

ASME B30.5-2021
(Revision of ASME B30.5-2018)

Mobile and Locomotive Cranes

**Safety Standard for Cableways,
Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks,
and Slings**

AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD



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Mechanical Engineers**

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Mechanical Engineers**

Two Park Avenue • New York, NY • 10016 USA

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CONTENTS

Foreword	1
Committee Roster	iii
B30 Standard Introduction	x
Summary of Changes	xii
Chapter 5-0 Scope, Definitions, Personnel Competence, and References	1
Section 5-0.1 Scope of B30.5	1
Section 5-0.2 Definitions	1
Section 5-0.3 Personnel Competence	16
Section 5-0.4 References	16
Chapter 5-1 Construction and Characteristics	17
Section 5-1.1 Load Ratings and Technical Information	17
Section 5-1.2 Backward Stability	23
Section 5-1.3 Boom Hoist, Load Hoist, and Telescoping Boom Mechanisms	23
Section 5-1.4 Swing Mechanism	24
Section 5-1.5 Crane Travel	24
Section 5-1.6 Controls	25
Section 5-1.7 Ropes and Reeving Accessories	28
Section 5-1.8 Cabs	30
Section 5-1.9 General Requirements	30
Section 5-1.10 Structural Performance	32
Section 5-1.11 Cranes Used for Other Than Lifting Service	32
Section 5-1.12 Translations of Safety-Related Information and Control Designations	32
Chapter 5-2 Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance	33
Section 5-2.1 Inspection — General	33
Section 5-2.2 Testing	34
Section 5-2.3 Maintenance	35
Section 5-2.4 Rope Inspection, Replacement, and Maintenance	36
Chapter 5-3 Operation	39
Section 5-3.1 Qualifications and Responsibilities	39
Section 5-3.2 Operating Practices	44
Section 5-3.3 Signals	48
Section 5-3.4 Miscellaneous	49
Non-mandatory Appendix	
A Critical Lifts	59
Figures	
5-0.2.1-1 Commercial Truck-Mounted Crane — Telescoping Boom (Multiple Control Stations, Fixed)	2

5-0.2.1-2	Commercial Truck-Mounted Crane — Telescoping Boom With Fixed Jib (Multiple Control Stations, Fixed)	3
5-0.2.1-3	Commercial Truck-Mounted Crane — Telescoping Boom (Multiple Control Stations, Fixed and Rotating)	4
5-0.2.1-4	Crawler Crane — Lattice Boom	5
5-0.2.1-5	Crawler Crane — Lattice Boom With Lattice Luffing Jib	6
5-0.2.1-6	Crawler Crane — Lattice Boom With Lattice Luffing Jib and Lattice Offsettable Fixed Jib	7
5-0.2.1-7	Crawler Crane — Lattice Boom With Lattice Fixed Jib	8
5-0.2.1-8	Crawler Crane — Telescoping Boom	10
5-0.2.1-9	Locomotive Crane — Lattice Boom	10
5-0.2.1-10	Wheel-Mounted Crane — Telescoping Boom (Multiple Control Stations, Fixed and Rotating)	11
5-0.2.1-11	Wheel-Mounted Crane — Telescoping Boom With Offsettable Fixed Jib (Multiple Control Stations, Fixed and Rotating)	12
5-0.2.1-12	Wheel-Mounted Crane — Telescoping Boom With Luffing Jib (Multiple Control Stations, Fixed and Rotating)	13
5-0.2.1-13	Wheel-Mounted Crane — Telescoping Boom (Single Control Station, Rotating)	14
5-0.2.1-14	Wheel-Mounted Crane — Telescoping Boom (Single Control Station, Fixed)	15
5-1.1.3-1	Work Areas	19
5-1.6.1-1	Telescopic Boom Crane Control Diagram (Suggested Mobile Telescopic Boom Crane Basic Operating Control Arrangement for New Cranes)	26
5-1.6.1-2	Nontelesopic Boom Crane Control Diagram (Suggested Mobile Nontelesopic Boom Crane Basic Operating Control Arrangement for New Cranes)	27
5-1.7.3-1	Dead Ending Rope in a Socket	29
5-2.4.2-1	Core Failure in 19 × 7 Rotation-Resistant Rope	36
5-3.2.1.5-1	Examples of Typical Unequal Outrigger Extension Positions	46
5-3.3.4-1	Standard Hand Signals for Controlling Crane Operations	50
5-3.4.5.1-1	Flowchart to Assist in Determination of the Applicable Subsection for Crane Operation Near Electric Power Lines	53
5-3.4.5.1-2	Specified Clearance Around an Energized Electric Power Line	54
5-3.4.5.1-3	Specified Clearance Around an Energized Electric Power Line That Shall Be Maintained When the Crane Is in Travel or Transit	55
5-3.4.5.1-4	Electric Power Line Support Structures	56
Tables		
5-1.1.1-1	Crane Load Ratings	18
5-3.4.5.1-1	Specified Clearance in the Vicinity of Energized Electric Power Lines	55

