

Public Comment – Rigging and Material Handling: Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Approval of Information Collection (Paperwork) Requirements

Thank you for the opportunity to provide public comment on Rigging Equipment for Material Handling; Extension of the Office of Management and Budget's (OMB) Approval of Information Collection (Paperwork) Requirements (Docket No. OSHA-2010-0038). In my career as a safety professional working in the oil and gas industry over the last 15 years, I have been witness to the catastrophic results of failed rigging equipment. I am writing to you to voice my support for the continuance of the information collection requirements of 29 CFR 1926.251.

The standard essentially requires employers who use:

- allow steel chains,
- wire rope slings with welded end attachments,
- synthetic web slings, and
- hooks

in conjunction with other material handling equipment for the movement of materials in construction activities to:

- affix identification labels,
- periodically inspect,
- maintain inspection records and proof-testing certificates (wire rope slings and hooks),  
and
- to provide evidence of compliance with the regulatory requirement upon request to OSHA.

The intent of these requirements is to ensure workers are provided information necessary for the safe use rigging equipment during material handling. Furthermore, the standard requires necessary maintenance and inspection of the rigging equipment to prevent rigging failure, injuries, and fatalities. I fully support continuation of the collection requirements.

### **Special Issues for Comment**

*On whether the proposed information collection requirements are necessary for the proper performance of the agency's functions, including whether the information is useful.*

The agency ensures employer compliance with the OSHA Act by performing random and scheduled inspections. Without the ability to view the referenced rigging equipment and corresponding labels, the agency would be unable to determine whether the employer is acting in good faith to provide rigging equipment with the appropriate physical properties and lifting capacity to permit safe material handling. Additionally, it would be difficult to ascertain whether the employer is taking action to maintain the rigging equipment in safe condition, remove from service those items found to be damaged or defective, and comply with the regulation without access to the proof-testing and inspection records.

*On the accuracy of OSHA's estimate of the burden time (time and cost) of the information collection requirements, including the validity of the methodology and assumptions used.*

The estimated hour burden provided by OSHA in the “Supporting Statement for the Information Collection Requirements of the Standard on Rigging Equipment for Material Handling (29 CFR 1926.251) Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No. 1218-0233 (June 2020)” – referred to as the Statement of Support going forward, captures some of the

rigging equipment used in construction. It seems to focus on the rigging equipment used solely by cranes and derricks used in construction. Meaning these articles are used only by a specific crane. However, the estimate does not seem to include rigging equipment provided by subcontractors and service providers to move equipment on construction sites by way of attachment to a crane's hook or slings. As an example, on a well site in construction phase, the oil and gas service providers will provide the rigging for the equipment they bring onto the well site. The equipment is rigged, attached to the crane hook, and moved into position. This rigging is retained by the service provider, not the customer or crane. The burden of the information collection requirements experienced because of these types of arrangements is neglected and may be substantial. In the event the agency intentionally excluded rigging for this type of arrangement in their calculations, adding clarifying verbiage in the Statement of Support would be helpful. Perhaps rigging equipment used in these types of arrangements are not included so as not to account for them twice – once in calculations for construction (1926.251) and again for general industry (1910.184 – Material Handling and Storage – Slings) when in actuality the employer is not duplicating effort.

*On the quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected.*

Rigging manufacturers provide the required information on affixed tags and proof-testing certificates upon purchase. The labeling requirements have been in development since the 1970's and in practice since inclusion in the American National Standards Institute (ANSI)/American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) B.30 Construction consensus standards. Manufacturers have gone so far as to develop online tools to assist employers in determining whether the product they purchased is "authentic". Other businesses hoping to

capitalize on the requirements have developed online tools, to assist employers with inventory and inspection certification databases. Quality, utility, and clarity of the information collected should be adequate when rigging equipment is purchased from a reputable manufacturer.

*On ways to minimize the burden on employers who must-comply; for example by using automated or other technological information collection and transmission techniques.*

The OSHA standard does not specify how employer's should go about collecting and maintaining the required information. As a result, employers are free to choose the least burdensome and most time/cost efficient method for their business.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment and provide support for the continuation of information collection in regard to rigging equipment referenced in 29 CFR 1926.251 – Rigging Equipment for Material handling. Please join me in supporting this critical function for the agency as they strive to keep American workers safe.

Regards,

Helen Harris

Reference:

OSHA (June 2020). *Supporting statement for the information collection requirements of the standard on rigging equipment for material handling (29 CFR 1926.251)*<sup>1</sup> Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Control No. 1218-00233. Retrieved from <https://www.regulations.gov/document?D=OSHA-2010-0038-0011>.