

010601

**REPORT TO THE CHAIRS OF THE
HOUSE COMMERCE, JOBS AND ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT POLICY COMMITTEE
AND THE
SENATE JOBS, HOUSING AND COMMUNITY
DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE**

RECEIVED

DEC 20 2001

LEGISLATIVE REFERENCE LIBRARY
STATE HOUSE BUILDING

Crane operator certification task force

Minnesota Department of Labor and Industry

December 12, 2001

BACKGROUND

During the 2001 session, legislation was passed that asked the Department of Labor and Industry to set up a task force to study ways to ensure the safe operation of cranes and report to the chairs of our policy committees with recommendations. Chapter 177 of Minnesota 2001 Session laws states:

The commissioner of labor and industry shall study ways to ensure the safe operation of cranes on construction sites. The commissioner shall form a task force with interested parties and stakeholders during this study including, but not limited to, the Minnesota Building and Construction Trades Council and related contractor organizations.

By January 15, 2002, the commissioner shall report to the chairs of the policy committees with jurisdiction over labor issues, recommendations of the task force on ways to achieve the safe operation of cranes on construction sites through certification and other requirements, including any possible legislative or administrative changes.

TASK FORCE

Assistant Commissioner Roslyn Wade convened a task force to share experiences and ideas about whether any state action should be taken and if so what actions can be taken to ensure the safe operation of cranes. The task force met four times during the summer and fall of 2001. The group consisted of representatives of union and non-union crane operators, contractors, crane owners, building and construction trade associations, certification experts and state-employed and private sector employed operators. A list of task force members can be found at Attachment A.

The group shared information regarding crane-related legislation that has been implemented in other states and municipalities, legislation introduced and discussed in this state in previous years and training programs used throughout the country.

Adequate training for operators of heavy machinery is required by OSHA, however the task force members all agreed that there should be something beyond this requirement. The members believe there should be training and testing requirements that are crane specific. All members agreed that machinery is becoming more sophisticated and without proper training and knowledge about the machinery's operation, safety on and around a worksite is compromised.

The task force had considerable discussion about the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO). This national commission was started by a group of volunteers funded by members representing trade organizations and specialized carriers and rigging associations. The purpose of this commission was to develop an independent crane certifications program. The NCCCO's Board of Directors is made up of individuals that represent contractors,

unions, regulatory agencies, manufacturers, and training consultants, to name a few.

The NCCCO certification program's role is to: 1) verify the crane operator's physical condition to operate the crane; 2) verify the individual's knowledge of crane operation, and, 3) verify the operator's skill. In order to accomplish these objectives, the NCCCO developed a three part testing system that encompasses written, practical and physical exams. The role of NCCCO is to test and to certify crane operators. NCCCO does not participate in any training of operators. All training of the operators is done separately through a variety of other programs. Further information about the NCCCO is also attached. The federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration has signed an agreement with the NCCCO that recognizes the certification program as meeting the requirements for crane operator qualifications. There are other certification programs in existence, but many members of the task force felt strongly that in order to maintain integrity of the certification process, the testing and certification entity should be a separate entity from the training entity.

The majority of the group did not believe individuals in greater Minnesota would be hindered in access to training. Some greater Minnesota technical colleges do offer heavy equipment operator courses, including crane specific courses. In addition, the NCCCO is available to administer the practical exam nearly anywhere in the state.

Based on the input of the task force members, it was clear that the majority of the group had confidence in the certification process that is provided by the NCCCO. Some members expressed concerns that by placing a requirement in the law that specifies one particular certification entity, entities that may provide similar adequate certification procedures in the future would be precluded from meeting the requirements of the law. Others in the group acknowledged that if those other entities in the future established similar certification procedures, they would need to seek a statutory change to have their services considered to be an appropriate certifying operation. Language was added to the suggested statutory changes that would allow another entity's certification to also meet the requirements of the law so long as that certifying entity has been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. This was added in order to strike a balance between not specifying one particular entity as a valid certifying body and ensuring integrity of the certification process by maintaining a separation between the training entity and the testing/certification entity.