FOREWORD

This American National Standard, Safety Standard for Cableways, Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks, and Slings, has been developed under the procedures accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This Standard had its beginning in December 1916, when an eight-page “Code of Safety Standards for Cranes,” prepared by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Committee on the Protection of Industrial Workers, was presented at the annual meeting of the ASME.

Meetings and discussions regarding safety on cranes, derricks, and hoists were held from 1920 to 1925 involving the ASME Safety Code Correlating Committee, the Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers, the American Museum of Safety, the American Engineering Standards Committee (AESC) [later changed to American Standards Association (ASA), then to the United States of America Standards Institute (USASI), and finally to ANSI], Department of Labor — State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Industry — State of Pennsylvania, and the Locomotive Crane Manufacturers Association. On June 11, 1925, the AESC approved the ASME Safety Code Correlating Committee’s recommendation and authorized the project with the U.S. Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks, and ASME as sponsors.

In March 1926, invitations were issued to 50 organizations to appoint representatives to a Sectional Committee. The call for organization of this Sectional Committee was sent out October 2, 1926, and the Committee was organized on November 4, 1926, with 57 members representing 29 national organizations.

Commencing June 1, 1927, and using the eight-page Code published by ASME in 1916 as a basis, the Sectional Committee developed the “Safety Code for Cranes, Derricks, and Hoists.” The early drafts of this safety code included requirements for jacks, but due to inputs and comments on those drafts, the Sectional Committee decided in 1938 to make the requirements for jacks a separate code. In January 1943, ASA B30.2-1943 was published addressing a multitude of equipment types, and in August 1943, ASA B30.1-1943 was published addressing only jacks. Both documents were reaffirmed in 1952 and widely accepted as safety standards.

Due to changes in design, advancement in techniques, and general interest of labor and industry in safety, the Sectional Committee, under the joint sponsorship of ASME and the Bureau of Yards and Docks (now the Naval Facilities Engineering Command), was reorganized on January 31, 1962, with 39 members representing 27 national organizations. The new Committee changed the format of ASA B30.2-1943 so that the multitude of equipment types it addressed could be published in separate volumes that could completely cover the construction, installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and operation of each type of equipment that was included in the scope of ASA B30.2. This format change resulted in B30.3, B30.5, B30.6, B30.11, and B30.16 being initially published as “Revisions” of B30.2, with the remainder of the B30 volumes being published as totally new volumes. ASA changed its name to USASI in 1966 and to ANSI in 1969, which resulted in B30 volumes from 1943 to 1969 being designated as ASA B30, USAS B30, or ANSI B30, depending on their date of publication. In 1982, the Committee was reorganized as an Accredited Organization Committee operating under procedures developed by ASME and accredited by ANSI.

