



**NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE CERTIFICATION
OF CRANE OPERATORS (NCCCO)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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OSHA Says CCO Certification Having “A Significant and Positive Impact”

Fairfax, Virginia, June 29, 2000--With interest in crane operator certification at an all-time high, and several states in the process of developing licensing requirements, Federal OSHA continues to reaffirm its support for the CCO program.

A key element in OSHA's decision to recognize CCO certification was its objective and independent assessment process, stated Russell "Bruce" Swanson, Director of OSHA's Directorate of Construction. CCO's accreditation by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) "testifies to the objectivity, reliability and validity of CCO's examinations, and confirms that CCO has met the most rigorous professional standards of examination development and administration," Swanson said.

Federal OSHA formed a partnership with CCO recognizing CCO crane operator certification as documentary evidence that a CCO-certified operator had met the training requirements of 29 CFR 1926.550 (b)(2), Swanson said. "CCO certification is based on rigorous testing criteria that validate the competency of mobile crane operators. This in turn contributes to our mutual goal of reducing the number of deaths and injuries resulting from crane-related accidents," Swanson added.

While CCO offered no training itself, Swanson said, the crane operator training and education programs that were available from firms within the industry were primary factors in developing and maintaining qualified crane operators in the construction industry, who could then go on to pass the CCO certification examinations.

"While OSHA compliance officers do not presently issue citations to an employer merely because its crane operators do not possess CCO certification, the presence of CCO-certified crane operators on a job site will be accepted as evidence that the crane is being operated by someone with verified

qualifications," Swanson said.

Any contractor requiring CCO-certified crane operators on a project would indicate that firm's commitment to an effective safety and health program and would contribute to the project's consequent qualification for a "focused inspection," Swanson added.

"In providing employers with a valuable tool in determining if crane operators are qualified to perform their tasks, CCO certification is having a significant and positive impact on safe crane operations for the benefit of all who work with or around this equipment," Swanson said.

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. The CCO crane operator certification program is recognized by federal OSHA as meeting OSHA and ANSI (ASME) requirements for crane operator competency. It is unique in that it is: third-party, independent of training; developed and supported by industry; a joint labor/management initiative; psychometrically sound; validated through peer review; administered on a standardized, nationwide basis; and maintained under strict security.