Rigging and Lifting Role and Authorization Matrix (Rev 0, status as of 16 Nov 2026)

For reference only. This matrix does not qualify, certify or authorize anyone. The employer decides who is qualified and assigns each person's tasks and limits. Federal OSHA rules apply only where their stated scope and conditions are met; ANSI/ASME standards are not automatically law. Check every citation against the current primary source.

Codes: A = Part of this role C = Part of this role only when the condition in the note is met S = Only under direct supervision of a Qualified Rigger Q = Only if the person also holds the qualification named in the Add-on column N = Not part of this role

Activity	Worker near the lift	Lift Crew Member	Rigger in Training	Qualified Rigger	Lift Director	Crane Operator	Add-on qualification needed	Condition / note	Citation	Source type	Verify
EVERY LIFT											
Recognize fall-zone, swing-radius, crush, pinch-point and line-of-fire hazards	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	Anyone assigned to work on or near the equipment must be trained on these hazards.	1926.1424(a)(1); 1926.1430(e)	OSHA law	
Work near the lift outside the barricaded area and fall zone	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	Follow barricades, warning lines and the lift director's area controls.	1926.1424(a)(2)	OSHA law	
Enter the fall zone	N	C	C	C	C	N	-	Only to hook, unhook or guide a load, make the initial connection, or receive a load being landed. Training alone never permits entry.	1926.1425(b),(d)	OSHA law	
Work directly under a suspended load	N	N	N	N	N	N	-	Prohibited during tilt-up and tilt-down. ASME B30 volumes direct personnel to stay clear of suspended loads; treat as not allowed for every lift.	1926.1425(e)(1); ASME B30.5 Chapter 5-3	OSHA law + Consensus	Verify
Give a stop or emergency stop signal	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	Anyone who becomes aware of a safety problem must give the stop or emergency stop signal. The operator must obey it.	1926.1417(y)	OSHA law	
Stop the work for a safety concern	A	A	A	A	A	A	-	The operator has explicit authority to stop and refuse to handle loads (1926.1418). Others act under the employer's stop-work program.	1926.1418; employer program	OSHA law + Industry practice	
LOAD HANDLING											
Guide a load with a tag line or hands-free device	N	A	A	A	N	N	-	Use a tag or restraint line where load rotation would be hazardous. Stay out of the fall zone unless guiding requires it.	1926.1417(w); 1926.1425(b)(1)	OSHA law	
Touch or push a freely suspended load by hand	N	C	C	C	N	N	-	Keep hand contact to a minimum. Use hands-free methods where practicable and keep a clear escape path.	Employer program	Industry practice	
Receive and land a load	N	C	C	C	N	N	-	Only employees needed to receive the load may be in the fall zone while it is landed.	1926.1425(d)	OSHA law	
Hook or unhook a load	N	C	S	A	N	N	-	Lift Crew Member hooks onto rigging already made up by a Qualified Rigger. In the fall zone: materials rigged to prevent displacement, self-closing latches, rigged by a Qualified Rigger.	1926.1425(b)(1),(c)	OSHA law	
Make the initial connection of a load to a structure or component	N	C	S	C	N	N	-	Example: setting a load onto anchor bolts. The same three fall-zone conditions apply, and only necessary employees may be exposed.	1926.1425(b)(2),(c)	OSHA law	
RIGGING											
Select slings, shackles, hooks and other rigging hardware	N	N	S	A	N	N	-	Selection stays within the rigger's shown scope. Hardware must have legible rated-load markings and not be loaded beyond them.	1926.1401; 1926.251(a)(2); ASME B30.9, B30.26	OSHA law + Consensus	
Choose the hitch and rigging configuration	N	N	S	A	N	N	-	A trainee may assist; the supervising Qualified Rigger keeps control of the configuration.	1926.1401; 1926.1425(c)(3); ASME B30.9	OSHA law + Consensus	
Determine load weight and center of gravity	N	N	S	A	C	N	-	Lift Director confirms weight and center of gravity against the lift plan; the rigger determines them for the rigging.	ASME B30.5 Chapter 5-3; ASME B30.9	Consensus	Verify
Calculate sling tension and sling-angle effects	N	N	S	A	N	N	-	Within the rigger's shown ability for the configuration.	ASME B30.9	Consensus	
Use a below-the-hook lifting device (spreader, lifting beam, vacuum, magnet)	N	N	S	A	N	N	-	Use within the device's rated load and the manufacturer's instructions; the device must be marked and inspected.	ASME B30.20; ASME BTH-1	Consensus	
Inspect rigging before use each shift	N	N	S	Q	N	N	Rigging Hardware Inspector (competent person)	Slings, fastenings and attachments are inspected each day before use by a competent person the employer designates. Many employers designate their qualified riggers.	1926.251(a)(1),(a)(6)	OSHA law	
Stop using damaged rigging and report it	C	C	C	A	A	A	-	Anyone who sees damage should stop its use and report it. The competent person removes defective gear from service.	1926.251(a)(1),(a)(6)	OSHA law + Industry practice	
Perform documented periodic inspection of slings and hardware	N	N	N	Q	N	N	Rigging Hardware Inspector (competent person)	Periodic inspection intervals and records follow the applicable ASME volume and the employer's program.	ASME B30.9; ASME B30.26; 1910.184(e)(3) (general industry)	Consensus	Verify
Rig routine loads without supervision	N	N	N	A	N	N	-	Limited to the loads, rigging, equipment and conditions included in the person's qualification.	1926.1401; 1926.1425(c)(3)	OSHA law	

