

Crane Tech Tips - a periodic newsletter

As of this writing, fifteen states, numerous cities and counties, and a large number of corporations require crane operators to be certified by a nationally recognized certification agency. **The National Commission for Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO)** was founded to provide a solution for this growing requirement and holds certifications under the National Commission for Certifying Agencies and the American National Standards Institute.

On November 9, 2010 the US Department of Labor's Office of Construction released an entirely new regulation addressing cranes in construction. OSHA 1926, Subpart CC details crane operator certification requirements, enumerates the written examination technical knowledge criteria, and provides direction for new requirements that address qualification for signal persons and riggers.

Certification of crane operators in construction becomes a mandatory requirement on November 10, 2014. However, in accordance with the training section of OSHA (1926.1430) the following statement details the



**Safety through
Education**

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Crane Operator Certification Method for Compliance

knowledge and skill requirements that must be accessed through both written and practical testing. See OSHA § 1926.1430(c)(2) "Transitional Period. During the four-year phase-in period for operator certification or qualification, as provided in § 1926.1427(k), employers must train each operator who has not yet been certified or qualified in the areas addressed in § 1926.1427(j)."

Because crane operators in construction must currently satisfy written and practical testing requirements, companies seeking compliance should consider the extra step of gaining certification now.

Following is an example of what can happen when crane operators sit for certification tests with either no training or abbreviated training.

California Adopts NCCCO:

- In 2003 the State of California passed legislation requiring all mobile crane operators to become certified through the NCCCO by June 2005.
- Not until April 2005 did the number of candidates rise from a national average of 3,000 per year to more than 12,000.
- The number of NCCCO test sites jumped from 437 in 2004 to 1,230 in 2005.
- Because candidates waited so long to gain certification little time was left for training. The pass rate for candidates in California dropped ten points below the national average. On one NCCCO written examination the average score plunged nearly 20 points.
- The end result was non-compliance for thousands of companies and excess costs for re-training and re-testing.

Crane Tech provides certification training under two formats; Open Enrollment Seminars that are held at our locations and On-Site training and certification at your location. All programs are presented by professional instructors who are NCCCO Certified operators (in

all categories) and NCCCO Licensed Practical Examiners.

Written testing is scheduled to immediately follow the technical training with practical examinations scheduled on the following day.

Certification by the NCCCO consists of each candidate taking a Core examination that covers general crane safety knowledge and one Specialty examination for each certification sought that consists of knowledge questions and load chart calculation questions. Each candidate must demonstrate their skills during a Practical examination for each certification sought.

The process consists of:

1. Determine the number of candidates who require certification.
2. Determine the certifications required for each candidate.
3. Select dates for training and testing.
4. Complete all application forms.
Note: Crane Tech takes care of all applications.

There are four mobile crane certifications

- Lattice Boom Crawler
- Lattice Boom Truck
- Large (Swing Cab) Telescopic Boom
- Small (Fixed Cab) Telescopic Boom

In addition to being an NCCCO Platinum Sponsor, Crane Tech supports the NCCCO by serving on the following committees and commission.

Mobile Crane Written Exam
Management Committee (Bo Collier)

Rigging Exam Management Committee
(Bo Collier)

Overhead Crane Exam Management
Committee (Bo Collier)

Articulating Crane Exam Management
Committee (Tony Dotto)

Active Commissioner, elected to a five-year term 2007 (Bo Collier)