Based on the task force's discussions, the group believes that requiring an operator to have NCCCO certification, or another nationally accredited agency's certification, in order to operate certain cranes would be a step toward ensuring the safe operation of cranes on a worksite. If the legislature chooses to pursue implementing a NCCCO certification requirement, the task force suggests that language be added to the Occupational Safety and Health chapter (182) that would prohibit the operation of a crane by an individual who does not have such certification. A violation of this requirement may be treated as a serious OSHA violation and penalized as such. Language that would accomplish this can be found at Attachment B.

Not all participants in the task force were in agreement. Although some members agree with the contents of this report, a number of members are not in support. Some

of the reasons given for non-support or opposition to the report include:

- Employers are already required under the law to ensure a safe workplace, which includes ensuring that individuals who operate dangerous or heavy equipment have the adequate training and experience. Adding a certification requirement is merely one more government regulation that individuals will have to follow. This requirement is redundant considering other safety and training requirements already in the law.
- The Department of Labor and Industry should license operators of cranes instead of having certification by an outside entity.
- The report as put forward by the department does not contain needed exemptions for certain operators and industries.
- Crane certification will be an unfunded mandate upon state and local governments who have employees that operate cranes.
- The draft language goes farther than the original proponents in the legislature intended. The focus previously was on addressing crane operations in the construction industry, while the department's report extends to all worksites where a crane may be in operation.

ATTACHMENT A

TASK FORCE PARTICIPANTS

Anderson, Jim	International Brotherhood of Electric Workers (IBEW) Local 160
Anfang, Dick	Building and Construction Trades Council
Carlson, Roger	Operating Engineers Local 49
Coover, Elizabeth	Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)
Davis, Kristin	Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)
DeLeo, Jim	Truck Crane Service
Erickson, Dave	Operating Engineers Local 49
Gilderhus, Matt	Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)
Grev, Jason	Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)
Groshens, Charlie	Minnesota Department of Transportation
Harness, Noel	Ridgewater Technical College
Koehler, Tom	International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local 160
Kohner, Ron	Landmark Engineering Services, Ltd.
Kramer, Keith	Associated General Contractors (AGC)
Krohn, Rich	Associated General Contractors (AGC)
Lehto, Brad	Minnesota AFL-CIO
Loge, Gary	Associated Builders and Contractors (ABC)
Maursetter, Rick	Duininck Brothers, Inc.
McCormick, David	McC., Inc.
Thompson, Larry	Minnesota Department of Transportation
Williams, John	Minneapolis Building and Construction Trades

ATTACHMENT B

SUGGESTED STATUTORY LANGUAGE

Section 1. 182.6525 **CRANE OPERATION**

No employer or general contractor may permit an individual to operate a crane unless the employee has a valid crane operator certificate issued by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators or an entity accredited for crane operator certification by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies. For purposes of this section "crane" means a power-operated hoisting machine that is used in construction, demolition, or excavation work, that has a power-operated winch and load line, and that has a power-operated boom that moves laterally by the rotation of the machine on a carrier. "Crane" does not include a forklift, a digger derrick truck, or a bucket truck.

An individual who is operating a crane on a worksite shall provide proof of certification upon request by an OSHA investigator.

An employer or general contractor may permit an individual to operate the crane so long as the individual has passed the written portion of the certification exam within the previous 12 months and is supervised on site by an individual who has a valid crane operator certificate. The individual must be able to present upon request written evidence of successful completion of the written exam.

An employer or general contractor may be cited by the commissioner for a violation of the certification requirements in this section. A citation is punishable as a serious violation under section 182.666.

Section 2. **Effective date.**

Section 1 is effective January 1, 2004.



OSHA Signs Agreement with CCO National Crane Operator Certification Program Recognized

WASHINGTON, DC, FEBRUARY 26, 1999 – The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) signed an Agreement today officially recognizing the CCO national crane operator certification program.

The Agreement marks the first time OSHA has recognized a private sector industry group as meeting its requirements for crane operator qualifications, and it provides significant incentives for employers who have their operators certified through the national CCO program. There is currently no federal requirement for crane operators to be licensed.

"From my personal experience, [crane operator certification] is very much needed," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Charles N. Jeffress. "It's very important to make sure that the folks handling this equipment be well trained."

