

South Carolina Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation
Division of Labor
Office of Occupational Safety and Health
Columbia, South Carolina 29211

OSH Program Directive Number 80-1926.550-2 (REVISED)

Subject: “Forbidden Zone” As Applied To Cranes and Derricks When Operating In The Vicinity Of Electrical Distribution And Transmission Lines.

Standard: Article VII, Sections 1926.550 (a) (15) (i), (ii), and (iii), Rules and Regulations, Commissioner of Labor, State of South Carolina.

Cross Reference to Federal Standards: 29 CFR 1926.550 (a) (15) (i), (ii), and (iii).

Background: There has been some recent publicity over the “forbidden zone” interpretation of the above referred standards. This directive clarifies the area included in the “forbidden zone”.

Interpretation: The forbidden work area is that area within a 10-foot radius of any part of the energized power line. Any penetration of the area by any portion of a crane would be considered as an alleged violation of the subject standard. It is also considered to be an unsafe act when a crane operator passes any part of his crane or the attached load over any energized power line.

The minimum clearance of 10 feet as used in Article VII, Section 1926.550 (a) (15) (i) applies in any direction from any applicable line. This interpretation excludes extending the minimum clearance due to the height of the lines or the height of any part of the crane or load.

The attached sketch number SK-75-1926.550-2 shall be used as the OSH Division’s interpretation of the subject standard for enforcement purposes.

Effective Date: This instruction is effective upon receipt and will remain in effect until cancelled or superseded by amendment to the Regulation or program directive.

William M. Lybrand, Director
September 23, 1980