



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

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Pennsylvania DOT Requires CCO Certification**

*Fairfax, Virginia, January 29, 2001*--CCO crane operator certification is being required by the Pennsylvania Department of Transportation (PennDOT) for the \$350 million extension of Interstate 99 between Bald Eagle, Pennsylvania and State College, Pennsylvania. One construction project is already underway, with a further seven to be bid by the end of next summer.

"It's imperative that only qualified and certified personnel operate cranes and hoisting equipment," said James D. Ritzman, PennDOT Construction Project Manager for the I-99 corridor. "By requiring our contractors use only CCO-certified operators, we can be confident they have the knowledge and skills necessary for the safe operation of their cranes. Plus, with CCO certification, we know exactly what we are getting," Ritzman added.

CCO certification is not the only first for PennDOT on this project. This is also the first time it has opted for an owner-controlled insurance program (OCIP). Gus Leysens, Vice President, Safety Management with risk managers Willis Corroon, said: "Willis initiated the CCO requirement as part of the overall insurance "wrap-up" program. CCO was a "natural fit" into the construction safety guidelines of the project."

"Fact is, CCO certification helps the contractors as much as it does us, or PennDOT, or anyone else associated with this project," said Leysens. "No one wants a crane accident, and requiring qualified personnel that have been tested to the national CCO standard is a major step towards ensuring we don't have one."

Stan Rosen, Director of Safety Management for AIG's Construction Risk Management Group, said, "The CCO program is a well-constructed and valid assessment of a crane operator's ability. Crane safety is a critical area for construction personnel as well as the general public, which the CCO program can go a long way to enhance."

Gary Meinen, Safety/Insurance Manager with Dick Corporation, Construction

Manager for the project, said the 18 miles of highway extension would involve the construction of more than 52 structures, including 42 bridges and 9 box culverts, over a five-year period. "We have a couple of six-span bridges that'll run almost 870 ft. long and 76 ft. high," Meinen said.

"Construction will include both steel and pre-cast concrete beams, as well as pre-cast concrete box culvert sections of significant weight. We have areas that will require lifting at long radius, so some fair-sized cranes are going to be needed up here--all, of course, operated by CCO-certified operators."

**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. The program 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.