

# CERTIFICATION NEWS



## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact:

Graham Brent, Executive Director

National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators

2750 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 505, Fairfax, VA 22031

[gbrent@nccco.org](mailto:gbrent@nccco.org)

[www.nccco.org](http://www.nccco.org)

(703) 560-2391 ext. 205

## NCCCO Stands Behind Substance Abuse Policy

*“Recreational Use” Laws Have No Impact on Certification Requirements*

Fairfax, VA, March 20, 2013—The [National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators](http://www.nccco.org) (NCCCO) today confirmed that its substance abuse policy remains in full force and effect. The statement was issued in light of the recently passed initiatives in Colorado and Washington permitting the use of marijuana for so-called “recreational” purposes.

The [NCCCO Substance Abuse Policy](#), as set forth in NCCCO's candidate handbooks, prohibits the use of illegal drugs, prescriptions, and any controlled substances that would impair the ability of individuals to perform their duties safely. This includes marijuana, whether used recreationally or prescribed for medical use.

“We wanted to make it perfectly clear that state initiatives regarding marijuana will have no bearing on the requirement that CCO-certified personnel comply with NCCCO’s Substance Abuse Policy as well as the substance abuse testing provisions of the ASME B30 standard,” said NCCCO Executive Director, Graham Brent. “It is a condition of certification that lifting personnel certified by NCCCO attest to their compliance with its Substance Abuse Policy.”

Non-compliance with the policy automatically revokes a candidate’s certification status, he said.

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The [National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators](http://www.nccco.org) (NCCCO) is an independent, non-profit organization established in 1995 by industry to develop and administer a nationwide program for the certification of crane operators and related personnel. Since then, NCCCO has administered over 700,000 nationally accredited written and practical examinations and issued more than 130,000 certifications in all 50 states.