

20031223 CDAC Workingdraft - partial

National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators  
Comments on 20031223 CDAC Workingdraft - partial

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(NCCCO) comments are included in red Arial 14 pt italicized type.

NOTE: This is new text for the Operator Qualifications and Modifications sections, based on discussions in previous meetings.  
[Text in brackets] are questions, information or options.

**14XX Operator Qualifications.** The employer must ensure that, prior to operating any equipment included in 1400 (a) and (b), the operator meets the physical examination and certification requirements in this section.

(a) *Physical examination.*

(1) Operators must pass a physical examination that meets the criteria of the U.S. Department of Transportation for operators of \_\_\_\_\_ (49 CFR 391.41 through 391.49) at least [once every three years].

[Discuss substance abuse provision – incorporation of DOT 49 CFR 382.105 and Part 40 of \_\_\_\_\_]

[Should the physical be a separate requirement (as here) or a prerequisite for getting certification?]

(b) *Operator Certification.*

(1) Beginning [1 year after the effective date of this standard], until (and including) [4 years after the effective date of this standard], the operator must be certified by either the employer (in accordance with paragraph (d)), or by an accredited testing organization (in accordance with paragraph (e)).

(2) From [4 years after the effective date of this standard], the operator must be certified by an accredited testing organization (in accordance with paragraph (e)) once the operator's certification under paragraph (1) expires.

(3) Certifications under paragraph (d) are valid for no more than [three years]. Certifications under paragraph (e) are valid for no more than [five years].

(4) *Re-certification:* [different tests than for initial certification?].

**\*\*\*NCCCO Comment:** *The practical exam could be waived if 1,000 hours crane-related experience during the preceding 5-year certification period can be documented. The written exam could be an abbreviated form of the full exam, but a written exam should still be taken to ensure currency of knowledge. Note: the tests should most certainly be “different” in that the written exam is not the same test as the candidate took 5 years earlier.*

(c) *Certification criteria.* Certification must be based, at a minimum, on the following:

(1) A determination through a written test that:

**\*\*\*NCCCO Comment:** *“written test” should be required to be “valid and reliable” and meet the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (as referenced by the new crane operator licensing laws in California and New Jersey).*

(i) The individual knows the information necessary for safe operation of the specific equipment the individual will operate, including the following:

**\*\*\*NCCCO Comment:** *“specific equipment” should be clarified as “specific type of crane” along the lines of ASME B30.5 (as referenced by the new crane operator licensing law in New Jersey).*

(A) The controls and operational/performance characteristics.

(B) Use of, and the ability to calculate, load/capacity information on a variety of configurations of the equipment, including on configurations typically used by the employer.

(C) Procedures for responding to: loss of stability, control malfunction, power line contact, and fire.

(D) This Subpart, including applicable incorporated materials, and the applicable American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) standard regarding the equipment.

(ii) The individual is able to read and locate relevant information in the equipment manual and materials referred to in paragraph (i).

**\*\*\*NCCCO Comment:** *No equipment manual or materials are referred to in para (i). Replace “in the equipment manual and materials referred to in paragraph (i)” with “for the safe operation of the specific type of crane.”*

(2) A determination through a practical test that the individual has the skills necessary for safe operation of the equipment, including the following:

(i) Ability to recognize, from visual and audible observation, the items listed in section 14XX (pre-shift inspection).

(ii) Operational and maneuvering skills.

(iii) Application of load chart information.

**\*\*\*NCCCO Comment: Delete (iii). The ability to use load charts is more effectively tested in a valid and reliable written examination whose performance can be monitored through routine statistical item analysis.**

(iv) Application of safe shut-down and securing procedures.

(d) *Certification by the employer.*

(NOTE: From [date], operator certifications must be issued by an accredited testing organization).

(1) To certify an operator for the equipment, the employer must make the determinations specified in paragraph (c).