This Standard presents a coordinated set of rules that may serve as a guide to government and other regulatory bodies and municipal authorities responsible for the guarding and inspection of the equipment falling within its scope. The suggestions leading to accident prevention are given both as mandatory and advisory provisions; compliance with both types may be required by employers of their employees. In case of practical difficulties, new developments, or unnecessary hardship, the administrative or regulatory authority may grant variances from the literal requirements or permit the use of other devices or methods, but only when it is clearly evident that an equivalent degree of protection is thereby secured. To secure uniform application and interpretation of this Standard, administrative or regulatory authorities are urged to consult the B30 Committee, in accordance with the format described in Section IX of the B30 Standard Introduction, before rendering decisions on disputed points.

Safety codes and standards are intended to enhance public safety. Revisions result from committee consideration of factors such as technological advances, new data, and changing environmental and industry needs. Revisions do not imply that previous editions were inadequate.

The ASME B30.5-2007 edition added responsibilities to be assigned in the worksite organization. The 2011 edition included minor revisions and the addition of [Nonmandatory Appendix A](#) on critical lifts. The 2014 edition incorporated many global B30 changes including the addition of personnel competence and translation requirements as well as other revisions made throughout the document. The 2018 edition revised the Crane Operation in the Vicinity of Electric Power Lines section entirely, added a new section on Rigger Responsibilities, and incorporated other miscellaneous revisions.

The 2021 edition updates figures, revises qualifications, adds a new paragraph on Responsibilities of the Signalperson, and incorporates other miscellaneous revisions.

This Volume of the Standard, which was approved by the B30 Committee and by ASME, was approved by ANSI and designated as an American National Standard on September 27, 2021.

ASME B30 COMMITTEE

Safety Standard for Cableways, Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks, and Slings

(The following is the roster of the Committee at the time of approval of this Standard.)

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B30 STANDARD INTRODUCTION

SECTION I: SCOPE

The ASME B30 Standard contains provisions that apply to the construction, installation, operation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and use of cranes and other lifting and material-movement-related equipment. For the convenience of the reader, the Standard has been divided into separate volumes. Each volume has been written under the direction of the ASME B30 Standards Committee and has successfully completed a consensus approval process under the general auspices of the American National Standards Institute (ANSI).

As of the date of issuance of this Volume, the B30 Standard comprises the following volumes:

- B30.1 Jacks, Industrial Rollers, Air Casters, and Hydraulic Gantries
- B30.2 Overhead and Gantry Cranes (Top Running Bridge, Single or Multiple Girder, Top Running Trolley Hoist)
- B30.3 Tower Cranes
- B30.4 Portal and Pedestal Cranes
- B30.5 Mobile and Locomotive Cranes
- B30.6 Derricks
- B30.7 Winches
- B30.8 Floating Cranes and Floating Derricks
- B30.9 Slings
- B30.10 Hooks
- B30.11 Monorails and Underhung Cranes (withdrawn 2018 — requirements found in latest revision of B30.17)
- B30.12 Handling Loads Suspended From Rotorcraft
- B30.13 Storage/Retrieval (S/R) Machines and Associated Equipment
- B30.14 Side Boom Tractors
- B30.15 Mobile Hydraulic Cranes (withdrawn 1982 — requirements found in latest revision of B30.5)
- B30.16 Overhead Underhung and Stationary Hoists
- B30.17 Cranes and Monorails (With Underhung Trolley or Bridge)
- B30.18 Stacker Cranes (Top or Under Running Bridge, Multiple Girder With Top or Under Running Trolley Hoist)
- B30.19 Cableways
- B30.20 Below-the-Hook Lifting Devices

- B30.21 Lever Hoists
- B30.22 Articulating Boom Cranes
- B30.23 Personnel Lifting Systems
- B30.24 Container Cranes
- B30.25 Scrap and Material Handlers
- B30.26 Rigging Hardware
- B30.27 Material Placement Systems
- B30.28 Balance Lifting Units
- B30.29 Self-Erecting Tower Cranes
- B30.30 Ropes
- B30.31 Self-Propelled, Towed, or Remote-Controlled Hydraulic Platform Transporters¹
- B30.32 Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) Used in Inspection, Testing, Maintenance, and Lifting Operations¹

SECTION II: SCOPE EXCLUSIONS

Any exclusion of, or limitations applicable to, the equipment, requirements, recommendations, or operations contained in this Standard are established in the affected volume's scope.

