



Crane Operator Training and Certification: What to Look For

Training • Inspections • Certifications
Crane Inspection & Certification Bureau

Today, for safety, risk management, insurance, and other reasons, more and more contractors and project managers are requiring crane operators to be certified, as can be seen by the certification requirement in most positions advertised in this publication. This article will help employers and crane personnel better understand what to look for when selecting a training provider and certification program to help create safer crane operations and meet OSHA standards.

It is important to note that, because of recently enacted new OSHA crane standards, crane operators involved in construction will be required to be certified by November 10, 2014. The new rules state that employers must ensure that all personnel involved with lifting operations are competent through training and evaluation to operate the equipment safely by November 8, 2010. Employees are required to be qualified to rig a load, or signal the operation of the crane by November 8, 2010.

Despite the 2014 certification deadline for operators, both employers and operators should be pursuing certification now – early compliance with OSHA regulations is always the best choice. To pass the challenging written tests and practical evaluations required to earn OSHA-recognized certification, employers and crane operators also need to choose wisely when selecting both a recognized certification and a competent and highly qualified preparatory training company.

CCO certification by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) is recognized by most employers and contractors as the “gold standard” of crane and crane-related personnel certifications. NCCCO’s solid 15-year track record of providing nationally recognized certification to more than 70,000 crane operators, riggers, signalpersons, and inspectors has given it unparalleled credibility as the leader in professional credentialing for those who work with and around cranes. To ensure that it can provide fair and independent assessments, NCCCO provides neither training nor training materials.

Crane Inspection & Certification Bureau (CICB) was among the first crane training providers to embrace CCO certification and it, too, has a proven 10-year history of providing preparatory classes for those seeking CCO certification. Beyond that, CICB created the first crane

operator and crane inspector training program in the U.S. and is currently celebrating its 42nd year in business. The following information was put together by CICB to help employers, operators, riggers, signalpersons, and inspectors choose the best training provider and certification program for them.

What do operators typically need to know to pass the written exam required for certification?

(Partial List)

SITE CONDITIONS & HAZARDS

- Supporting surfaces
- Mats and cribbing
- Underground utilities

LIFT REQUIREMENTS

- Working height
- Boom length
- Radius
- Extension of outriggers
- Gross load

OPERATIONS & TECHNICAL KNOWLEDGE

Federal OSHA regulations and American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) industry standards:

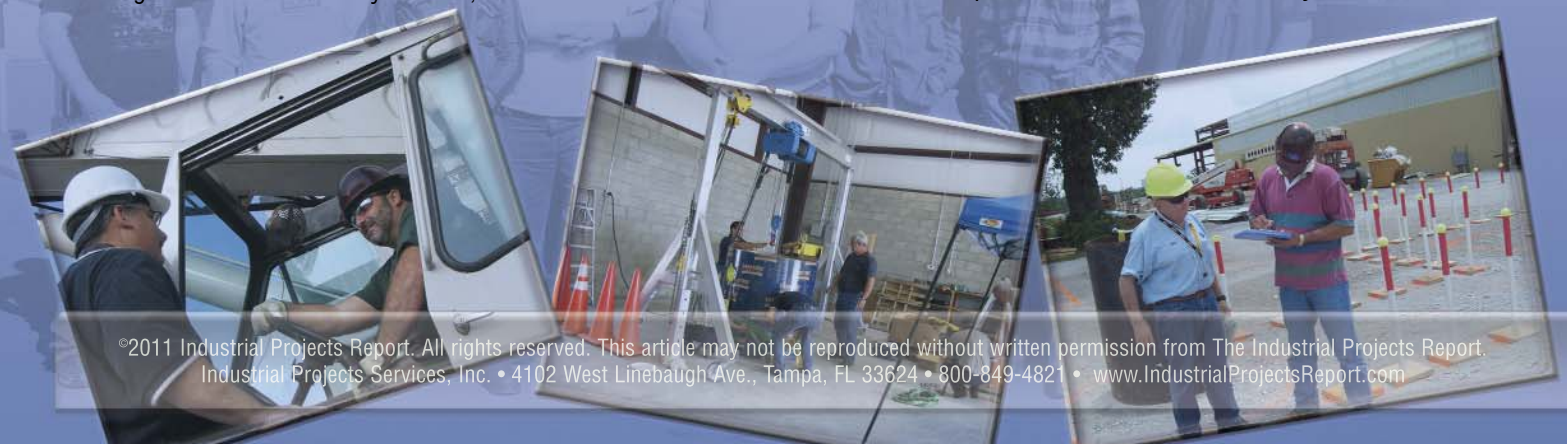
- ASME B30.5, ASME B30.9, B30.10, B30.20, B30.23 and B30.26.
- 29 CFR 1926 Subpart CC for Cranes and Derricks in Construction
- 29 CFR 1910 Subpart N for Materials Handling and Storage in General Industry
- Daily inspections • Rigging • Hand signals • Pick, carry, and swing • Start up and shut down • Crane assembly and disassembly • Crane operations around power lines
- Wire rope construction, use, maintenance, and criteria for removal from operations