(2) *Use of another entity to administer tests.*

(i) Although the employer must make the determination as to whether to certify the operator for the equipment, the employer may use another entity to administer the tests in paragraphs (c) (1) and (2) if that entity is qualified to administer those tests.

**\*\*\*NCCCO Comment: Strike "another entity" and replace with "an accredited testing organization".**

(ii) The employer must base its determination on whether to certify the individual, at a minimum, on:

(A) A review of the test records from the entity that administered the tests.

(B) Observation of the employee operating the equipment in test lifts prior to determining whether to certify the individual.

**\*\*\*NCCCO Comment: What would an employer's determination add to the results of written and practical tests administered by an accredited testing organization?**

(3) *Certification by another employer is not transferable.* The employer of the operator must make its own determination as to whether to certify the employee to operate the equipment, although it may use tests administered by another employer where the requirements of paragraph (d)(2) are met in assessing the operator.

(5) *Revocation.* If the employer has reason to believe that the operator may not be qualified to operate the equipment, the employer must [immediately] revoke the certification. The operator must not be permitted to operate the equipment unless he/she is recertified.

**\*\*\*NCCCO Comment: strike "unless he/she is recertified" and replace with "until he/she is recertified."**

(6) *Records.* The employer must retain the current test records for each operator it has certified throughout that operator's employment with the employer. This requirement applies irrespective of whether the employer or another entity administers the tests.

NOTE: After [4 years after effective date of the standard], employers will no longer be permitted to meet the certification requirement by certifying operators themselves; at that point, certification must be by an accredited testing organization.

(e) *Certification by an accredited testing organization.*

(1) For a testing organization to be considered accredited to certify operators under this Subpart, it must:

(i) Be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency based on that agency's determination that industry recognized criteria for written testing materials, practical examinations, grading, facilities/equipment and personnel have been met.

**\*\*\*NCCCO Comment: Add "the development, maintenance and administration of" before "written testing materials . . ."**

(ii) Administer written and practical tests that assess the operator applicant regarding, at a minimum, the knowledge and skills listed in (c)(1) and (2).

(2) For an operator to be considered certified by an accredited testing organization, the operator must have a current certification to operate the equipment from a testing organization that meets the requirements in paragraph (e)(1).

(3) Where the employer is an accredited testing organization, the operator must have a current certification to operate the equipment from an accredited testing organization other than the employer.

(4) If the employer has reason to believe that the operator may not be qualified, the employer must prohibit the employee from operating the equipment unless he/she is recertified.

***\*\*\*NCCCO Comment: strike "unless he/she is recertified" and replace with "until he/she is recertified." Note: A certification issued by a testing organization can only be revoked by that organization.***

(5) *Records.* Documentation verifying the operator's certification from an accredited testing organization must be available to the Secretary.

(f) *Licencing by state or local governments.* Nothing in this section shall preempt a state or local government from enforcing operator licencing requirements that are more stringent than the requirements in this section. [Note that we are still examining the legal viability of this paragraph].

### Definitions

"Nationally recognized accrediting agency" is an organization that, due to its independence and expertise, is widely recognized as competent to accredit testing organizations.

***\*\*\*NCCCO Comment: "widely recognized" by who? There are only two organizations that are experts in this field: (i) the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) which is directly referenced in the new California and New Jersey crane operator licensing regulations, as well as by the Department of Transportation in its substance abuse requirements; and (ii) the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) which assesses conformity with the ISO 17024 International Standard, Requirements for Bodies Operating Certification of Personnel. Unless OSHA, via this regulation, identifies the accrediting bodies authorized to accredit personnel certification organizations, there will be the potential for widespread abuse of the accreditation process, which would, in turn, undermine the entire crane operator certification process.***

*Note: "Testing organizations" should be "personnel testing organizations." Organizations that test equipment (for example) may not be competent to test personnel. Similarly, the standards utilized by agencies that accredit organizations that certify products or equipment may not be appropriate to organizations that certify personnel.*

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