

Upgrading the Operator Controls of a Cab Operated Overhead Crane

Problem	Solution	Benefits
Cab has broken hard-wired control system.	Radio Control System	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flexibility • Decreased Downtime • Easier to Repair

An overhead crane sometimes needs a cab to be effective. Many of these overhead cranes are older heavy-duty overhead cranes in process applications, where reliability is paramount and down time is critical. At some point, the hard-wired cab controls will begin to show their age, and their responsiveness will dwindle. At this point, the overhead crane owner must decide how to cost-effectively replace the controls. The answer is not to replace hard-wired controls and conduit with newer versions.



Fig. 101



Fig. 102



Fig. 102

Instead of purchasing a new cab, or expensive new controls that must be wired in, many overhead crane owners choose to install a radio control system on their overhead crane to replace hard-wired controls. The new radio is typically a belly-box style, seen in figure 102, so it can be set on a desk or platform, or the operator's lap. However, there is no rule against installing a less-expensive hand-held style radio, like figure 103. The installation of a radio has quite a few benefits. When the overhead crane must be used for maintenance on processing machines, the operator can be on the floor at the machine, rather than in the cab. When a technician must go up on the crane to troubleshoot the control panel, he can take the radio control up with him, in order to expedite troubleshooting the overhead crane. When the transmitter wears out, it can be sent out for

repairs, while the back-up transmitter is used. Hard-wired controls cannot be immediately swapped like transmitters can. Although no system is fool-proof, the replacement of hard-wired controls with a radio system in the cab can allow flexibility and reduced down-time of the overhead crane. It's easy to specify a radio control system for your overhead crane. Follow the easy steps below, and call 1-800-CRANE-58.

Steps to Specifying a Radio Control System

- Tell us the approximate year of your overhead crane.
- Tell us how many motions your overhead crane has (ie, hoist, bridge, trolley)
- Specify if you have a preference for belly-box (fig 102) or hand-held (fig 103)
- Tell us if the crane operates in a hazardous environment, or if it requires explosion-proof capabilities.