



# OSHA Signs Agreement with CCO

## National Crane Operator Certification Program Recognized

WASHINGTON, DC, FEBRUARY 26, 1999 – The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) signed an Agreement today officially recognizing the CCO national crane operator certification program.

The Agreement marks the first time OSHA has recognized a private sector industry group as meeting its requirements for crane operator qualifications, and it provides significant incentives for employers who have their operators certified through the national CCO program. There is currently no federal requirement for crane operators to be licensed.

"From my personal experience, [crane operator certification] is very much needed," said Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Charles N. Jeffress. "It's very important to make sure that the folks handling this equipment be well trained."

With the development of the CCO national crane operator program, Jeffress said, OSHA was now able to say to contractors "we require your folks be trained and if you can show us that if they have this certification from the Commission then we will accept your word that they are trained."

Jeffress said that OSHA had been striving to find ways to become more aware of training issues. "I want to say how much I appreciate what [CCO] has done. This kind of certification will help us reduce the number of accidents that occur with cranes."

Russell Bruce Swanson, Director of OSHA's Directorate of Construction commented: "The requirement for certification will cause people to get the training that is necessary to make the job sites safer. With our goal to reduce fatalities in the construction industry by 15% by 2002, I would see this Agreement as a real important building block along that road."

One of the strengths of the CCO certification program was that it separated those who had the necessary knowledge and skills from those who

did not. "Frankly, some folks had to swallow real hard with this concept because, when you certify people, not everybody is going to pass the test," Swanson said. "But we have to look beyond that and see that the requirement for certification will cause people to get the training that is necessary to make the job site safer."

The Signing Ceremony, held at the Department of Labor in Washington, DC was witnessed by senior representatives from many sectors of industry in what was described by Swanson as "an impressive show of support." Labor and management, union as well as open shop firms and organizations, and other government departments were equally represented.

"This is a great day for crane safety," said CCO President, Davis J. Laue, President of Nichols Construction Corporation, Baton Rouge, Louisiana. "OSHA's recognition of the CCO crane operator certification program should have a significant and sustained impact on the safety of all who work with or around cranes."

"The signing of this Agreement is also a tribute to the dedication of the hundreds of volunteers from all sectors of industry who have worked long and hard over the last 12 years to turn the dream of a national crane operator certification program into reality," Laue added.

General President of the International Union of Operating Engineers, Frank Hanley said: "This will go down as one of the best things we have ever done in the field of safety." Part of its strength he said came from the fact that the CCO program was supported by all sectors of industry. "We wanted this done across the board," he said. "I think you will all be happy that some day you will be able to say, 'I was part of this.'"



Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Charles N. Jeffress: OSHA is now able to say to contractors "we require your folks be trained and if you can show us that if they have this certification from the Commission then we will accept your word that they are trained."

CCO certification will "reduce the number of accidents that occur with cranes, helping us achieve our overall goal of a 15% reduction in construction industry fatalities by the year 2002." Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Charles N. Jeffress, signs the OSHA/CCO Agreement while Russell Bruce Swanson, Director of OSHA's Directorate of Construction looks on.



### The Agreement Between OSHA and CCO:

*What Does it Mean?*

The Agreement is "a voluntary cooperative action between representatives of the crane industry and OSHA to recognize crane operator certification issued by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators, NCCCO."

The ability of crane operators to safely operate mobile cranes plays a major role in overall safety on most construction sites. The Agreement provides a non-regulatory means of recognizing the CCO program as

validating the competency and certifying the qualifications of crane operators.

**What benefits does the Agreement provide for employers adopting the CCO program?**

- OSHA compliance safety and health officers, when performing inspections or accident investigations, will recognize CCO certification as verification of crane operator qualifications.

- The presence of CCO-certified crane operators on a job site will

be an indicator to compliance officers that the crane is being operated by someone with demonstrated knowledge and ability.

- The requirement for CCO certified crane operators on a project will be an indication of the contractors' commitment to an effective safety and health program, and contribute to the project's qualification for a "Focused Inspection."

**What were the main factors in OSHA's decision to recognize the CCO program?**

- The CCO program meets the qualifications criteria outlined in ANSI/ASME B30.5-3.1-1995, Qualifications for and Conduct of Operators and Operating Practices.

- It is an objective and independent assessment of the skills and knowledge of crane operators.





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Carson Huneycutt, Vice President, J.A. Jones Construction Co., who serves as CCO's Immediate Past President, paid tribute to the Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association (SC&RA) for providing support at a critical phase of the program's development. "I want to make sure that SC&RA is recognized as being the parents that brought about this organization and has been supportive of it all along," he said.

CCO Executive Director, Graham Brent, said OSHA had done a tremendous service to the industry by recognizing the CCO program as meeting its requirements for crane operator proficiency. "The net result can only be a reduction in crane deaths, injuries and accidents on construction sites around the country," he said.

A key issue in OSHA's decision to recognize the CCO program was that it is an objective and independent assessment of the skills and knowledge of crane operators. "The fact that CCO is a credentialing agency and provides no crane operator training enhances the value of its competency assessment," said OSHA senior safety specialist, Anthony Brown. A requirement of CCO's accreditation by the National Organization for Competency Assurance (NOCA) was that it do no training, he said.

Brown explained that OSHA would continue to use crane inspection guidelines, but that OSHA compliance safety and health officers, when performing inspections or accident investigations would recognize CCO certification as verification of crane operator qualifications.