With the development of the CCO national crane operator program, Jeffress said, OSHA was now able to say to contractors "we require your folks be trained and if you can show us that if they have this certification from the Commission then we will accept your word that they are trained."

Jeffress said that OSHA had been striving to find ways to become more aware of training issues. "I want to say how much I appreciate what [CCO] has done. This kind of certification will help us reduce the number of accidents that occur with cranes."

Russell Bruce Swanson, Director of OSHA's Directorate of Construction commented: "The requirement for certification will cause people to get the training that is necessary to make the job sites safer. With our goal to reduce fatalities in the construction industry by 15% by 2002, I would see this Agreement as a real important building block along that road."

One of the strengths of the CCO certification program was that it separated those who had the necessary knowledge and skills from those who

did not. "Frankly, some folks had to swallow real hard with this concept because, when you certify people, not everybody is going to pass the test," Swanson said. "But we have to look beyond that and see that the requirement for certification will cause people to get the training that is necessary to make the job site safer."

The Signing Ceremony, held at the Department of Labor in Washington, DC was witnessed by senior representatives from many sectors of industry in what was described by Swanson as "an impressive show of support." Labor and management, union as well as open shop firms and organizations, and other government departments were equally represented.

"This is a great day for crane safety," said CCO President, Davis J. Lauve, President of Nichols Construction Corporation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. "OSHA's recognition of the CCO crane operator certification program should have a significant and sustained impact on the safety of all who work with or around cranes."

"The signing of this Agreement is also a tribute to the dedication of the hundreds of volunteers from all sectors of industry who have worked long and hard over the last 12 years to turn the dream of a national crane operator certification program into reality," Lauve added.

General President of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Frank Hanley said: "This will go down as one of the best things we have ever done in the field of safety." Part of its strength he said came from the fact that the CCO program was supported by all sectors of industry. "We wanted this done across the board," he said. "I think you will all be happy that some day you will be able to say, 'I was part of this.'"



Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Charles N. Jeffress: OSHA is now able to say to contractors "we require your folks be trained and if you can show us that if they have this certification from the Commission then we will accept your word that they are trained."

CCO certification will "reduce the number of accidents that occur with cranes, helping us achieve our overall goal of a 15% reduction in construction industry fatalities by the year 2002." Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Charles N. Jeffress, signs the OSHA/CCO Agreement while Russell Bruce Swanson, Director of OSHA's Directorate of Construction looks on.



The Agreement Between OSHA and CCO:

What Does it Mean?

The Agreement is a voluntary cooperative action between representatives of the crane industry and OSHA to recognize crane operator certification issued by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators, NCCCO.

The ability of crane operators to safely operate mobile cranes plays a major role in overall safety on most construction sites. The Agreement provides a non-regulatory means of recognizing the CCO program as

validating the competency and certifying the qualifications of crane operators.

What benefits does the Agreement provide for employers adopting the CCO program?

- OSHA compliance safety and health officers, when performing inspections or accident investigations, will recognize CCO certification as verification of crane operator qualifications.
- The presence of CCO-certified crane operators on a job site will

be an indicator to compliance officers that the crane is being operated by someone with demonstrated knowledge and ability.

- The requirement for CCO certified crane operators on a project will be an indication of the contractors' commitment to an effective safety and health program, and contribute to the project's qualification for a "Focused Inspection."

What were the main factors in OSHA's decision to recognize the CCO program?

- The CCO program meets the qualifications criteria outlined in ANSI/ASME B30.5:3-1-1995, Qualifications for and Conduct of Operators and Operating Practices.
- It is an objective and independent assessment of the skills and knowledge of crane operators.

How is CCO Structured?

The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO) has been structured to allow fair representation from all industries that use cranes. This is reflected at all three major levels of the organization including: the Board of Directors, Commissioners, and Committees.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Board members serve a three-year term. Officers are re-elected annually. The Board establishes policy and sets strategic goals.

PRESIDENT: Davis Lauve, Nichols Construction Corporation

VICE PRESIDENT: Ronald Schad, Essex Crane Rental Corp.

