



**NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE CERTIFICATION
OF CRANE OPERATORS (NCCCO)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CCO Introduces Recertification Program

Fairfax, Virginia, August 20, 2001--The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO) has announced the introduction of its Recertification Program for CCO-certified crane operators.

"Crane operators who were certified at the start of the program in 1996 are now coming towards the end of their five-year certification period," said CCO President, Davis J. Lauve. Lauve is President, Nichols Construction Corporation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. "Re-examination ensures all operators carrying the CCO card possess the knowledge essential to operate cranes safely," he said.

CCO-certified crane operators wishing to recertify must:

- pass a Written Recertification Examination in the category(ies) they wish to be certified in.
- pass a Practical Examination in the category(ies) they wish to be certified in, unless they have previously passed the Practical Examination in each of the desired categories, and can provide evidence of 1,000 hours crane-related experience in the previous five (5) years.
- meet CCO Physical Requirements in accordance with ASME/ANSI B30.5 physical qualifications (valid CCO Physical Examination Form or a Department of Transportation Medical Examiner's Certificate required).

However, at two hours for the Core exam and all four Specialties, the recertification exam is shorter than the exam candidates take when certifying for the first time. It covers the same content areas as the original exam, and reflects any changes to standards made during the five-year certification period. Any recent technical developments to cranes are also addressed.

In a special message to all crane operators who were certified in the first two years of test administrations (enclosed), Lauve notes that a CCO certification card identifies a crane operator as a "true professional." By becoming certified, Lauve states, an operator has established he (or she) is someone "who has what it takes to operate a critical and often highly sophisticated piece of equipment in a

safe and responsible manner." And he adds, "By planning now to take your recertification exams . . . you'll continue your commitment to your profession, and retain your status as a qualified operator."

Written Exam Management Committee chairman, J.R. "Joe Bob" Williams, said that operators could take their recertification exams up to one year prior to the expiration of their certification. But he cautioned candidates not to wait until the last minute to recertify. "Apart from those operators who certified in 1996, there is no "grace period" following the expiration date," he said, "so I encourage all candidates to sit for their recertification exams as soon as possible."

Since CCO certification was increasingly being specified as a work requirement, Williams said, it was clearly in all certified operators' best interests to act without delay.

Practical Exam Committee Chairman, J. Chris Ryan, noted that once CCO-certified operators have passed the practical exam, they do not need to take it again on recertification, providing they are able to document 1,000 hours' crane-related experience during the five-year certification period. "Of course, all CCO-certified operators must meet CCO medical requirements, and maintain compliance with those requirements, in order for their certification to be valid," Ryan said. Ryan is Equipment Manager, Boh Bros. Construction, New Orleans, LA. He also serves as Chairman of the ASME/ANSI B30.5 committee.

Commission Chairman, Kerry Hulse, said the number of operators who had signed up for the written recertification exams to date had met all expectations. "Crane operators who have had their skills and knowledge re-evaluated through the CCO program know they stand 'above the crowd,'" Hulse said. "By 're-upping' in this way, they have truly proven they are professionals in their chosen occupation." Hulse is Operations Manager for Deep South Crane & Rigging, Houston, TX.

At many recertification test sites, candidates can also take examinations in Specialties they have not been certified in before. For further details on the CCO Recertification Program, call CCO at 703/560-2391, or email Melanie Fall at info@nccco.org.

The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO) was formed in January 1995 to develop effective performance standards for safe crane operation to assist all segments of general industry and construction. Since CCO began testing in April 1996, more than 15,000 crane operators have been tested through over 700 separate test administrations conducted in 46 states.

The CCO crane operator certification program is the only program to be recognized by federal OSHA as meeting OSHA and ASME (ANSI) requirements for crane operator competency. The program is unique in that it is: third-party; independent of training; developed and supported by industry; a joint labor/management initiative; psychometrically sound; validated through peer review; and administered on a standardized, secure, nationwide basis.

