TYPES OF DOCK MOUNTED PEDESTAL CRANES

There are basically two types of hydraulic pedestal cranes used on docks.

The first is the telescopic straight boom crane. Other than the normal features of a crane, the boom can be extended in and out. This feature allows the crane to reach out further and higher when the need arises.

The second type of crane is the knuckle boom crane. This crane has two boom sections. The second boom section hinges at the tip of the first section. Each boom section can be operated independently of the other and this feature allows the operator to position the load more accurately. The second boom section may also be fitted with a telescopic section.

The swinging boom type of crane is the simplest crane found on most docks. It consists of a fixed length boom that is mounted on a vertical mast. The boom cannot be raised or lowered. Crane rotation is typically manual, by means of bar or pipe which is pushed or pulled to rotate the crane. The winch used to hoist the load is often electrically powered, with the up / down control mounted on the end of an electrical cord.
CRANE COMPONENTS

- Pedestal
- Turret
- Lift Cylinder
- Winch
- Boom
- Hook
- Boom Tip
- Wire Rope

SWINGING BOOM CRANE COMPONENTS

- Mast Sheave
- Mast
- Winch
- Boom Support
- Boom Tip Sheave
- Hook
- Rotation Bearing
- Dock Mounting
CRANE INSPECTION

CRANE INSPECTION CHECK LIST

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The operator is responsible for inspecting the crane prior to using it.
The four areas in the slide can be checked by performing the following test:

• Retract the boom fully and raise it to its most vertical position and extend the hoist wire about 10 feet.

• Abruptly lower the boom momentarily which will result in the turret and boom component rocking. Observe the movements in the rotation bearing, boom hinge pin and bushing, and the lift cylinder pins and bushings. **CAUTION: WHEN SHAKING THE CRANE, OBSERVE THE HOOK AND STOP ANY BOOM MOVEMENT IF IT CAN SWING INTO THE BOOM.**

• Any excessive movement must be noted and evaluated per the manufacturer’s specifications.

• Check the turret area for cracked welds and any deformed components.
The only thing that keeps the boom from detaching from the pedestal is the rotation bearing. If it fails, the boom comes down.

- The rotation bearing should be greased on a regular basis per the manufacturer maintenance manual.

- The rotation bearing is attached to the pedestal by bolts. These need to be checked for tightness. The turret is also attached to the bearing with bolts and they also need to be checked.

- The rotation drive motor is typically mounted up in the pedestal and the mounting bolts need to be checked.

- Check the ring and pinion gears for grease.
• The boom needs to be extended and checked for smoothness of operation. Any binding or difficulty in extending could be the result of damaged boom sections.

• All welds need to be checked for cracks.

• Any hydraulic leaks need to be investigated and repaired. Check the hoses for chaffing and wear.

• The slide pads can be checked for proper alignment by extending the boom completely and lowering the tip toward the ground. Move the boom tip back and forth by pushing on it and observe how much the boom sections move inside each other. Excessive movement will require the slide pads to be adjusted or replaced.

• The boom tip needs to be checked for deformation and twisting.

• The winch should be checked for proper reeving. The most common cause of damage to wire rope is crushing due to crossed wraps on the winch drum.
CRANE INSPECTION

- Check sheaves for bearing wear and lubrication.
- Check the flanges and treads. Use a sheave gauge.
- Sheaves can only be repaired per manufacturer’s procedures.

- The sheaves and bearings need to be checked on crane blocks.
- Check the side plates and any additional weights attached to the sides need to be checked for loose or missing bolts or fasteners.
- The hook and shank nut should be separated periodically and the threads inspected for corrosion and other damage.
- The safety latch must be in place and functioning properly.
- The hook should rotate freely on the swivel bearing. Check for excessive movement.

- Wear in excess of 5% in the neck of the hook and 10% in other areas is cause for removal.
- An increase in the hook throat opening of more than 15% is cause for removal.
- Any twist in the hook of more than 10% is cause for removal.
- Hooks can only be repaired per manufacturer’s procedures.
**Kinks** are a permanent distortion. After a wire rope is kinked it is impossible to straighten the rope enough to return it to its original strength. The rope must be replaced. Causes: crossed lines on drum, improper handling and installation, and uncoiling.

