Interpretation: 23-1

Date Issued: May 23, 2000

Question: When using a four-part bridle with a master link as a suspension system, is it necessary to individually tag each leg as well as the master link?

   Reply: Yes.

Interpretation: 23-2

Date Issued: October 5, 2000

Question (1): Does para. 2.2.1(b)(1) require the test load to be placed physically into the platform?
   Reply (1): No.

Question (2): If the volume requires the test load to be physically inside the platform, is this the best practice relative to the information provided?
   Reply (2): See response to Question (1).
Interpretation: 23-3

Subject: ASME B30.23-2005, Para. 23-3.2.2(a)(15)

Date Issued: September 21, 2006

Question (1): Does the requirement to engage power-controlled lowering at all times the platform is occupied, as stated in para. 23-3.2.2(a)(15), only apply during lowering operations?

Reply (1): The intent of the requirement is to ensure that any intentional or unintentional motion control actuations will not initiate an uncontrolled lowering motion of the platform. Depending upon the control configuration of the crane being considered, the response to your question could be either “Yes” or “No.”

Question (2): Can a crane whose hoist drum is controlled by a hoisting clutch, lowering clutch, and foot-operated brake be used to lift personnel if the appropriate clutch is engaged during hoist drum operation?

Reply (2): No, with only this hoisting train configuration, the crane does not meet the requirements of para. 23-1.2.2(a) as the “free fall” has not been made “inoperable”; it is simply “not in use.”

Question (3): Why do paras. 23-1.2.2 (a) and (f), Hoisting Equipment, seem to prohibit this practice, but para. 23-3.2.2(a)(15), Hoisting Equipment Operator, appears to allow the practice as long as the lowering clutch is engaged?

Reply (3): Paragraph 23-1.1.1 is a design requirement that a crane must meet prior to being used for lifting people and para. 23-3.2.2(a)(15) is an operating control requirement placed upon the operator for while the crane is actually involved in lifting people.

Question (4): Can a crane whose hoist drum is controlled by a hoist clutch and torque converter be used to lift personnel if the clutch and torque converter are used during hoisting and lowering operations?

Reply (4): Yes, provided the other crane characteristics, configurations, and operating requirements that are specified in the Volume are satisfied.

Question (5): Can a machine that is capable of “free fall” be used to lift personnel if the “free-fall” capability is not used during basket operations?

Reply (5): No. As stated in Question (2), the free-fall capability must be made “inoperable.” Paragraph 23-1.2.2(a) specifies an “inoperable” free-fall capability that would require the crane to have a controlling device that was independent of the crane’s motion controls and that precluded “free fall” if the crane’s motion controls were activated.
Interpretation: 23-4

Subject: ASME B30.23-2005, Para. 23-2.2.1(b), Proof Testing
Date Issued: November 15, 2007

Background: Paragraph 23-2.2.1(b) states, “At each new job site, prior to hoisting people in the personnel platform, the platform and rigging shall be proof tested to 125% of the platform’s rating.”

Question (1): What is meant by term “each new job site”?

Reply (1): Paragraph 23-2.2.1(b) tests the integrity of the personnel platform to identify any damage that may have occurred during transportation and handling from one job site to another.

Question (2): When personnel and lifting equipment are moved from one area work face to another, are frequent and periodic inspections sufficient in lieu of trial lifts?

Reply (2): No. Trial lifts are required in para. 23-3.2.2(a)(9) prior to lifting on each shift and after any change of setup location, hoist configuration, or operator.

Interpretation: 23-5

Subject: ASME B30.23-2005, Paras. 23-2.2.1(b)(1) and (b)(3)
Date Issued: January 28, 2010

Question (1): Paragraph 23-2.2.1(b)(1), Proof Testing (1998), provides in part, “At each new job site, prior to hoisting people in the personnel platform, the platform and rigging shall be proof tested to 125% of the platform’s rating.” What is the meaning of the phrase?

Reply (1): The test for “each new job site” as required in B30.23-2005 para. 23-2.2.1(b)(1) is based on the physical location of the job. A new job site occurs when the locale change requires transit of the personnel lifting system beyond the current job site.

Question (2): Does ASME B30.23 or any similar standard apply to personnel lifting platforms mounted on the booms of derricks?

Reply (2): Yes, for equipment covered in the B30 Standard.

Question (3): Does ASME B30.23-2005 require proof testing of boom-attached personnel lifting platforms used in construction?

Reply (3): Yes. Proof-testing requirements for boom-attached platforms are stated in para. 23-2.2.1(b)(3) and are not industry specific.
Interpretation: 23-6

Subject: ASME B30.23-2005, Para. 1.2.2(f)
Date Issued: June 23, 2010

Background: Paragraph 23-1.2.2(f) states: “Hoisting equipment shall have automatic brakes such that when the equipment operating controls are released, the motion are brought to rest.”

Question: Does this pertain to crane swing systems? Nearly all cranes have what is referred to as free swing systems. This allows the boom point to center itself over the load when making a lift?

Reply: The Subcommittee did not consider swing during the development of this language and will address the issue in the next revision.