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Docket S030
Ex. 52-4

OSHA Docket Office
Docket No. S-030
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Avenue, NW
Room N-2625
Washington, D.C. 20210

FAX #202/693-1648

RE: Crane and Derrick Negotiated Rule Making Advisory Committee

Gentlepersons:

The purpose of this letter is to express our support for changes in the OSHA regulations pertaining to the operation of cranes currently under consideration by the Crane and Derrick Negotiated Rule Making Advisory Committee (C-DAC).

By way of background, the Crane Owners Association is a multi-employer association consisting of 17 Crane Rental Contractors performing work primarily in Northern California. Our members employ over 200 crane operators and collectively utilize a fleet of over 150 mobile cranes. Our members currently perform in excess of 90% of the mobile crane work in Northern California.

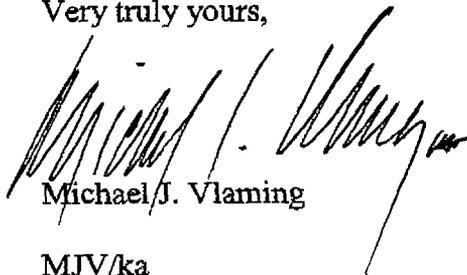
Approximately seven years ago, the California Department of Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board began the process of changing the State regulations pertaining to the qualifications required of crane operators. Members of our Association participated extensively in the committee and sub-committee tasked with developing a revised crane operator regulatory standard. Through the numerous meetings and hard work by the committee members representing labor, industry and California Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board, a new standard for operators of mobile cranes was drafted and passed by the members of the Standards Board. This new regulation which includes both qualifications and certification will take effect July 1, 2005.

The issues confronted by that committee and those currently under consideration by the C-DAC Committee are very similar. Similar to the new California Standard, we support the development of a revised Federal OSHA Standard involving both operator qualifications and certification. We have reviewed the Draft Section 1422 pertaining to operator qualifications contained in the March 3, 2004 working draft. In addition, we have reviewed the submittal by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane

Operators (NCCCO) reflecting comments to the current Draft. Based upon our extensive research and investigation into these issues, we support the changes to Section 1422 proposed by NCCCO relative to the operator qualifications and certification and strongly urge you to include these changes in the final Proposal. Because the training and experience of crane operators is critical to safety on a construction site involving crane work, the qualification standards of crane operators and the verification of them through a rigorous certification program is essential to providing the greatest degree of safety possible. Importantly, the evaluation of the qualifications and skills possessed by crane operators through certification programs such as National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators is being utilized by crane rental contractors across the country as well as being required by plant and property owners contracting for crane services.

In conclusion, we urge you to include the changes proposed by NCCCO to Section 1422 of the Draft Proposal to provide the highest degree of safety on job sites. Attached to this letter is a copy of the current California Regulation (General Industry Safety Order Section 5006.1- Mobile Crane and Tower Crane Operator Qualifications and Certification) and a copy of the NCCCO's comments to the Working Draft Proposal.

Very truly yours,



Michael J. Vlaming

MJV/ka

Encl.