**Strand Nicking** is due to continued operation under a high load which results in core failure.

**Metal Fatigue** is usually caused by bending stress from repeated passes over sheaves, or from vibration such as crane pendants.

**Fatigue Breaks** can be either external or internal. They also can be caused by wobbly sheaves, tight grooves, poor end terminations. In the absence of all these causes, remember that all wire rope will eventually fail from fatigue.

**Bird Caging** is a result of mistreatment such as sudden stops, wound on too tight of drum, or pulling through tight sheaves. The strands will not return to their original position.

**High Stranding** is a condition caused when overloading and crushing take place and the other strands become overloaded.
DYNAMIC LOADING

IMPACT OF DYNAMIC LOADING

When a load is moved, additional stresses are imposed on the crane’s structure. To start a load moving either by hoisting, booming or swinging, the crane will have to exert an additional force. How much additional force is dependent on the weight of the load and how fast it has started moving. Loads started slowly and stopped slowly will not exert as much stress on the crane as those which are move rapidly.

The below chart shows how the dynamic load increases as the rate of starting and stopping the load increases.

![Chart showing the increase in load velocity F.P.M. vs. increase in load % for different distances in which load is stopped.]

Distances in which load is stopped.
The boom is very susceptible to side loading damage and needs to be above the load at all times. Tilting up panels are a common cause of side loading. When tilting up a panel, the hoist line must remain vertical at all times. Although it is not very apparent, wind can cause excessive stresses on the crane. The operator must stop operations when the wind becomes a significant factor. The wind pressure on the load can also add side loading to the boom as well as losing control of the load. Tag lines may be necessary to help control the load, but should never be used to pull the load around.

Never intentionally side load the crane by yarding or dragging a load on the ground. This could seriously damage the boom or swing mechanisms on the crane. Knuckle booms are particularly susceptible to damage from this practice. This puts tremendous strain on the pinion gear of the swing motor which over time could fail.
The range diagram shows the various boom tip heights based on boom length and radius. This chart will help to determine if this crane is able to make a certain lift.

**RATED LOAD CAPACITY CHART**

The load capacity section of the load chart states the lifting capacity of the pedestal crane for a given radius and boom length. A typical chart will show the radius in the left hand column and the corresponding boom angle and length on top. If the desired radius falls between two figures on the chart, the longer of the two must be used with their corresponding angles and capacities. Never try to “split the difference.” The boom angles on the chart are for loaded booms. When pre-determining where the boom angle is to be used as a means for establishing the radius, 2 degrees should be added to the load chart number. As the boom is loaded, it will tend to drop a few degrees, so the 2 degrees should compensate for that.
CRANE SAFETY

• Do not leave the crane with a suspended load
• Rig the crane with sufficient parts of line for the load
• Avoid two-blocking the crane
• Always have a minimum of three wraps of cable on the drum
• Monitor the winch to make sure that it is spooling correctly
• Do not lift loads over personnel
• Lift one load at a time

MAKING THE LIFT

Review the lift scenario with the operator, riggers and signal person
Attach taglines when necessary
Position signal person within visibility of the load and operator
Begin by lifting the load slowly
Re-check the boom angle indicator to assess radius increase
Keep load as low as possible when moving it
Swing slowly to avoid swing out.
Avoid erratic booming
Follow signal and stop operation when uncertain
Lower load slowly

 SIGNALS

• Only one person should be designated as the signal person.
• The emergency stop signal can be given by anyone on the site.
• The signals must be clear and precise.
• The crane operator should never respond to a signal that is not clearly understood.
HAND SIGNALS

DOG EVERYTHING

EXTEND BOOM

EMERGENCY STOP

LOWER THE LOAD
RAISE THE BOOM

RETRACT BOOM

RAISE THE LOAD
LOWER THE BOOM

RAISE THE LOAD

RAISE THE BOOM

SWING

LOWER THE LOAD

LOWER THE BOOM

STOP
SHACKLE INSPECTION

Only two types of shackles are to be used in rigging for lifts. The screw pin type and the bolt type shackle.

