

## 3.2: Competent Person

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### OSHA's Competent Person

Section 1926.32 defines a "competent person" as one who is capable of identifying existing and predictable hazards in the surroundings or working conditions which are unsanitary, hazardous, or dangerous to employees, and who has authorization to take prompt corrective measures to eliminate them. Keep in mind that the requirements of a competent person are different from standard to standard. A person can be a competent person for the purposes of Subpart P, Excavations, but not for Subpart N, Cranes. The other critical component of the definition is that the competent person must be capable of taking "prompt corrective measures" to eliminate any hazards. If the person has the knowledge, but not the authority to correct, they cannot be the competent person.

### Acceptable Certifications

Some critical facility or plant equipment designed in accordance with engineering design and fabrication standards are required to have certifications that ensure worker safety.

#### Pressure vessels

Current and valid certification by an insurance company or regulatory authority shall be deemed as acceptable evidence of safe installation, inspection, and testing of pressure vessels provided by the employer.

#### Boilers

Boilers provided by the employer shall be deemed to be in compliance with the requirements of this part when evidence of current and valid certification by an insurance company or regulatory authority attesting to the safe installation, inspection, and testing is presented.

#### Other requirements

Regulations prescribing specific requirements for other types of pressure vessels and similar equipment are contained in Subparts F and O of this part.

#### Incorporation by reference

[See discussion in chapter 1.](#)

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