SECTION III: PURPOSE

The B30 Standard is intended to

(a) prevent or minimize injury to workers, and otherwise provide for the protection of life, limb, and property by prescribing safety requirements

(b) provide direction to manufacturers, owners, employers, users, and others concerned with, or responsible for, its application

(c) guide governments and other regulatory bodies in the development, promulgation, and enforcement of appropriate safety directives

SECTION IV: USE BY REGULATORY AGENCIES

These volumes may be adopted in whole or in part for governmental or regulatory use. If adopted for governmental use, the references to other national codes and standards in the specific volumes may be changed to refer to the corresponding regulations of the governmental authorities.

¹ This volume is currently in the development process.

SECTION V: EFFECTIVE DATE

(a) *Effective Date.* The effective date of this Volume of the B30 Standard shall be 1 yr after its date of issuance. Construction, installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and operation of equipment manufactured and facilities constructed after the effective date of this Volume shall conform to the mandatory requirements of this Volume.

(b) *Existing Installations.* Equipment manufactured and facilities constructed prior to the effective date of this Volume of the B30 Standard shall be subject to the inspection, testing, maintenance, and operation requirements of this Standard after the effective date.

It is not the intent of this Volume of the B30 Standard to require retrofitting of existing equipment. However, when an item is being modified, its performance requirements shall be reviewed relative to the requirements within the current volume. The need to meet the current requirements shall be evaluated by a qualified person selected by the owner (user). Recommended changes shall be made by the owner (user) within 1 yr.

SECTION VI: REQUIREMENTS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Requirements of this Standard are characterized by use of the word *shall*. Recommendations of this Standard are characterized by the word *should*.

SECTION VII: USE OF MEASUREMENT UNITS

This Standard contains SI (metric) units as well as U.S. Customary units. The values stated in U.S. Customary units are to be regarded as the standard. The SI units are a direct (soft) conversion from the U.S. Customary units.

SECTION VIII: REQUESTS FOR REVISION

The B30 Standards Committee will consider requests for revision of any of the volumes within the B30 Standard. Such requests should be directed to

Secretary, B30 Standards Committee
ASME Standards and Certification
Two Park Avenue
New York, NY 10016-5990

Requests should be in the following format:

Volume: Cite the designation and title of the volume.
Edition: Cite the applicable edition of the volume.
Subject: Cite the applicable paragraph number(s) and the relevant heading(s).
Request: Indicate the suggested revision.
Rationale: State the rationale for the suggested revision.

Upon receipt by the Secretary, the request will be forwarded to the relevant B30 Subcommittee for consideration and action. Correspondence will be provided to the requester defining the actions undertaken by the B30 Standards Committee.

SECTION IX: REQUESTS FOR INTERPRETATION

The B30 Standards Committee will render an interpretation of the provisions of the B30 Standard. An Interpretation Submittal Form is available on ASME's website at <http://cstools.asme.org/Interpretation/Interpretation-Form.cfm>.

Phrase the question as a request for an interpretation of a specific provision suitable for general understanding and use, not as a request for approval of a proprietary design or situation. Plans or drawings that explain the question may be submitted to clarify the question. However, they should not contain any proprietary names or information. Read carefully the note addressing the types of requests that the B30 Standards Committee can and cannot consider.

Upon submittal, the request will be forwarded to the relevant B30 Subcommittee for a draft response, which will then be subject to approval by the B30 Standards Committee prior to its formal issuance. The B30 Standards Committee may rewrite the question for the sake of clarity.