Shackles that are deformed or damaged must be removed from service.

The working load limit (WLL) must be printed on the shackle or it must be taken out of service. This WLL is for vertical lifts only.

Side Loading Reduction Chart
For Screw Pin & Bolt Type Shackles Only†

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Angle of Side Load</th>
<th>Adjusted Working Load Limit</th>
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<tr>
<td>0° In-Line</td>
<td>100% of Rated Working Load Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45° from In-Line</td>
<td>70% of Rated Working Load Limit</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>90° from In-Line</td>
<td>50% of Rated Working Load Limit</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

† DO NOT SIDE LOAD ROUND PIN SHACKLES
EYE BOLTS

Eye bolts should always be inspected before use. Look for signs of wear and damage. Look to see if shank is bent or elongated. Make sure the threads on the shank and the receiving hole are clean.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>DIRECTION OF PULL</th>
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<tr>
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<td>45 Degrees</td>
<td>30% of Rated Working Load</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60 Degrees</td>
<td>60% of Rated Working Load</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

- Always use Shouldered Eye Bolts for angular lifts.
- For angular lifts, reduce working load according to chart.
- Never exceed load limits.
- Always screw eye bolt down completely for proper seating.
- Always tighten nuts securely against the load.
- Always stand clear of load when lifting.
- Always lift load with steady, even pull-do not jerk.
- Do not reeve slings from one eye bolt to another.
- Never machine, grind or cut the eye bolt.

CAUTION

STRUCTURE MAY BUCKLE FROM COMPRESSION FORCES
Wire rope slings need to be inspected in the same way wire rope is and a **record kept of those inspections**. All slings must have a tag on them indicating the capacity or they must be taken out of service.

Chain slings are to be inspected regularly and a record kept of these inspections also. Again, if there is no capacity tag, it must be taken out of service. Chain slings are often used to hold steel while it is being welded. Always check to make sure heat damage has not occurred. Heat damage can be detected by discolored metal.
SYNTHETIC SLING INSPECTION

Far too many web slings have to be discarded prematurely simply because abusive or careless work habits caused irreparable damage.

To the right are some examples of damaged slings.

Regardless of whether a sling shows damage from abuse or regular wear, the overriding rule in all cases is that the sling eyes should be cut, and the sling discarded immediately whenever damage is detected.

When using synthetic slings, remember:

- Slings without a capacity tag should be discarded. That tag should have the following information:
  - Name and trademark of manufacturer.
  - Manufacturer’s code or stock number.
  - Rated loads (rated capacities) for the type of hitches used.
  - Type of synthetic material.

- Use wear pads on corners to protect the sling from cuts, or abrasions.

- Do not pull the sling out from under the load if caught under it.

- Take into consideration the sling angles when calculating the capacity of the sling to handle the load.
SLING ANGLES

When slings are brought together and form a hitch, as shown at right, the stresses in the slings increase and a compression force on the load is created. As the sling angle decreases, the stresses in the sling and on the load increase.

Sling angles of 60 degrees are the best to use because of the minimal increase of stress in the slings. When required to use smaller sling angles, slings need to be selected based on the increased stress and not on the weight of the load. The compression in the load also has to be considered. When the sling angle is 30 degrees for a 1000 lb load, the compression, which is crushing the load will be 866 lbs. Depending on the structural strength of the load, it may be damaged.

All that is needed to calculate the stress in a sling is the weight of the object and a measuring tape.

Load in each sling = 500 x Load Angle Factor

Example:
If the sling was 8’ long and the height (H) was 4’, then 8 divided by 4 equals 2 which equals the Load Angle Factor. So, if the load is 1000lbs, each sling is required to support 500lbs. The stress in the sling is equal to 500lbs x the load angle factor of 2 or 1000lbs.
Student Manual

Dock & Vessel Mounted

Pedestal Crane Operator Safety Training

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