

FACTSHEET ON HEALTH CHECK FOR CRANE OPERATORS

Background

Today, about 42% of crane operators registered are above 50 years old. This trend of an ageing profile is likely to continue. As an ageing workforce is more susceptible to chronic diseases, it is important that crane operators undergo health checks for early detection and proper management of chronic ill health. This will help to improve their employability and allows crane operators to remain in the profession for a longer time.

Enhanced Medical Examination for Crane Operators

2 From 1 April 2016, MOM will enhance the crane operators' medical examination requirements. Crane operators between the ages of 50 to 65 will be required to undergo two-yearly health checks while operators between the ages of 65 to 69 will need to do so yearly. Operators from the age of 70 will have to take two additional tests in the examination – Abbreviated Mental Test¹ and Occupational Therapist's Assessment.

Age (years)	Health Checks	Occupational Therapist Assessment
Below 50	No	No
50 – 64	Every 2 years	No
65 - 69	Every year	No
70 and above	Every year	Yes

3 These checks will improve the employability of crane operators by enabling them to identify early signs of ill health so that steps can be taken to treat and manage the condition. This helps to prevent future health risks and allows crane operators to remain in the profession for a longer time.

4 In addition, the health of crane operators is also critical to ensure crane safety. As crane operators have direct control over the crane's movements, any impairment due to medical conditions can affect the ability to perform work safely. As such, the health of crane operators also contributes to a safe working environment for the crane operator and the people around him.

5 Employers should put in place a system to regularly monitor the health condition of the crane operators. Crane operators detected with potential health issues should be given proper and adequate health management, treatment and preventive measures so they can continue to stay healthy and continue to work safely.

¹ Abbreviated Mental Test is a screening tool comprising a series of questions to evaluate short term and long-term memory loss.