

**ASME B30.23-2022**  
(Revision of ASME B30.23-2016)

# Personnel Lifting Systems

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**Safety Standard for Cableways,  
Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks,  
and Slings**

**AN AMERICAN NATIONAL STANDARD**



**The American Society of  
Mechanical Engineers**

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# CONTENTS

Foreword .....	iv
Committee Roster .....	vi
B30 Standard Introduction .....	viii
Summary of Changes .....	xi
<b>Chapter 23-0 Scope, Definitions, and References .....</b>	<b>1</b>
Section 23-0.1 Scope of ASME B30.23 .....	1
Section 23-0.2 Intent of ASME B30.23 .....	1
Section 23-0.3 Definitions .....	1
Section 23-0.4 Personnel Competence .....	2
Section 23-0.5 References .....	2
<b>Chapter 23-1 Construction and Characteristics .....</b>	<b>4</b>
Section 23-1.1 Design .....	4
Section 23-1.2 Construction .....	6
<b>Chapter 23-2 Inspection, Testing, and Maintenance .....</b>	<b>8</b>
Section 23-2.1 Inspection .....	8
Section 23-2.2 Testing .....	8
Section 23-2.3 Maintenance .....	9
<b>Chapter 23-3 Operation .....</b>	<b>10</b>
Section 23-3.1 Personnel .....	10
Section 23-3.2 Practices .....	11
<b>Mandatory Appendices</b>	
I Lifting Personnel Near Electrical Power Lines .....	15
II Personnel Platform Lift Planning and Authorization Form .....	22
III Personnel Lift Platform Pre-Lift Inspection .....	23
<b>Figures</b>	
I-1-1 Condition A .....	17
I-1-2 Condition B .....	18
I-1-3 Condition C .....	19
I-1-4 Condition D .....	20
<b>Table</b>	
I-2-1 Required Clearance for Normal Voltage in Operation Near High-Voltage Power Lines and Operation in Transit With No Load and Boom or Mast Lowered .....	21

# FOREWORD

This American National Standard, Safety Standard for Cableways, Cranes, Derricks, Hoists, Hooks, Jacks, and Slings, has been developed under the procedures accredited by the American National Standards Institute (ANSI). This Standard had its beginning in December 1916, when an eight-page “Code of Safety Standards for Cranes,” prepared by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) Committee on the Protection of Industrial Workers, was presented at the annual meeting of the ASME.

Meetings and discussions regarding safety on cranes, derricks, and hoists were held from 1920 to 1925 involving the ASME Safety Code Correlating Committee, the Association of Iron and Steel Electrical Engineers, the American Museum of Safety, the American Engineering Standards Committee (AESC) [later changed to American Standards Association (ASA), then to the United States of America Standards Institute (USASI), and finally to ANSI], Department of Labor — State of New Jersey, Department of Labor and Industry — State of Pennsylvania, and the Locomotive Crane Manufacturers Association. On June 11, 1925, the AESC approved the ASME Safety Code Correlating Committee’s recommendation and authorized the project with the U.S. Department of the Navy, Bureau of Yards and Docks, and ASME as sponsors.

In March 1926, invitations were issued to 50 organizations to appoint representatives to a Sectional Committee. The call for organization of this Sectional Committee was sent out October 2, 1926, and the Committee was organized on November 4, 1926, with 57 members representing 29 national organizations.

Commencing June 1, 1927, and using the eight-page Code published by ASME in 1916 as a basis, the Sectional Committee developed the “Safety Code for Cranes, Derricks, and Hoists.” The early drafts of this safety code included requirements for jacks, but due to inputs and comments on those drafts, the Sectional Committee decided in 1938 to make the requirements for jacks a separate code. In January 1943, ASA B30.2-1943 was published addressing a multitude of equipment types, and in August 1943, ASA B30.1-1943 was published addressing only jacks. Both documents were reaffirmed in 1952 and widely accepted as safety standards.

Due to changes in design, advancement in techniques, and general interest of labor and industry in safety, the Sectional Committee, under the joint sponsorship of ASME and the Bureau of Yards and Docks (now the Naval Facilities Engineering Command), was reorganized on January 31, 1962, with 39 members representing 27 national organizations. The new Committee changed the format of ASA B30.2-1943 so that the multitude of equipment types it addressed could be published in separate volumes that could completely cover the construction, installation, inspection, testing, maintenance, and operation of each type of equipment that was included in the scope of ASA B30.2. This format change resulted in B30.3, B30.5, B30.6, B30.11, and B30.16 being initially published as “Revisions” of B30.2, with the remainder of the B30 volumes being published as totally new volumes. ASA changed its name to USASI in 1966 and to ANSI in 1969, which resulted in B30 volumes from 1943 to 1968 being designated as ASA B30, USAS B30, or ANSI B30, depending on their date of publication. In 1982, the Committee was reorganized as an Accredited Organization Committee operating under procedures developed by ASME and accredited by ANSI.

This Standard presents a coordinated set of rules that may serve as a guide to government and other regulatory bodies and municipal authorities responsible for the guarding and inspection of the equipment falling within its scope. The suggestions leading to accident prevention are given both as mandatory and advisory provisions; compliance with both types may be required by employers of their employees. In case of practical difficulties, new developments, or unnecessary hardship, the administrative or regulatory authority may grant variances from the literal requirements or permit the use of other devices or methods, but only when it is clearly evident that an equivalent degree of protection is thereby secured. To secure uniform application and interpretation of this Standard, administrative or regulatory authorities are urged to consult the B30 Committee, in accordance with the format described in Section IX of the B30 Standard Introduction, before rendering decisions on disputed points.

Safety codes and standards are intended to enhance public safety. Revisions result from committee consideration of factors such as technological advances, new data, and changing environmental and industry needs. Revisions do not imply that previous editions were inadequate.

The first edition of ASME B30.23 was published in 1998. New editions were published in 2005 and 2011. The 2016 edition of this Standard included revisions to reflect current technology and terminology, and changes were made to update all chapters to be more consistent with other B30 volumes. The 2022 edition incorporates new and updated definitions, as well as updates to [Section 23-1.1](#) and [Section 23-3.2](#).