

# Professional Safety

Journal of the American Society of Safety Engineers



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## OSHA's Crane Rule Reopening, NCCCO Answers Questions

National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) has issued a Top 10 list of frequently asked questions and answers regarding the reopening of OSHA's Crane Rule (for the complete list, visit [www.nccco.org/RuleReopeningFAQ.html](http://www.nccco.org/RuleReopeningFAQ.html)). OSHA announced on May 22, 2013, it plans to extend the compliance date for its crane operator certification requirement to Nov. 10, 2017.

By partially reopening the crane rule, OSHA will address at least two industry concerns. One is the "certifying by capacity" requirement, which stakeholders at an April meeting cited as a problem because capacity is not the only factor crane operators must be tested on. The other issue revolves around misunderstandings regarding whether certification is equivalent to qualification, which according to NCCCO Executive Director Graham Brent occurred when OSHA added a clause to the proposed rule stating that certification by crane type and capacity makes operators qualified for particular pieces of equipment.

NCCCO is urging OSHA to pursue the rulemaking as quickly as possible. However, publishing proposed rulemaking to reopen the rule will likely take anywhere from 1 to 5 years. Other questions NCCCO addresses in the Top 10 list include inquiries about whether previous CCO certifications will remain valid and whether OSHA's Crane Rule affects state licensing and certification.

For more information, visit [www.osha.gov/cranes-derricks/stakeholders.html](http://www.osha.gov/cranes-derricks/stakeholders.html).