

# 10 THINGS TO CONSIDER

## WHEN SELECTING AN OVERHEAD CRANE FOR YOUR BUSINESS

If you're thinking of purchasing your first overhead crane system, make sure you spec it out and design it right the first time! This checklist will give you an idea of some factors that may affect the type, design, and price of your overhead crane system.

1

### WHAT IS THE SPAN OF THE CRANE?

Span is the horizontal distance center-to-center of the runways. A crane with a large span will be more expensive due to extra material costs for engineered girders.

2

### WHAT IS THE CAPACITY?

The maximum rated load that you need your crane to lift or the weight of the material that you'll be lifting.

3

### WHAT IS THE ESTIMATED HEIGHT OF YOUR CRANE?

How high do you need to be able to lift the materials to clear any machinery or equipment on the floor? Will the crane need to lift materials up and out of pits, mines, or excavation sites? Are there any overhead obstructions that need to be considered?

4

### WHAT IS THE LENGTH OF YOUR RUNWAY?

How far will you need to move material in your facility? Is there an existing runway in place, or will a new runway structure need to be built?

5

### WHAT IS THE OPERATING ENVIRONMENT?

Will the crane be operating indoors or outdoors? Are there hazardous conditions like high heat, hot metals, chemicals, or fumes?

6

### HOW MANY LIFTS PER HOUR?

What is the duty cycle or service classification of the crane? Cranes in higher service classifications will require additional engineering and specialized components to solve complex lifting challenges.

7

### HOW WILL THE CRANE BE OPERATED?

Considerations should be made as to how the crane operator is loading and unloading materials. Will there be wireless radio controls, a festooned pendant that moves with the hoist and trolley, or will the operator work from a cab?

8

### IS IT A NEW CONSTRUCTION BUILDING?

A new construction facility has more adjustability to design and accommodate a reserved space and support structure for an overhead crane. Blueprints can be adjusted and special accommodations can be built into the planning prior to installation.

9

### IS IT AN EXISTING BUILDING STRUCTURE?

Is the building capable of supporting a new crane system? Additional engineering may be required to retrofit a crane into the floor plan and support structure. Support beams, ceiling and flooring will need to be load rated.

10

### WILL THE BUILDING STRUCTURE SUPPORT A CRANE?

Consider any additional costs related to having concrete contractors or structural engineers provide a consultation of your facility. Can the existing structure and foundation handle additional loads generated by the install of a new crane system?



TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OVERHEAD CRANES,  
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