SECRETARY/TREASURER: Leon "Skip" Johnson, AMECO

IMMEDIATE PAST PRESIDENT: Carson Huneycutt, J.A. Jones Construction Co.

CHAIRMAN, COMMISSIONERS: Kerry Hulse, Deep South Crane & Rigging Co.

Stephen Brown, International Union of Operating Engineers

John Clafin, Link-Belt Construction Equipment Co.

Garry Higdem, Granite Construction Co.

Robert Steiner, Kelley Equipment Co. of Florida, Inc.

COMMISSIONERS

CCO has provision for 25 Commissioners representing 10 broad industry groups that make policy recommendations and oversee the activities of the four main committees that report to it. Commissioners are also entitled to nominate one individual to serve as an alternate to the main member. Current Commissioners and Alternates include:

Tom Broderick, Construction Safety Council

Stephen Brown, International Union of Operating Engineers

Jeffrey Bust, Grove Worldwide

John Clafin, Link-Belt Construction Equipment

Joseph Collins, Zachry Construction

Dale Daul, St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Co.

Larry DeMark, IUOE, Local 825

Paul Doran, Essex Crane Rental Corp.

Dennis Eckstine, Grove Worldwide

Donald Frantz, IUOE, Local 18

Gary Ganton, IUOE, Local 324

John Gregory, International Union of Operating Engineers

John Hellums, ExxonMobil Corp.

Kerry Hulse, Deep South Crane & Rigging

John Kennedy, Manitowoc Cranes, Inc.

Ron Kohner, Landmark Engineering Services

Anthony Lusi, IUOE, Local 542

Gerry McCarthy, American International Group (AIG)

Gene Owens, Granite Construction

James Richardson, Navy Crane Center

David Ritchie, St. Paul Fire & Marine Insurance Co.

Richard Rossi, Maxim Crane Works

J. Chris Ryan, Boh Brothers

Stanley Schoenewald, AmQuip Corporation

Douglas Sidelinger, Cianbro Corp.

William Smith, OSHA

Carl Springfels, Florida International University

William Stramer, Link-Belt Construction Equipment

Jorge Vial, Vial Equipment Sales & Service

Ellis Vliet, Nichols Construction Corp

J.R. Williams, Maxim Crane Works

Paul Zorich, RZP International

COMMITTEES

CCO has five main Committees, some of which also have Task Forces and Work Groups assigned to specific projects:

Written Exam Management Committee: responsible for monitoring and participating in the development of crane operator certification written examinations; suggesting revisions to CCO's testing procedures; working with and monitoring the administration of written exams; overseeing item writers; monitoring and overseeing CCO's testing activities; and collecting data necessary for psychometrically-sound examinations.

Practical Exam Management Committee: responsible for monitoring and participating in the development of crane operator certification practical examinations; suggesting revisions to CCO's testing procedures; working with and monitoring the administration of practical exams; monitoring and overseeing CCO's testing activities; and collecting data necessary for psychometrically sound examinations.

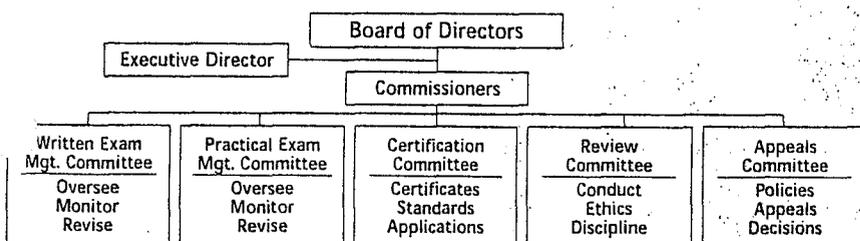
Certification Committee: responsible for developing and administering minimum certification standards for certification and recertification of crane operators, including: establishing minimum certification and recertification requirements; reviewing and monitoring processing of applications; issuing certificates; and renewing certificates.

Review Committee is responsible for establishing and implementing standards of conduct, such as ethical standards, and policies and procedures for disciplinary action.

Appeals Committee is responsible for establishing policies and procedures for hearing appeals of decisions of the Certification Committee and Review Committee, and for hearing such appeals.



