

The intent of the proposed rule to incorporate API Spec 2C was twofold: (1) That newly manufactured cranes must be manufactured according to specifications of API Spec 2C; and (2) that cranes installed on new fixed platforms must be manufactured according to specifications of API Spec 2C. Since the use of the term "new" is not precise we revised the final rule by inserting the effective date of the final rule to clarify the intended requirements. We have revised paragraphs (c) and (d) in 30 CFR 250.108 to accurately reflect the intent of the proposed rule. These paragraphs read as follows:

"(c) If a fixed platform is installed after March 17, 2003, all cranes on the platform must meet the requirements of the American Petroleum Institute's Specification for Offshore Cranes (API Spec 2C), incorporated by reference as specified in 30 CFR 250.198."

"(d) All cranes manufactured after March 17, 2003, and installed on a fixed platform, must meet the requirements of API Spec 2C, incorporated by reference as specified in 30 CFR 250.198."

We do not use the term "rental crane" in the final rule because the comments indicated that there are differing definitions of what constitutes a rental crane. A rental crane must meet the same requirements as any other crane installed on a fixed platform. If a rental crane is manufactured after March 17, 2003, then it must meet the requirements of API Spec 2C. If a rental crane is installed on a fixed platform that was installed after March 17, 2003, then it must meet the requirements of API Spec 2C. The comments also raised the issue about the appropriate use of rental cranes. MMS will discuss this issue with interested parties after the publication of this final rule.

Several commenters pointed out that API Spec 2C applies only to pedestal-mounted cranes and that the requirements in the specification may not be appropriate for smaller cranes or other material-handling equipment. MMS understands that API Spec 2C provides specifications for pedestal-

mounted cranes and that it is not intended for other types of material-handling equipment. MMS regulates other material-handling equipment by requiring lessees to operate and maintain that equipment in a manner that ensures safe operation and prevents pollution. The requirements for other material-handling equipment are contained in new 30 CFR 250.108(f), previously 30 CFR 250.108(b).

Requirement for Anti-Two Block Devices

This final rule also requires lessees to install anti-two block devices on all existing cranes within 2 years of the effective date of this rule. In the past, MMS has encouraged industry to equip all cranes operating on OCS fixed platforms with an anti-two block safety device, regardless of the age or specific use of the crane. MMS has now determined that anti-two block safety devices must be used on all cranes installed on OCS fixed platforms. We are convinced that retrofitting all existing cranes with the anti-two block safety devices will benefit the industry by increasing safety, and reducing crane incidents on the OCS.

Our concern was highlighted by the International Association of Drilling Contractors in October 2000 when it issued a safety alert titled "Near Miss—Anti-Two Blocking Devices." This safety alert stated that anti-two block safety devices should be installed on all cranes because "Having a safety device like this ensures that everything is in place to prevent a problem. The anti-two block safety device for the crane boom is a protection device as is the crown protection device on the rig's drawworks. Both are very important to working safely."

In response to comments, the final regulations provide a 2-year transition period for the retrofitting of existing OCS fixed platform cranes with anti-two block safety devices. This additional year will allow industry adequate time to implement this change without causing undue hardships.

Recordkeeping Requirements

With the incorporation of API Spec 2C, we would include additional recordkeeping requirements in 30 CFR 250.108 to be consistent with the specification. Current regulations require you to keep inspection, testing, and maintenance records at the OCS facility for at least 2 years. The proposed rule would have expanded this requirement to retain these records for the "life of the crane." Comments received on the proposed rule assert that requiring the lessees to retain these records for the life of the crane would create a significant paperwork and administrative burden. Several commenters recommended that MMS should continue to follow our existing requirements of retaining crane records for 2 years. Another commenter said that keeping inspection, testing, and maintenance records for 4 years would provide a great predictive maintenance tool in determining integrity on previous and future discrepancies. Based on these comments, we have revised the final rule to require lessees to keep inspection, testing, and maintenance records for 4 years. We believe that keeping records for an additional 2 years will allow lessees to make an improved assessment of the crane maintenance program and identify any safety trends.

The final rule also requires the lessee to retain all design and construction records, including installation records for any anti-two block safety devices, for the life of the crane at the OCS fixed platforms. The rule further modifies 30 CFR 250.108 to require lessees to keep training records on rigger personnel, as well as those for crane operators. There were no comments objecting to these requirements.

Response to Comments on Preamble Questions

In the preamble to the proposed rule, we requested comments on nine specific questions. We have grouped the comments to those questions and our responses in the following table.

MMS questions	Comments received	MMS response
(a) Will the the addition of API Spec 2C to MMS' documents incorporated by reference increase safety and safe operations on the OCS?	Most commenters agreed that incorporating API Spec 2C would increase safety on the OCS? One commenter stated that there is too much flexibility in the interpretation of API Spec 2C for it to have any effect on safety. Noted flexibility shortcomings were that Spec 2C only applied to pedestal cranes, that more specificity was needed in presenting the basis of rating for load rating charts, and the noise level allowed was too high.	MMS has incorporated API Spec 2C in the regulations to promote safe crane operations on the OCS. MMS has determined that API Spec 2C is the best available reference for the design, construction, and testing of pedestal mounted cranes for offshore use. Any valid shortcomings of this document should be addressed in the next edition. It is not a shortcoming of this document in that it only applies to pedestal-mounted cranes.