Articulating Crane Operator Certification Requirement per OSHA 29 CFR 1926 Subpart CC

I have an articulating/knuckleboom crane with a maximum rated capacity greater than 2,000 lbs. Does OSHA require me to have a certified operator?

1. Is the crane used in construction?
   - No: 1926 Subpart CC applies only to cranes used in construction.
   - Yes: A certified/qualified operator is required. The exclusion for knuckleboom cranes only applies for cranes performing material delivery for construction work. [1926.1400(c)(17)] If the crane is used to hold, support, or stabilize the material to facilitate a construction activity, it is not excluded. [1926.1400(c)(17)(iii)(A)]

2. Is it used only for material handling and delivery?
   - No: A certified/qualified operator is required.
   - Yes: Are the materials being delivered structural steel or prefabricated goods (e.g., roof trusses, precast concrete members)?
     - No: Are the materials being delivered onto a structure?
       - No: A certified/qualified operator is required.
       - Yes: Is the crane using a fork or cradle?
         - No: Does the crane have a properly functioning automatic overload prevention device?
           - Yes: A certified/qualified operator is required. The exclusion for knuckleboom cranes lifting onto a structure only applies when lifting sheet goods or packaged goods with a fork or a cradle and the crane has a properly functioning automatic overload prevention device. [1926.1400(c)(17)(ii)]
           - No: Are the materials being delivered sheet goods like plywood or packaged goods like bags of concrete?
             - No: When the crane is delivering materials to the ground and not placing them in a particular order for hoisting, it is excluded from the scope of 1926 Subpart CC. [1926.1400(c)(17)(ii)]
             - Yes: Are the materials being delivered in a particular sequence for hoisting?
               - Yes: A certified/qualified operator is required. When a crane is delivering materials to the ground and placing them in a particular order for hoisting, it is not excluded. [1926.1400(c)(17)(i)]
               - No: A certified/qualified operator is required.

3. Are the materials being delivered structural steel or prefabricated goods (e.g., roof trusses, precast concrete members)?
   - Yes: Are the materials being delivered onto a structure?
     - No: A certified/qualified operator is required.
     - Yes: Is the crane using a fork or cradle?
       - No: Does the crane have a properly functioning automatic overload prevention device?
         - Yes: A certified/qualified operator is required. The exclusion for knuckleboom cranes lifting onto a structure only applies when lifting sheet goods or packaged goods with a fork or a cradle and the crane has a properly functioning automatic overload prevention device. [1926.1400(c)(17)(ii)]
         - No: Are the materials being delivered sheet goods like plywood or packaged goods like bags of concrete?
           - No: When the crane is delivering materials to the ground and not placing them in a particular order for hoisting, it is excluded from the scope of 1926 Subpart CC. [1926.1400(c)(17)(ii)]
           - Yes: When the crane is delivering materials to the ground and not placing them in a particular order for hoisting, it is not excluded. [1926.1400(c)(17)(i)]

4. Are the materials being delivered onto a structure?
   - No: A certified/qualified operator is required.
   - Yes: Is the crane using a fork or cradle?
     - No: Does the crane have a properly functioning automatic overload prevention device?
       - Yes: A certified/qualified operator is required. The exclusion for knuckleboom cranes lifting onto a structure only applies when lifting sheet goods or packaged goods with a fork or a cradle and the crane has a properly functioning automatic overload prevention device. [1926.1400(c)(17)(ii)]
       - No: Are the materials being delivered sheet goods like plywood or packaged goods like bags of concrete?
         - No: When the crane is delivering materials to the ground and not placing them in a particular order for hoisting, it is excluded from the scope of 1926 Subpart CC. [1926.1400(c)(17)(ii)]
         - Yes: When the crane is delivering materials to the ground and not placing them in a particular order for hoisting, it is not excluded. [1926.1400(c)(17)(i)]

©2010 National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO). All rights reserved. This information is provided as a public service by NCCCO. Although every effort has been made to ensure accuracy, no responsibility can be assumed by NCCCO for errors. OSHA remains the sole authority for interpretations of federal labor standards and should be consulted accordingly.