Activity	Worker near the lift	Lift Crew Member	Rigger in Training	Qualified Rigger	Lift Director	Crane Operator	Add-on qualification needed	Condition / note	Citation	Source type	Verify
Directly supervise a Rigger in Training	N	N	N	A	N	N	-	Supervising rigger stays with the trainee and keeps responsibility for the rigging.	Employer program; ASME B30 rigger qualification provisions	Industry practice + Consensus	Verify
Rig for crane assembly or disassembly	N	N	N	A	N	N	-	Done under the A/D Director's supervision.	1926.1404(r)	OSHA law	
Rig unstable, eccentric, unusually heavy, engineered, tandem or multi-crane loads	N	N	N	Q	N	N	Scope-specific rigging qualification	Routine qualification does not automatically cover these scopes. Follow the lift plan and any engineering controls.	1926.1401; 1926.1432; ANSI/ASSP A10.42	OSHA law + Consensus	Verify
SIGNALS AND COMMUNICATION											
Decide that a signal person is needed	N	A	A	A	A	A	-	Required when the point of operation or travel path is not in full view of the operator, or when the operator or the person handling the load decides one is needed.	1926.1419(a)	OSHA law	
Give operational signals to the operator	N	Q	Q	Q	Q	N	Signal Person	Only within the signal methods the person was qualified for (hand, voice, audible, new signals).	1926.1419; 1926.1428	OSHA law	
Act as a dedicated spotter near power lines	N	Q	Q	Q	Q	N	Dedicated spotter (Signal Person qualification)	Spotter must meet Signal Person qualification, stay positioned to judge clearance and have no other duties while spotting.	1926.1401; 1926.1407-1411; 1926.1428	OSHA law	
PLANNING AND DIRECTING THE LIFT											
Develop or approve the lift plan	N	N	N	C	A	N	-	Multi-crane lifts must be planned by a qualified person, with engineering expertise when that person decides it is needed. For other lifts, follow the employer's lift-planning program; a rigger may prepare the rigging portion.	1926.1432(a); employer program	OSHA law + Industry practice	
Lead the pre-lift meeting or plan review	N	N	N	N	A	N	-	Required for multi-crane and personnel lifts; common practice for all planned lifts. Crew members involved attend.	1926.1432(b)(2); 1926.1431(m)	OSHA law + Industry practice	
Set and control the fall zone, barricades and access	N	N	N	C	A	N	-	A rigger may set controls as directed by the Lift Director.	1926.1424(a)(2); 1926.1425	OSHA law	
Confirm ground conditions, crane setup and mats	N	N	N	N	A	A	-	The controlling entity must ensure adequate ground conditions. The Lift Director and operator confirm setup before the lift.	1926.1402; ASME B30.5 Chapter 5-3	OSHA law + Consensus	Verify
Call a weather or wind hold	N	N	N	N	A	A	-	The competent person must adjust the equipment or operation for the effect of wind, ice and snow on stability and rated capacity, within the manufacturer's limits.	1926.1417(n); manufacturer's instructions	OSHA law	
Direct the lift and the people involved	N	N	N	C	A	N	-	A rigger directs rigging tasks within their scope. On multi-crane lifts, the director must be both a competent and a qualified person, or a competent person assisted by qualified persons.	1926.1432(b)(1); ASME B30.5 Chapter 5-3	OSHA law + Consensus	Verify
Hoist personnel in a platform	N	C	N	C	C	C	-	Only under every condition of 1926.1431, including the pre-lift meeting and trial lift. Rigging used for the platform is used for nothing else.	1926.1431	OSHA law	

Role definitions and add-on qualifications

Roles are the matrix columns. Add-on qualifications can be held on top of any role and are named in the matrix's Add-on column. For reference only. This matrix does not qualify, certify or authorize anyone. The employer decides who is qualified and assigns each person's tasks and limits. Federal OSHA rules apply only where their stated scope and conditions are met; ANSI/ASME standards are not automatically law. Check every citation against the current primary source.

