

TA LOVING

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June 21, 2004

OSHA Docket Office
Docket # S030
Room N-2625
U.S. Department of Labor
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

OSHA
DOCKET OFFICER
DATE JUN 21 2004

Docket S030
Ex. 67-14

RE: Comments on Docket # S030, Crane Operator Certification

Dear Docket Officer:

The purpose of this letter is to support crane operator certification or qualification alternatives; however, we are opposed to third party accreditation of crane operators as currently listed in Section 1422.

We would like to thank the C-DAC members and their respective organizations for the time, effort, and money that they are expending to review and update 29 CFR 1926.550, subpart N.

T. A. Loving Company is a general contractor with 300 employees. We own and operate thirteen cranes, both hydraulic and friction. Hydraulic cranes are up to 50 tons and friction cranes are up to 80 tons.

We basically have provided crane operator training for all operators. We currently employ an outside training and testing vendor to conduct our training courses. All training is specific to the cranes we actually operate. We also employ the same company to come to our location and provide a review and refresher for our operators. A written test is then given by the outside vendor and then the instructor orally and individually reviews the written test with each person taking the test. We then ask the operators to operate a hydraulic and/or friction crane thru a prescribed course using cones and a tennis ball attached to the hook. The operator must perform a series of maneuvers that require using all functions of the crane to demonstrate capabilities. Prior to the operation of the crane, the operator is asked questions about set-up, rigging, signals, load charts, etc. Depending on number of people, this process takes one long day or two days if more than three or four people are certified. After the testing and operation is completed, the operator is issued an identification card with his picture indicating what size and type crane he is certified to operate. Obviously,

prior to operating any crane, our operators are given physicals, drug testing is performed, and crane inspections are conducted. We believe that by having training and testing at our location we benefit by actually training, testing, and operating cranes we use. We know and understand our capabilities and limitations and employ outside rental cranes and operators for lifts outside our capabilities.

All of our testing is based on criteria listed in the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) "Procedures For the Examination and Qualification of Crane Operators" in Appendix G of their Safety & Health Requirements Manual (EM 385-1-1) dated November 2003.

OSHA needs to make the certification process as accessible and flexible as possible. The biggest negative to the proposed Section 1422 rules listing certification requirements is the restriction on the source of certification. A single source system would provide a monopoly and a burden on the construction industry. We believe that crane operators can be designated as qualified by any professional crane training or certification source such as an independent testing company, qualified consultant, AGC qualified programs, in-house company qualified programs, etc.

Operator certification or qualification can help provide for safe crane operations; however, the process will be more credible if training and testing requirements are flexible by allowing companies the option to make the process specific to their company and their specific jobs.

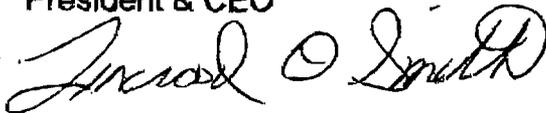
We would like to thank OSHA for the opportunity to provide input.

Sincerely,

T. A. LOVING COMPANY



Samuel P. Hunter
President & CEO



Linwood O. Smith
Vice President
Risk Management & Safety

/bmm