

National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators

Q&A ON THE NEW CALIFORNIA CRANE OPERATOR CERTIFICATION REGULATION

When will crane operators in California have to be certified by?

From June 1, 2005, most mobile crane and tower crane operators must hold a valid certification in order to work in the state of California. The only exceptions are for operators of mobile cranes with a boom length of less than 25 feet or a maximum rated load capacity of less than 15,000 pounds. Also excluded are electric line trucks and cranes in marine terminals.

Will the state of California issue licenses?

No. The certifications can only be issued by a certifying entity that is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

What is the NCCA?

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) is an independent, third-party organization that has established rules and procedures for the development and administration of examinations. Compliance with these requirements ensures the certification is fair, valid and reliable for all candidates.

Is CCO accredited to issue California certifications?

Yes. The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) has been accredited by NCCA since 1998. CCO is also the only crane operator certification program recognized by both Cal-OSHA and federal OSHA, as well as numerous other federal agencies and industry organizations.

What does the certification process involve?

Crane operators who wish to be certified must pass a physical examination, a substance abuse test, and a valid and reliable written and practical examination for each type of crane that certification is desired.

How long is the certification good for?

Certification is valid for a maximum of five (5) years. At that time, crane operators must re-certify through the same examination process they used to certify originally. However, operators who can document at least 1,000 hours operating the type of crane they want to be certified for do not have to take the practical portion of the exam again.

Are trainees allowed to operate cranes?

Trainees may be authorized to operate cranes, provided they are under the direct supervision of a certified operator.

Should operators wait until June 2005 to get certified?

No! Because of the need to schedule written and practical examinations, operators and their employers should not delay in starting the certification process. All operators should ensure they have received adequate training before they sit for the examinations. Sufficient time must be allowed to successfully complete the training and certification process (including allowing for any retesting that may be necessary) before the June 2005 deadline