports for OSHA spot checks.

Electronic files also eliminate unnecessary hard files and paper/storage waste, and they also decrease errors made by interpreting handwriting.

Historical repair records guide future repair versus capital equipment replacement decisions. The system also provides better parts inventory management.

Overall, the software improves management of inspection compliance and reduces risk.

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