MANUFACTURER’S LOAD CHARTS

How to use: • Terminology • Capacities and range • Parts of line • Range diagrams

Why Choose CCO Certification from NCCCO?

Experience—NCCCO brings a solid 15-year track record of providing certification to more than 50,000 crane operators, riggers, signalpersons, and inspectors from across the country.



This is important to both employers and candidates as this experience ensures reliability.

Recognized—NCCCO certifications are recognized in more states, more major cities, and more government agencies and by more employers than any other certification programs. **This means successful candidates are more likely to get interviews and be employed faster.**

Supported—CCO certification is supported by most major crane manufacturers and insurance companies. **This is important because it shows a commitment by more industry professions to reduce crane accidents.**

Comprehensive—NCCCO offers the largest range of certifications to encompass all critical aspects of crane operations: Mobile, Overhead, and Articulating Crane Operator, Rigger (Level I and II), Signalperson, and Inspector. **This is important because candidates can earn all certificates with one certifying agency.**

Why should I choose CICB to help me?

Here are a few important reasons to consider CICB for both training and helping with the certification process:

- CICB's staff has hundreds of years of combined crane experience and all instructors have trained in Adult Learning Principles by the Bob Pike Institute.
- Monthly scheduled training programs and practical exams are available in both Houston and Orlando featuring modern classrooms and safe-working cranes.
- Customized NCCCO training programs are available at your facility on your equipment.
- Training programs always use an experienced NCCCO coordinator.
- Online testing prior to actual tests is available to help achieve a higher pass rate on written exams.
- CICB instructors are CCO-certified operators and accredited practical examiners.
- Additional classroom training is provided at no charge should a candidate fail to pass written exams.
- CICB's training goal is not simply to help pass a test; CICB's goal is to develop safer, better, and more employable crane operators, which results in being well-prepared to pass both written and practical exams.

What should I do to prepare for the training program and practical exam?

- Identify all parts and components of crane you plan to take exams on
- Read crane owners manual and jot down items you don't understand
- Read and review crane load chart(s)
- Review the appropriate Written Exam Outline(s) online at www.nccco.org
- Brush up your math and test-taking skills
- Practice your crane operation skills in advance which includes Booming, Swinging, Telescoping and combination operations
- Request study materials from CICB

How long does it take for a CICB NCCCO Preparatory Training Program?

Duration: 4-5 days for preparatory training and written and practical examinations.

In summary, organizations and candidates should evaluate all factors involved when choosing a training program and a certification program to help create safer operations. Studies have shown that investing in quality training helps crane operators retain important information and inspires good safety and crane operating habits, reducing accidents and making construction jobs run more smoothly.

For further information on training, NCCCO certification or the OSHA Standard for Cranes and Derricks in Construction, contact CICB at [866-783-2855](tel:866-783-2855) or info@cicb.com

CICB Delivers Award Winning Rigging and Crane Training

Visit Our Website:

www.cicb.com

