



CRANE OPERATOR CERTIFICATION & LICENSING

***NCCCO National Crane Operator and
Related Certification Programs***

Graham Brent, Executive Director, NCCCO

New York, NY, June 23, 2011

Founding Principles/Mission



- National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) established 1995 as a non-profit organization
- Focus on safe crane operation
- Measure knowledge and skills
- Provide information on need for, and benefits of, certification
- Develop & administer nationwide certification program
- Test standard level of competence
- Issue Certification of Competence

Participants in Certification Program Development



- Operators
- Equipment Inspectors
- Operator Training Companies
- Insurance Carriers
- Safety Specialists
- Construction Companies
- Consultants
- Contractors
- Trade Unions
- Crane Manufacturers
- ASME/ANSI B30 Members
- Crane Rental Firms
- Industrial Corporations
- Steel Erectors
- Educators
- Military Agencies
- OSHA

Role of Psychometricians



- Method of exam development and maintenance equally as important as exam content
- **International Assessment Institute (IAI)** assists in development and administration of CCO written and practical certification tests
- Ensure tests are valid and reliable and “psychometrically” sound
- Critical for fairness and legal defensibility
- Conduct “**Job Task Analysis**” which drives program blueprint

Key CCO Components



- Third-party, independent testing
- Industry developed and supported
- Joint labor/management effort
- Psychometrically sound
- Validated through peer review
- Standardized; Nationwide; Secure
- Nationally accredited (ANSI, NCCA)
- Recognized by Federal OSHA
- Meets OSHA and ASME Standards

Current Status



Since April 1996:

- More than 100,000 operators tested
- 500,000+ written/practical tests administered
- 65,000 certified
- In all 50 states

Certification Examinations



WRITTEN EXAMS

- Four Knowledge Areas
 - Site
 - Operation
 - Technical knowledge
 - Manufacturers' load charts
- 26 - 90 multiple-choice questions depending on test

PRACTICAL EXAMS

Nationwide exam sites

- By crane type

MEDICAL EVALUATION

- Attestation by candidate
- CCO form or DOT approved physical optional

ASME B30 Requirements



- Physical Qualifications
- Written Examination*
- Arithmetic Skills
- Load Chart Usage
- Operation 'Hands-on' Test*
- Re-qualification*

* = *also required by federal OSHA*

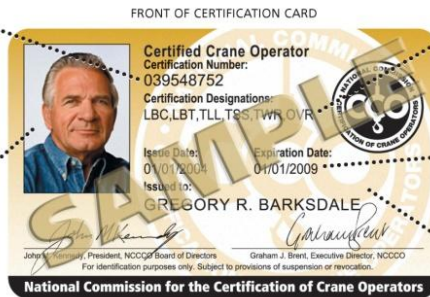
Certification ID Card



CCO Certification Card FACT SHEET

Certification Number:
Look for an eight (8) to nine (9) digit Certification Number

Color Photo:
Look for photo embedded in laminated card



Certification Designations:
This area specifies what categories of crane the individual is certified in

Issue and Expiration Dates:
These dates tell you if the certification card is valid

NCCCO Logo:
Look for the ghosted logo and shading on the card

Certification Code:
On the back of the card is an explanation of each certification category code



Verification:
If you have questions regarding the status of a candidate, please verify with our office using the contact info here

IMPORTANT

- NCCCO Certification Card is valid only in conjunction with a current DOT or NCCCO Medical Certificate
- Verify certification is current and in the appropriate crane categories
- Check card for irregularities
- Never accept a photocopy of a CCO card as proof of certification
- Contact NCCCO if in doubt!



Available Certifications



- Mobile Crane Operator
 - Telescopic Boom—Fixed Cab (TSS)
 - Telescopic Boom—Swing Cab (TLL)
 - Lattice Boom Truck (LBT)
 - Lattice Boom Crawler (LBC)
- Articulating Crane Operator
 - Articulating Boom Crane (ABC)
 - Articulating Boom Crane w/Winch (ABW)
 - Articulating Boom Loader (ABL)
- Tower Crane Operator
- Overhead Crane Operator
- Washington State Crane Certifier
- Signalperson
- Rigger
 - Level I
 - Level II



In Development



- Crane Inspector (2011)
- Lift Supervisor (2012)
- Digger Derrick Operator (2012)



Test Administration



- Written Exam
- Practical Exam
- Score Reporting
- Retest/Rescore Options
- Recertification





Written Tests: Mobile Crane

- Core Exam: 90 questions – 90 minutes
- Specialty Exams: 26 questions – 55 minutes
- Specialty Exam Types:
 - Telescoping Boom: Fixed Cab (TSS)
 - Telescoping Boom: Swing Cab (TLL)
 - Lattice Boom: Truck (LBT)
 - Lattice Boom: Crawler (LBC)



Written Tests: Tower Crane

- Single test
- 55 multiple choice questions
- 60 minutes time limit
- Take before *or* after practical exam



Written Test Considerations

- Test is in English
- Formal training is best option
 - Few operators can pass without it
 - Study guides have some value, but typically ineffective without classroom training
- Who has trouble?
 - Language issues (terminology + literacy + ESL)
 - Learning disabilities

Practical Exam



- Take on type of crane for which certification is sought
- 1,631 active test sites, 8,073 cranes registered nationwide
- Testing available through:
 - Permanent Test Site
 - Employer
 - Union Training Center
 - Association/Organization Facilities
- Practical Examiners trained by NCCCO
- QA/Integrity Control through:
 - Test process: scoring/notification/candidate interaction
 - Probationary Period
 - Audit Program
 - Retraining and Reauthorization Program

Practical Exam



- Test crane/Test site Approval Process
- Site and test equipment construction rigorously controlled
- Unique CAD issued for every crane/site by SN
- Prior notice to test not required
- Practical Examiner:
 - Verifies test site/crane configuration
 - Records candidate performance
- No scoring onsite
- Results mailed to candidate

Recertification



- Every five (5) years
- Shorter written exam than initial
- Practical Test required only if less than 1,000 hours experience
- Computer-Based Testing Option (CBT)

Practical Exam Audit Program



- Auditors hand-picked by NCCCO based on demonstrated integrity, knowledge, expertise
- Must be CCO Certified, Practical Examiner in good standing
- Trained by NCCCO through dedicated program
- Audit “Triggers”
- Audits may be:
 - Announced
 - Unannounced
 - “Secret Shopper”
- Examiners subject to suspension or revocation



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