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.

The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) is a non-profit organization established to develop and administer examinations to test the adequacy of knowledge and skills of crane operators. Certification designations are given in the following categories:

- LBFT: Lattice Boom Truck Cranes
- LLC: Lattice Boom Crawler Cranes
- TDR: Tower Cranes (Fixed Cab)
- TLL: Large Telescopic Boom Cranes (Swing Cab)
- YMR: Tower Cranes
- OTR: Overhead Cranes

Any questions regarding the status of the cardholder indicated on the front of this card should be addressed to:
The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO)  
2750 Prosperity Avenue, Suite 505, Fairfax, VA 22031-6312  
Ph: 703-560-2391; Fa: 703-560-2392; info@nccco.org
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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