

National Crane Operator Program Receives Accreditation from Foremost Industry Organization

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Fairfax, Virginia, June 24, 1998-The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO) has received accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) for its national crane operator certification program. The accreditation is good through the year 2003.

The award is the most coveted in the certification industry. Only a small number of certification programs are ever able to demonstrate compliance with NCCA's exacting standards, and even fewer are granted accreditation for the full five-year period, the maximum NCCA awards.

"If there was an ISO 9000 of certification," said CCO President, Carson Huneycutt, "then NCCA accreditation would be that standard." Huneycutt said employers, contractors, construction firms, and other users of crane services could be confident that CCO certification now carries the backing of the certification industry's own "stamp of approval."

"What NCCA accreditation means in the field is that when an operator presents his CCO Certification Card, an employer can be confident he is being told something about the competency of that person that has been independently measured and verified," Huneycutt added.

"Accreditation by NCCA is truly a validation of the efforts of the hundreds of individuals from all industries who have donated their time and expertise over the last 12 years to further the safety objectives of CCO, and to make its program a reality," Kerry Hulse, Chairman of the Commissioners said.

NCCA accreditation lent the kind of credibility to the CCO program that such organizations as the Board of Certified Safety Professionals (CSP) enjoys for its NCCA-accredited program, Hulse added.

To qualify for NCCA accreditation, CCO had to demonstrate, among other requirements, that it was a third-party organization independent of training; that its program had been developed and supported by industry; that its tests were psychometrically sound and validated through peer review; and that test administrations were conducted on

a standardized, nationwide basis, under strict security.

The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) was created in 1987 to establish accreditation standards, evaluate compliance with these standards, and to recognize organizations and programs which demonstrate compliance. NCCA was set up by the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) to promote excellence in competency assurance for practitioners in all occupations and professions.

The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO) was formed in January 1995 to develop effective performance standards for safe crane operation to assist all segments of general industry and construction. Since that time, more than 5,000 operators have been tested through 170 separate test administrations in 30 states.