Role	Site page	Basis	What the role is	Minimum training / qualification	Boundary	Key citations	Evidence to keep
Worker near the lift	-	Not a lift role	Anyone working on or near crane and rigging work who has no assigned part in the lift.	Trained on swing-radius, crush and pinch-point and fall-zone hazards for the work area.	Stays outside the barricaded area and fall zone. May give a stop signal and report hazards.	1926.1424(a); 1926.1430(e)	Training evidence for hazard awareness (employer program).
Lift Crew Member	Lift Crew Member page	OSHA law	Helps with the lift: tag lines, receiving and landing, hooking onto rigging made up by a Qualified Rigger, initial connection.	Hazard training for the tasks assigned; fall-zone rules; attends the pre-lift or plan-review meeting when required.	Does not select, configure, inspect or accept rigging. Signals only if also a qualified Signal Person.	1926.21(b)(2); 1926.1425; 1926.1430(a),(e),(f),(g); 1926.1431(m); 1926.1432(b)(2)	Training evidence; employers commonly keep pre-lift meeting sign-ins.
Rigger in Training	-	Industry practice	Employer-defined step: a person learning rigging tasks before being found qualified.	Employer training on hardware, hitches, sling angles, load weight and center of gravity, and inspection.	Does rigging tasks only under direct supervision of a Qualified Rigger, who keeps responsibility for the rigging.	Employer program; ANSI/ASSP A10.42 (verify current edition)	Training record, supervisor assignment, practical task sign-offs (employer program).
Qualified Rigger	Qualified Rigger page	OSHA law	A rigger who meets the criteria for a qualified person for the rigging being done.	Shown ability to rig the specific loads, hardware and configurations assigned. Qualification is scope-specific.	Limited to the loads, lifts and rigging within the person's shown ability. Complex scopes need qualification for that scope.	1926.1401 (definition); 1926.1425(c)(3); 1926.1404(r); 1926.1430(d),(g)	OSHA sets no required format; keep evidence of the scope evaluated. ASME B30 rigger qualification adds written and practical evaluation (consensus).
Lift Director	Lift Director page	OSHA law	The person who directs the lift: plan review, crew briefing, area control and go/no-go.	Competent person and qualified person for the lift (or a competent person assisted by qualified persons) on multi-crane lifts; ASME B30.5 lift director duties on every lift (consensus).	Does hands-on rigging or signaling only if also qualified for that role.	1926.1432(b); 1926.1430(d),(g); ASME B30.5 Chapter 5-3 (verify paragraph)	Lift plan and meeting records as the employer program requires.
Crane Operator	Crane Operator page	OSHA law	Operates the crane. Included here for the authority to stop and to call for a signal person.	Certified or qualified under 1926.1427 and evaluated by the employer.	Has authority to stop and refuse loads when safety is in question. Does not rig from the controls.	1926.1427; 1926.1418; 1926.1419(a)	Certification and employer evaluation documentation (1926.1427).
ADD-ON QUALIFICATIONS							
Signal Person	Signal Person page	OSHA law	Gives operational signals to the operator. Can be added to any role.	Qualified by a third-party qualified evaluator or the employer's qualified evaluator; knows signal types, equipment operation and limits; oral or written test plus practical test.	Only within the scope evaluated.	1926.1428; 1926.1419-1422; 1926.1430(b)	Qualification documentation for the scope
Dedicated spotter (power lines)	Signal Person page	OSHA law	Watches clearance to energized lines and warns the operator. No other duties while spotting.	Must meet the Signal Person qualification requirements.	Only within the scope evaluated.	1926.1401 (definition); 1926.1407-1411; 1926.1428	Qualification documentation for the scope
Rigging Hardware Inspector (competent person)	Rigging Hardware Inspector page	OSHA law	Employer-designated competent person who inspects slings and rigging and removes defective gear.	Designated by the employer; able to identify hazards and authorized to take corrective action.	Only within the scope evaluated.	1926.251(a)(1),(a)(6); 1910.184(d); ASME B30.9 / B30.26 periodic inspection (consensus)	Qualification documentation for the scope
Scope-specific rigging qualification	Qualified Rigger page	OSHA law	Qualification for loads beyond routine work: unstable, eccentric, unusually heavy, engineered, tandem or multi-crane rigging.	Shown ability for that specific scope; routine qualification does not carry over.	Only within the scope evaluated.	1926.1401 (qualified person); OSHA qualified-rigger guidance; ANSI/ASSP A10.42	Qualification documentation for the scope