National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO)



CCO Tests: Valid and Reliable

To ensure the CCO examination was a psychometrically sound, fair and effective measurement of a crane operator's knowledge and skills, CCO teamed the expertise of its subject matter experts with one of the nation's leading professional credentialing organizations, Experior Assessments LLC.

Experior Assessments played a vital role in the development of the CCO tests, and continues to assist CCO in the administration and further development of written and practical examinations used in this national certification program.

This combination of crane knowledge and psychometric expertise, supplemented with input from OSHA and ANSI/ASME committees, is unprecedented in this industry.

Written Examination Development and Organization

The first step in the development of a fair and objective test was a "job analysis" study. By receiving input from over 100 crane experts, including operators, the study identified the knowledge necessary for safe crane operations. A survey was then given to several hundred crane operators, who validated that the knowledge recommended by the experts was vital to safe operations. The test "blueprints" or content specifications generated from the validation study were used to begin the item (question) writing process.

The CCO Written Core Examination consists of 90 multiple-choice items; each Specialty Examination consists of 26 multiple-choice items. Items have been developed by experts with knowledge and expertise in the area of crane operation. All items which appear on the examinations have been reviewed at least four times: (a) items are first reviewed by crane operation subject-matter experts for content relevance, competency level, and importance; (b) Experior staff reviews each item for psychometric quality; (c) Experior editorial staff reviews each item for grammar, spelling, and usage; and (d) additional panels of crane experts review and validate all items prior to approving them for inclusion on an examination.

Development of the written certification examinations (Core and Specialties) involves panels of crane operation content experts who work with the staff of Experior Assessments to write and review all questions used in the examinations. Each examination contains a unique combination of items from the item bank; items are selected for the examination on the basis of

the content areas and Specialties as defined by the test blueprints. The content areas and the four Specialties have been developed through the original role delineation and serve to guarantee each Specialty test is consistent in difficulty and question content. Each of the written examination outlines (see the *Candidate Handbook*) is based on the crane operator validation study conducted by CCO in conjunction with Experior Assessments. Minimum passing scores are determined following test construction.

Each stage of this rigorous examination development process follows the standards established by the American Educational Research Association as outlined in its *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing*. These procedures are recognized by professional test developers nationwide in all professional disciplines. Their use by CCO and Experior Assessments ensures that only fair and reliable competency-based certification examinations are used in the assessment of crane operator competency.

Experior Assessments LLC, with 40 years' experience, successfully provides licensing exams to over 200,000 candidates a year. Experior develops and administers more than 1,000 different professional and occupational license and certification exams nationwide, including construction, cosmetology, mortgage brokering, chiropractic medicine, emergency medical service, medical laboratory work, real estate, recreational therapy, optometry, and more. Providing examination services to over 85% of the construction-trades market, Experior Assessments is the national leader in construction-related examination services. In terms of numbers of candidates tested, Experior Assessments is the second largest real-estate testing services provider in the country.

Experior Assessments has a long history of test development and administration for professional fields ranging from lead abatement to construction and from cosmetology to real estate. It is the national leader in state and local licensure and certification test development and administration. It can draw on Block and Associates' 40-year history in the construction trades and National Assessment Institute's 22 years of subject-matter knowledge depth. Experior Assessments provides its occupational licensure and certification exams in 16 Experior regional offices. Computer-based testing is available at over 300 Sylvan Technology Centers nationwide.



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF CRANE OPERATORS

2750 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 120 • Fairfax, Virginia 22031-4312 • 703/560-2391 Fax 703/560-2392 • www.nccco.org • info@nccco.org

