Interpretation: 17-1

Subject: ANSI/ASME B30.17-1985, Overhead and Gantry Cranes (Top Running Bridge, Single Girder, Underhung Hoist)

Date Issued: December 11, 1986

Question (1): Should the same wire rope or hoist chain, hook, and other inspection requirements of B30.2 be applied to equipment covered by the scopes of B30.7, B30.11, and B30.17?

Question (2): Inspection requirements for hoists (B30.16) do not require documented monthly inspections of the wire rope or chain. Since off center loading as well as other factors of misuse are quite possible, we would like to know why.

Question (3): What is the rationale for requiring monthly wire rope or chain inspections, rather than basing the frequency of usage?

Before answering the three questions, several facts concerning inspection requirements and the B30 series of standards are being furnished for information.

- Section 1910.179 of the Federal Register adopted portions of the 1967 Edition of B30.2.0. The Department of Labor has stated that Section 1910.179 applies only to the types of overhead cranes defined in that ANSI standard.
- ANSI and ANSI/ASME standards B30.7, B30.11, B30.16, and B30.17 were developed after the adoption of Section 1910.179 of the Federal Register.
- The B30.11 and B30.17 standards do not include rope inspection requirements and reference B30.16 for the hoisting device.
- The latest editions of B30.2, B30.17, and B30.16 have consistent wire rope, hoist chain and hook inspection requirements, and are based on frequency of usage and conditions.

Reply (1): Yes.

Reply (2): Arbitrary documented monthly inspections are an undue burden and not related to safety without consideration of frequency of use, condition of the component, or environment. All types of misuse, including off center loading, are not recommended.

Reply (3): Current editions of B30.2, B30.7, and B30.16 require wire rope or chain inspections based on frequency of usage.
Interpretation: 17-2

Subject: ASME B30.17-1985, Overhead and Gantry Cranes (Top Running Bridge, Single Girder, Underhung Hoist)

Date Issued: December 17, 1992

Question (1): How can we provide safeguards against an overload?

Reply (1): Safeguards can be provided by correctly marking the hoist and crane and training operators in accordance with the requirements of Section 17-1.1. and para. 17-3.2.1.

Question (2): What markings or warning signs should be provided to alert the operator to the potential overload?

Reply (2): The markings required by Section 17-1.1 and the training of operators in proper use of the equipment in accordance with requirements are necessary to alert operators not to overload cranes.
Interpretation: 17-3


Date Issued: January 28, 2002

Question: When utilizing a single monorail with multiple hoists and trolleys, and the load to be lifted is known to be less than or equal to the rated load of the monorail, can the individual or combined rated load of the hoists and trolleys be greater than the rated load of the monorail?

Reply: Yes.