Notes, code key and references

For reference only. This matrix does not qualify, certify or authorize anyone. The employer decides who is qualified and assigns each person's tasks and limits. Federal OSHA rules apply only where their stated scope and conditions are met; ANSI/ASME standards are not automatically law. Check every citation against the current primary source.

Matrix codes

Code	Meaning
A	Part of this role
C	Part of this role only when the condition in the note is met
S	Only under direct supervision of a Qualified Rigger
Q	Only if the person also holds the qualification named in the Add-on column
N	Not part of this role

Source type

Label	Meaning
OSHA law	Federal OSHA rule. Binding only where its scope and conditions apply.
Consensus	ANSI/ASME consensus standard. Not automatically law unless adopted or required by contract or another rule.
Industry practice	Common employer practice. Guidance, not a legal duty.
Verify	Check this citation against the current primary source before relying on it.

Scope notes

Item	Clarification
Who this covers	Construction work under 29 CFR 1926 Subpart CC and 1926.251, with general industry references (1910.184) where noted. Shipyard, longshoring and state-plan rules can differ; check the State & local page.
Forklifts and telehandlers	A powered industrial truck configured to hoist and lower (by winch or hook) and move a suspended load is covered by Subpart CC (1926.1400(c)(8)). Treat that lift like a crane lift in this matrix.
Holding more than one role	One person can hold several roles, for example a Qualified Rigger who is also a Signal Person. They may do the tasks of each role they are qualified for. A Lift Director or Crane Operator does hands-on rigging only if also qualified for it.
Rigger in Training	This is an employer-defined step, not an OSHA role. OSHA does not define a rigger trainee; the 'S' code reflects common industry practice and ASME B30 provisions for trainees working under a qualified rigger.
Worker near the lift	Not a lift role. Shown so the matrix makes clear what hazard training alone does and does not allow.
Rigger testing	OSHA requires shown qualification but prescribes no exam format for riggers. ASME B30 rigger qualification provisions call for written and practical evaluation (consensus).
Signal person testing	OSHA requires an oral or written test and a practical test (1926.1428).
Records	Keep enough evidence to show each person's qualified scope, limits, equipment and tasks. See each role page for its record checklist.

References

Reference	Title	Link	Type
29 CFR 1926 Subpart CC	Cranes and Derricks in Construction (1926.1400-1442)	https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-29/subtitle-B/chapter-XVII/part-19	OSHA law
29 CFR 1926.251	Rigging equipment for material handling	https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926	OSHA law
29 CFR 1926.21	Safety training and education	https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926	OSHA law
29 CFR 1910.184	Slings (general industry)	https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1910	OSHA law
OSHA guidance	Subpart CC: Qualified Rigger fact sheet (Oct 2010)	https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/cranes-qualifie	OSHA guidance
OSHA guidance	Subpart CC: Signal Person Qualification fact sheet (Oct 2010)	https://www.osha.gov/sites/default/files/publications/cranes-signal-	OSHA guidance
ASME B30.5	Mobile and Locomotive Cranes (personnel qualifications and responsibilities, Chapter 5-3)	https://www.asme.org/codes-standards	Consensus
ASME B30.9	Slings	https://www.asme.org/codes-standards	Consensus
ASME B30.10	Hooks	https://www.asme.org/codes-standards	Consensus
ASME B30.20	Below-the-Hook Lifting Devices	https://www.asme.org/codes-standards	Consensus
ASME B30.26	Rigging Hardware	https://www.asme.org/codes-standards	Consensus
ASME BTH-1	Design of Below-the-Hook Lifting Devices	https://www.asme.org/codes-standards	Consensus
ANSI/ASSP A10.42	Safety Requirements for Rigging Qualifications and Responsibilities (verify current edition)	https://www.assp.org/standards	Consensus