Interpretations to the B30 Standard will be available online at <https://cstools.asme.org/Interpretation/SearchInterpretation.cfm>.

SECTION X: ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE

The equipment covered by the B30 Standard is subject to hazards that cannot be abated by mechanical means, but only by the exercise of intelligence, care, and common sense. It is therefore essential to have personnel involved in the use and operation of equipment who are competent, careful, physically and mentally qualified, and trained in the proper operation of the equipment and the handling of loads. Serious hazards include, but are not limited to, improper or inadequate maintenance, overloading, dropping or slipping of the load, obstructing the free passage of the load, and using equipment for a purpose for which it was not intended or designed.

The B30 Standards Committee fully realizes the importance of proper design factors, minimum or maximum dimensions, and other limiting criteria of wire rope or chain and their fastenings, sheaves, sprockets, drums, and similar equipment covered by the Standard, all of which are closely connected with safety. Sizes, strengths, and similar criteria are dependent on many different factors, often varying with the installation and uses. These factors depend on

- (a) the condition of the equipment or material
- (b) the loads

(c) the acceleration or speed of the ropes, chains, sheaves, sprockets, or drums

(d) the type of attachments

(e) the number, size, and arrangement of sheaves or other parts

(f) environmental conditions causing corrosion or wear

(g) many variables that must be considered in each individual case

The requirements and recommendations provided in the volumes must be interpreted accordingly, and judgment used in determining their application.

ASME B30.5-2021

SUMMARY OF CHANGES

Following approval by the ASME B30 Committee and ASME, and after public review, ASME B30.5-2021 was approved by the American National Standards Institute on September 27, 2021.

ASME B30.5-2021 includes the following changes identified by a margin note, **(21)**.

<i>Page</i>	<i>Location</i>	<i>Change</i>
1	Chapter 5-0	(1) Figures 5-0.2.1-1 through 5-0.2.1-10 revised (2) Figures 5-0.2.1-11 through 5-0.2.1-14 added
1	5-0.2.1	Figure cross-references updated
1	5-0.2.2	(1) Definition of <i>dedicated spotter</i> revised (2) Definitions of <i>jib point</i> and <i>original language(s)</i> added
16	Section 5-0.4	(1) Publisher of ANSI/SAE Z26.1 updated (2) ISO 7000, ISO 7296, SAE J159, SAE J375, SAE J376, SAE J999, SAE J1180, SAE J1305, SAE J1332, and Code of Federal Regulations Title 49, Part 231 added
17	Section 5-1.1	Subparagraph (e) added
18	5-1.1.3	Footnote reference deleted from subpara. (b)(2) and footnote information moved to Figure 5-1.1.3-1 as a General Note
19	Figure 5-1.1.3-1	General Note added
28	5-1.7.2	Subparagraphs (d)(1) revised
30	5-1.8.3	Subparagraph (a) revised
31	5-1.9.10	Paragraphs 5-1.9.10.1 through 5-1.9.10.7 revised
32	Section 5-1.10	In subpara. (a), first sentence revised
32	Section 5-1.12	Deleted
33	5-2.1.1	Subparagraphs (b) and (b)(2) revised
33	5-2.1.2	First paragraph revised
33	5-2.1.3	First paragraph revised
39	5-3.1.2	(1) Title revised (2) Former para. 5-3.1.2 redesignated as 5-3.1.2.1 and revised (3) Paragraph 5-3.1.2.2 added
40	5-3.1.3	Subparagraph (d) revised, and subpara. (g) added
41	5-3.1.3.1.1	Subparagraph (j) added
42	5-3.1.3.2.2	Subparagraph (g) revised
43	5-3.1.3.3.1	Subparagraph (v) revised
43	5-3.1.3.4	Subparagraphs (d), (f), and (h) revised
44	5-3.1.3.5	Added
47	5-3.2.3	Subparagraphs (c)(2) and (c)(4) revised
53	Figure 5-3.4.5.1-1	Editorially revised
54	Figure 5-3.4.5.1-2	Editorially revised
55	Figure 5-3.4.5.1-3	Editorially revised

