

When setting procedures for access to tower cranes, the following should be taken into account:

- There should be adequate communication arrangements to ensure that the operator is advised when anyone is about to climb the tower;
- Unless there is direct radio communication between the person climbing the tower and the crane operator, all crane movements should be stopped until that person has passed safely through the slewing section - both on ascent and descent. If direct radio communication is in place, the person climbing the tower must stop before entering the slewing section, contact the crane operator and ask for and receive permission to proceed;
- All persons not holding a frequent access permit should be accompanied at all times by a frequent-access permit holder;
- All operators must be briefed on the access procedure to be followed for the specific crane they are operating;
- Accessible areas of the tower crane should be divided into zones as follows:
  - Zone 1 – Areas with adequate edge protection and no mechanical or entrapment hazards such as the tower and cab;
  - Zone 2 – Areas with adequate edge protection but with mechanical or entrapment hazards such as the counter jibs of some cranes;
  - Zone 3 – Areas without adequate edge protection where access requires the use of fall protection equipment.

The advice of the supplier should be sought in determining the extent of the zones for individual cranes:

- No person should be permitted to access the jib or counter jib of the tower crane unless given permission to do so by the operator, who will ensure that all crane motions are stopped and the controls isolated;
- Should operation of the crane motions be required whilst personnel are carrying out maintenance work in these areas, a safe system of work must be put in place whereby the operator only operates the controls in response to instructions from the person in charge of the maintenance work.