CCO Certification Key Facts

- The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO) is an independent, not-for-profit organization incorporated in January 1995 to establish and administer a nationwide program for the certification of crane operators.
- Among the goals of CCO's nationwide certification program are: reduced risk of loss, fewer accidents, more consistent training, and expanded job opportunities for operators.
- CCO has the support of a wide and diverse group of crane-using industries such as construction, utilities, energy, steel erection, crane rental, petrochemical, and pulp/paper.
- CCO activities center around three specific areas:
 - 1) validating crane operators' knowledge and proficiency;
 - 2) developing and administering examinations to test that knowledge and proficiency; and,
 - 3) issuing certificates to those operators who meet the criteria for crane operator certification.
- CCO certification is designed to assure both industry and the general public that operators are skilled and knowledgeable.
- Features of the CCO program are that it is:
 - National in scope;
 - Operated by the private sector;
 - Independent of labor relations policies;
 - Tailored to different types of cranes;
 - Designed so certifications must be renewed every 5 years;
 - Tested in three parts: Medical, written and practical.
 - Accredited by a nationally recognized professional credentialing authority (NCCA)
 - Officially recognized by Federal OSHA
- Examinations are administered on demand at sites across the US. While a minimum of 15 candidates is usually required for a written examination, fewer candidates can be accommodated for a modest additional administrative fee.
- A Certificate of Competence is issued to those operators who meet the requirements of written, medical, and practical exams, demonstrating their fundamental knowledge of, and skill in, safe crane operation.
- The written examination consists of a Core Exam and four Specialty Exams. The Specialties are: Lattice Boom Truck Crane, Lattice Boom Crawler Crane, Telescopic Boom Crane < 17.5 tons; and Telescopic Boom Crane > 17.5 tons.
- Cost of the written examination is \$150 which includes the Core Exam and one Specialty Examination. Each additional Specialty Examination is \$5.
- In its first five years, CCO tested more than 13,000 operators at 500 separate CCO test administrations in 45 states, a significant step toward its goal of ensuring an informed, trained and qualified population of crane operators throughout the nation.
- On February 26, 1999, the CCO national crane operator certification program was recognized by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration as meeting OSHA's requirements for crane operator competency. The formal Agreement between OSHA and CCO, the only one of its kind between a private sector organization and a government agency in this field, provides significant benefits for employers who adopt the CCO certification program.



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF CRANE OPERATORS

2750 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 120 • Fairfax, Virginia 22031-4312 • 703/560-2391 Fax 703/560-2392 • www.nccco.org • info@nccco.org

What is Certification?

Certification is essentially the final link in a process designed to educate people in the correct way to operate cranes. Informed operators make less mistakes, and therefore have fewer accidents, than those with less or inferior knowledge.

Accredited by:

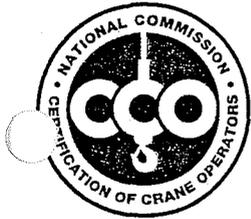


However, while certification generally involves some form of testing, not all testing qualifies as certification. For example, while training is clearly essential to a valid certification process, care must be taken to ensure the two functions remain separate. And an improperly developed certification is worse than no certification at all, creating a false sense of security both among those who have it, and those who rely on it for hiring purposes.

Fortunately, industry guidelines for certification have been established by an independent credentialing authority, the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). NCCA is an independent not-for-profit organization set up the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) to establish industry guidelines for professional certifying organizations.



In April 1998, CCO received a five-year accreditation from NCCA, recognizing that the CCO program meets or exceeds NCCA's exacting standards for certification competency. *CCO is the only crane operator certification program accredited by a nationally recognized credentialing authority.* Less than a year later, OSHA referenced this accreditation by NCCA in its formal agreement signed with CCO.



The NCCA requirements, though strict, are designed to give assurance to those who use a program that the tests are a fair, sound and valid assessment of the knowledge and skills they are intended to measure. Among these requirements are the following:

- The certification organization must be a "third-party" entity, i.e. separate from training.
- The certification program must be operated by a not-for-profit organization.
- The certifying organization must have a governing body which includes individuals from the discipline being certified.

So, while CCO does not offer training, it does provide an objective means of verifying that training has been effective—that learning has, in fact, taken place. Only third-party, independent certification can do this, and then only if it has been validated by the industry it is intended for, and recognized as psychometrically sound by certification specialists. CCO has met all these criteria.