Chapter 5-0

Scope, Definitions, Personnel Competence, and References

(21)

SECTION 5-0.1: SCOPE OF B30.5

Within the general scope defined in [Section I](#) of the B30 Standard Introduction, American National Standard B30.5 applies to crawler cranes, locomotive cranes, wheel-mounted cranes, and any variations thereof that retain the same fundamental characteristics. The scope includes only cranes of the above types that are basically powered by internal combustion engines or electric motors. Side boom tractors and cranes designed for railway and automobile wreck clearance, digger derricks, cranes manufactured specifically for, or when used for, energized electrical line service, knuckle boom, trolley boom cranes, and cranes having a maximum rated capacity of 1 ton or less are excluded.

Special adaptations to the general types of machines covered by this Volume, where applicable, fall under this scope.

Some basic machine types within this scope are used alternatively for lifting service and for applications not considered to be lifting service. All of the requirements of this Volume are applicable to such machines when used for lifting service. However, at a minimum, [Section 5-1.11](#), [Chapter 5-2](#), and [Section 5-3.1](#) apply to machines when used in other than lifting service.

SECTION 5-0.2: DEFINITIONS

(21) 5-0.2.1 Types of Mobile and Locomotive Cranes

commercial truck-mounted crane: a crane consisting of a rotating superstructure (center post or turntable), boom, operating machinery, and one or more operator's stations mounted on a frame attached to a commercial truck chassis, usually retaining a payload hauling capability whose power source usually powers the crane. Its function is to lift, lower, and swing loads at various radii (see [Figures 5-0.2.1-1](#) through [5-0.2.1-3](#)).

crawler crane: a crane consisting of a rotating superstructure with a power plant, operating machinery, and boom, mounted on a base and equipped with crawler treads for travel. Its function is to lift, lower, and swing loads at various radii (see [Figures 5-0.2.1-4](#) through [5-0.2.1-8](#)).

locomotive crane: a crane consisting of a rotating superstructure with a power plant, operating machinery, and boom, mounted on a base or car equipped for travel on a railroad track. It may be self-propelled or propelled by an

outside source. Its function is to lift, lower, and swing loads at various radii (see [Figure 5-0.2.1-9](#)).

wheel-mounted crane (multiple control stations): a crane consisting of a rotating superstructure, operating machinery, and operator's station and boom, mounted on a crane carrier equipped with axles and rubber-tired wheels for travel, a power source(s), and having separate stations for driving and operating. Its function is to lift, lower, and swing loads at various radii (see [Figures 5-0.2.1-10](#) through [5-0.2.1-12](#)).

wheel-mounted crane (single control station): a crane consisting of a rotating superstructure, operating machinery, and boom, mounted on a crane carrier equipped with axles and rubber-tired wheels for travel, a power source, and having a single control station for driving and operating. Its function is to lift, lower, and swing loads at various radii (see [Figures 5-0.2.1-13](#) and [5-0.2.1-14](#)).

5-0.2.2 General

(21)

accessory: a secondary part or assembly of parts that contributes to the overall function and usefulness of the equipment.

anti-two-block device: a device that, when activated, disengages all equipment functions whose movement can cause two-blocking.

auxiliary hoist: a secondary mechanism used either in conjunction with, or independently of, the main hoist.

axis of rotation: the vertical axis around which the crane superstructure rotates.

axle: the shaft or spindle with which or about which a wheel rotates. It refers to a type of axle assembly including housings, gearing, differential, bearings, and mounting appurtenances.

backward stability: the ability of a crane to resist overturning in the direction opposite the boom while in a loaded or unloaded condition.

ballast: weight used to supplement the weight of the machine in providing stability for lifting loads (the term *ballast* is normally associated with locomotive cranes).

boom (crane): a member hinged to the rotating superstructure and used for supporting the hoisting tackle.