

Rebar Cage Assembly and Placement JHA

Worked instructional example

Work and worksite

A reinforcing crew will assemble a freestanding column cage on a supported ground-level jig, lift it with the specified rigging arrangement and secure it in a released foundation location. This fictional learning example records planned controls; it supplies no actual inspections or work authorization.

- The cage design identifies assembly supports, lifting points and temporary stability at the receiving location.
- The lift and receiving-area access must be planned with the erection and foundation crews.
- This excludes climbing reinforcement, work inside an unprotected excavation and slab-mat installation.

Questions before work

- What supports the cage during assembly, rotation and placement?
- Which lifting points are designed for the assembled cage?
- How is the cage secured before the crane releases it?

Task Hazard Control

1 Release the assembly and receiving areas

Hazard: Unstable ground or an unprotected receiving area can expose workers to collapse or falls.

Control: Foreperson confirms the supported assembly location and a protected receiving work area. Obtain any separate excavation and access release before placement.

Verification: Walk both locations and check support and access evidence.

Reasoning: Safe assembly does not establish safe receiving conditions.

2 Stage bars and build on the jig

Hazard: Rolling bars, projecting steel and an unstable partial cage can injure the crew.

Control: Restrain stock, protect impalement exposure and use the specified jig and temporary assembly supports. Arrange tying positions without standing inside an unstable cage.

Verification: Lead checks restraints and support as the cage develops.

Reasoning: A partially tied cage can move before it is ready to lift.

3 Check the completed cage and lift points

Hazard: Tie-wire joints or an unintended lifting point can fail during handling.

Control: Use the designed cage lifting arrangement and complete required assembly checks. Qualified rigging personnel confirm gear and lifting-point suitability; hold the lift if the load path is unclear.

Verification: Match the completed cage and lifting arrangement to current documents.

Reasoning: Tie wire is not automatically a designed lifting connection.

Complete the work and hand over

4 Lift and control the cage

Hazard: The cage can rotate, deform or strike workers.

Control: Clear the lift path, use agreed signals and the planned control method, and keep people outside the moving cage and suspended-load zone. Stop for unexpected shape change.

Verification: Lift lead monitors the cage from a safe position throughout movement.

Reasoning: Flexible cages may behave differently from rigid fabricated loads.

5 Place and secure the cage

Hazard: A vertical cage can overturn or trap a worker at its base.

Control: Land on the released support and install specified temporary restraint before crane release. Use tools and designated positions that avoid the cage's fall and pinch paths.

Verification: Erection lead verifies receiving support and restraint against the plan before unrigging.

Reasoning: Vertical reinforcing steel needs adequate support against collapse.

6 Protect and hand over

Hazard: Unprotected projections or changed support can injure subsequent crews.

Control: Maintain impalement protection and temporary restraint, identify unfinished connections and communicate loading and access restrictions.

Verification: Foreperson checks protection and support status with the receiving crew.

Reasoning: The placed cage remains an exposure until the next phase protects it.

Pause and reassess

- Assembly support, cage shape or lifting-point evidence changes.
- Receiving access or excavation protection is unresolved.
- The cage moves, deforms or cannot be secured as planned.

Improve the controls

Needs improvement: Be careful around the equipment.

More useful: Use the designed cage lifting arrangement and complete required assembly checks. Qualified rigging personnel confirm gear and lifting-point suitability; hold the lift if the load path is unclear.

Needs improvement: Check the area before starting.

More useful: Foreperson confirms the supported assembly location and a protected receiving work area. Obtain any separate excavation and access release before placement.

Decisions that change the analysis

Can the slab rebar example be reused without changes?

It can provide handling background, but a freestanding cage adds assembly stability, a designed lift and support before crane release. Those decisions are outside the published slab-mat example.

What must be recorded before this example is used on a job?

Replace the scenario with the actual work, identify additional hazards with the crew, and record the applicable instructions, responsible people, inspection findings, unresolved actions and required authorization. A planned verification is not an inspection result.

Training needs

- Cage assembly and temporary support for the actual design.
- Applicable rigger, signal-person and crane roles; task briefing does not establish qualifications.

Confirm applicable qualifications and actual training evidence for the people assigned. Related toolbox talks support discussion; they do not establish competence.

References and adaptation

OSHA 1926.703 Cast in place concrete and reinforcing steel
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.703>

OSHA 1926.701 General concrete construction requirements
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.701>

OSHA 1926.21 Safety training and education
<https://www.osha.gov/laws-regs/regulations/standardnumber/1926/1926.21>

References reviewed October 9, 2026. Use actual equipment and product instructions, project design and site requirements. This instructional example supplies no actual inspection results, signatures or work approval.