The key elements of the CCO program are that it:

- actively encourages training, yet is separate from it
- verifies that training has been effective
- was developed in a non-regulatory environment
- is modeled on ANSI/ASME consensus lines
- meets recognized professional credentialing criteria
- has participation from all industry sectors

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF CRANE OPERATORS

2750 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 120 • Fairfax, Virginia 22031-4312 • 703/560-2391 Fax 703/560-2392 • www.nccco.org • info@nccco.org

Certification: A Vital Role in Crane Safety

Welcome to the national program of crane operator certification developed and administered by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO). By providing a thorough, independent assessment of operator knowledge and skills, CCO aims to enhance lifting equipment safety, reduce workplace risk, improve performance records, stimulate training, and give due recognition to the professional skill of crane operation.

CCO was formed in January 1995 as a not-for-profit corporation to develop effective performance standards for safe crane operation to assist all segments of general industry and construction. The establishment of CCO was the culmination of almost 10 years continuous work by representatives of all industries that use cranes. In essence, the CCO program was developed by industry for industry, and continues to be supported by it.

This diversity continues to be reflected through CCO's Commissioners and Board of Directors who represent such groups as: contractors, labor unions, rental firms, owners, government, regulatory and standards-setting agencies, steel erectors, manufacturers, equipment distributors, construction firms, training consultants, and insurance companies.

The wealth of crane knowledge these experts have brought to this effort has been coupled with the psychometric expertise of one of the nation's most prestigious credentialing organizations, Experior Assessments LLC. Experior Assessments played a

crucial role in the development of the CCO program and continues to assist in the administration and further development of CCO written and practical examinations.

This pooling of crane-related experience and knowledge has been supplemented with input from the Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) as well as the ANSI/ASME committees that developed and revise the B30 crane standard. The result is a sound, valid and effective test of an operator's proficiency.

On February 26, 1999, the CCO national crane operator certification program was recognized by the Occupational Safety & Health Administration as meeting OSHA's requirements for crane operator competency. The formal Agreement between OSHA and CCO, the only one of its kind between a private sector organization and a government agency in this field, provides significant benefits for employers who adopt the CCO certification program.

Clearly, everyone—employers, operators, and the general public—has much to gain from ensuring only qualified people operate cranes. If you'd like to learn more about how the CCO operator certification program can work for you—or if you'd like to take the test, enroll others for the test, or have your company set up as a test site—just contact CCO at (703) 560-2391; fax: (703) 560-2392; info@nccco.org; www.nccco.org.



NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF CRANE OPERATORS

2750 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 120 • Fairfax, Virginia 22031-4312 • 703/560-2391 Fax 703/560-2392 • www.nccco.org • info@nccco.org

Practical Exam Summary



- CCO Practical Examination consists of three categories:
 - Lattice Boom Cranes
 - Telescopic Boom Cranes of 17.5 tons capacity and below (fixed cab)
 - Telescopic Boom Cranes above 17.5 tons capacity (swing cab)
- Meets federal OSHA 29 CFR 1926.550 and ASME/ANSI B30.5(a)-1994.
- Comprises seven segments including four main tasks that increase progressively in skill level tested. Skills tested are: hoisting, booming, swinging, following hand signals, and combination (multi-function) operations. Operation is required with load and without load.
- Candidates must pass the Written Examination, meet Medical Criteria, and have at least 1,000 hours crane-related experience in the past five years before taking the Practical Exam. Crane-related experience is defined as: crane operation, inspection, maintenance, or training.
- Scoring system has been developed to remove subjectivity or bias by Examiner. Actual grading is done off-site by Experior Assessments LLC. Demerits are incurred by a combination of operational errors + time penalty.
- Exam and scoring system validated by Pilot Program and verified by Experior Assessments.
- Practical Examiners are trained and accredited by CCO through a 3-day Workshop Program. Examiner accreditation is specific to each of the three categories and is open to all CCO-certified individuals.
- Practical Exam is given on demand at host sites nationwide.
- Test site layout is adapted for each model of crane used to ensure test is standardized. CCO provides full details of test construction and layout for each test site.
- The Practical Exam was introduced during 1999 and became mandatory for CCO certification in January 2000. Operators certifying prior to that time, who did not take the Practical Exam, need to do so when they recertify.

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF CRANE OPERATORS

2750 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 120 • Fairfax, Virginia 22031-4312 • 703/560-2391 Fax 703/560-2392 • www.nccco.org • info@nccco.org