



Scope of Certification: Digger Derrick

EICA has one type (scheme) of “Digger Derrick” certification. This certification type is not limited by capacity or control station type. In addition, the certification process is intended to incorporate the use of Digger Derricks in proximity to electrical power lines.

Digger Derricks (line trucks or backyard units) have a telescoping main boom, are equipped with an auger, pole guides, and travel using tracks or wheels.

Digger Derrick Certification (DD): The swing, boom, hoist, telescope, auger, pole guides and other basic control functions may or may not rotate along with the boom sections. The operator may operate from a seat attached to the upper rotating structure above the pedestal that rotates with the boom or stand at a fixed control or swing control station that do not rotate with the boom. Outriggers are generally controlled from separate frame-mounted controls. Digger Derricks have capacities that range from early 2 to 30 tons. In many cases one of the boom extension sections will be a non-metallic and non-conducting stage that it uses to isolate and insulate the Digger Derrick in case of accidental conductor contact.

Operators that have obtained an EICA Digger Derrick certification, and are electrically qualified, have sufficient knowledge, skills, and abilities of operating a digger derrick around the minimum approach distance in proximity of high voltage power lines. The EICA Digger Derrick certification demonstrates that the operator understands OSHA’s rules regarding digger derricks in construction and maintenance of transmission and distribution lines. Operators that obtain an EICA Digger Derrick Certification understand the machine’s load chart capacity ratings and how to calculate loads. Candidates that have successfully completed the EICA Digger Derrick certification program will be able to demonstrate safe work operations and compliance with industry standards. EICA certified personnel are knowledgeable in site setup, inspections, operations, use of attachments, and machine securement.

Crawler or wheeled machines (with augers and pole guides)

- Wheel mounted Digger Derricks - sitting, single control station
- Wheel mounted Digger Derricks - stationary or rotating control stations
- Track equipped Digger Derricks - stationary or rotating control stations

The certification requirements for the Digger Derrick type follows:

- The Digger Derrick certification requires passing the EICA General exam and the Digger Derrick Specialty exam.
- EICA, through operations and technical knowledge review, determined that EICA's General exam share many similarities between Cranes and Digger Derricks for general safety, power systems, electrical line operations, travel, setup, personnel platform use, and shutdown procedures as identified in the Job Task Analysis and Content Outline.
- The Digger Derrick Specialty exam addresses only specific issues related to Digger Derrick operations, their attachments and load chart use.
- Digger Derrick certification is awarded upon successful completion of the General Exam, Digger Derrick Specialty Exam and Digger Derrick Practical Exam for any control type listed above.
- Crane certification equivalent to type (Stationary or Rotating) can also be satisfied by using Digger Derricks since Tasks 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, and 8 are conducted in the same manner and under the same testing conditions for both Cranes and Digger Derricks.
- Cranes with augers and pole guides may satisfy both the Digger Derrick and Crane certification requirements