Crane Manufacturers Association of America (CMAA) Crane Duty Classifications

CMAA Classification	Description	Further Explanation
Class A	Standby or infrequent service	This class normally includes installation and maintenance cranes. This equipment usually operates at slow speeds for precise handling with long idle periods between lifts. Maximum capacity lifts are sometimes required.
Class B	Light service	This class of crane is used in repair shops, light assembly operations, service buildings, light warehousing etc. Service requirement is light and speeds are slow. Loads vary from none to occasional full capacity. Lifts per hour would range from 2 to 5, and average 10 feet per lift.
Class C	Moderate service	In terms of numbers, most cranes are built to meet Class C service requirements. This service covers cranes that may be used in machine shops or paper mill machine rooms. In this type of service, the crane will handle loads that average 50% of the rated capacity with 5 to 10 lifts per hour averaging 15 feet. Not over 50% of the loads are at rated capacity.
Class D	Heavy service	This service covers cranes which may be used in heavy machine shops, foundries, fabricating plants, steel warehouses, container yards, lumber mills and standard duty bucket and magnet operations where heavy duty production is required. In this type of service, loads approaching 50% of the rated capacity will be handled constantly during the work period. High speeds are desirable for this type of service with 10-20 lifts per hour averaging 15 feet, not over 65% of the lifts at rated capacity.
Class E	Severe service	This type of service is reserved for top riding bridge and gantry type multiple girder electric overhead traveling cranes and requires a crane capable of handling loads approaching rated capacity throughout it's life. Applications may include magnet, bucket, magnet/bucket combination cranes for scrap yards, cement mills, lumber mills, fertilizer plants and container handling with 20 or more lifts per hour at or near the rated capacity.
Class F	Continuous severe service	This type of service is reserved for top riding bridge and gantry type multiple girder electric overhead traveling cranes and requires a crane capable of handling loads approaching rated capacity throughout it's life. Applications include custom designed specialty cranes essential to performing the critical work tasks affecting the total production facility. These cranes must provide the highest reliability with special attention to ease of maintenance features.