A further benefit to employers is that the presence of CCO certified crane operators on a job site will indicate to compliance officers that the cranes are being operated by employees with demonstrated knowledge and ability. The requirement for CCO certified crane operators on a project will also be an indication of the contractors' commitment to an effective safety and health program and will contribute to the project's qualification for a focused inspection.

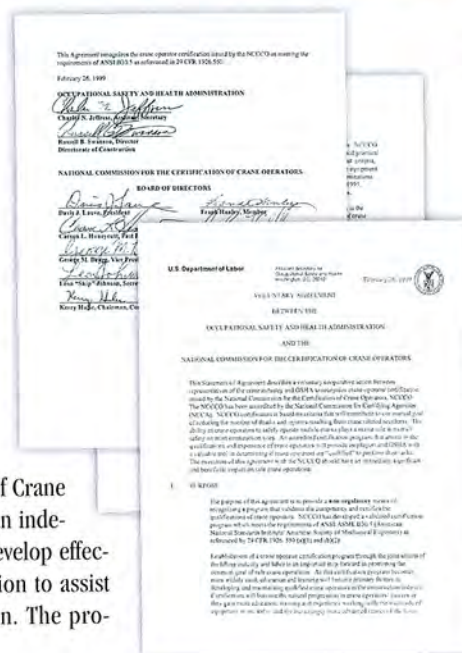
The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO) was formed in January 1995 as an independent, not-for-profit, 501(c)6 organization to develop effective performance standards for safe crane operation to assist all segments of general industry and construction. The pro-

gram is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the premier authority on certification standards.

Among NCCA's exacting requirements for accreditation are that the certifying organization: is third-party, independent of training; has been established and supported by industry; is a joint labor/management initiative; and administers tests that are psychometrically sound, validated through peer review, administered on a standardized basis, and maintained under strict security.



Pictured at the OSHA/CCO Agreement Signing Ceremony are (seated left to right): Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA, Charles N. Jeffress; and CCO President, Davis J. Lauve, President of Nichols Construction Corporation, Baton Rouge, LA. Also in attendance are (standing, left to right): Anthony Brown, OSHA Senior Safety Specialist; Russell Bruce Swanson, Director of OSHA's Directorate of Construction; Frank Hanley, General President of the International Union of Operating Engineers; Glen R. Riechmann, SC&RA President and President, Riechmann Transport, Granite City, IL; Graham Brent, CCO Executive Director; Carson Huneycutt, CCO Immediate Past President and Vice President, J.A. Jones Construction Co., Charlotte, NC.



### National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators

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- An applicant's certification is based on his/her performance on both the written and practical tests.
- It has been developed through the joint efforts of the lifting industry and labor to promote the common goal of safe crane operations.

#### Why did OSHA recognize CCO?

- CCO is a recognized independent not-for-profit organization formed and established for the sole purpose of administer-

ing a certification program that measures the knowledge and proficiency required for safe crane operations.

- CCO is a credentialing agency and provides no crane operator training itself.
- CCO has received accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), which accredits organizations that issue technical and professional certifications

#### How does OSHA view the role of training?

As the CCO certification program becomes more widely used, OSHA believes education and training will become primary factors in developing and maintaining qualified crane operators in the construction industry. Certification will become the natural progression in crane operators' careers as they gain more education, training and experience working with the multitude of equipment in use

today and the increasingly more advanced cranes of the future.

#### What's the "bottom line"?

OSHA states that CCO certification is based on criteria that will contribute to "our mutual goal of reducing the number of deaths and injuries resulting from crane related accidents. The execution of this agreement with CCO should have an immediate, significant and beneficial impact on safe crane operations."



# CCO Update



Special Issue

NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL CRANE OPERATOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

## OSHA Reaffirms its Agreement with NCCCO to Recognize CCO Crane Operator Certification

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has reaffirmed its Agreement to recognize the national crane operator certification program of the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) as demonstrating that CCO-certified crane operator meets OSHA requirements for crane operator proficiency.

The Agreement between OSHA and NCCCO is a continuation of the original agreement signed in 1999. It recognizes certification by NCCCO as documentation that an operator meets OSHA's requirements for crane operator training, and provides incentives for employers to have their operators qualified through the NCCCO program.

"The ability of crane operators to safely operate mobile cranes plays a significant role in overall safety on most construction sites," said OSHA Administrator John L. Henshaw. "Therefore, it is very important that these crane operators are well-trained. This certification program provides evidence—in a highly professional and effective manner—that such training has taken place, and that it

will continue to help reduce the number of crane incidents."

Under the agreement, OSHA compliance safety and health officers will recognize NCCCO certification as independent verification that certified crane operators have met OSHA's training requirements. Having NCCCO certified crane operators on a project would be an

indication of the contractor's commitment to an effective safety and health program and contribute to the project's qualification for a "Focused Inspection" by OSHA.

"Three and a half years after the signing of the Agreement recognizing the NCCCO national crane operator certification program, NCCCO is delighted to have this reaffirmation of support by OSHA," said NCCCO President Ronald Schad, President, Essex Crane Rental Corp., Buffalo Grove, Illinois. "This is a tribute to the effectiveness of this national assessment of crane operators that meets OSHA's requirements for crane operator qualifications as well as the ASME B30.5 American National Standard."

Stewart C. Burkhammer, OSHA's Director of the Office of Construction Services within the Directorate of Construction said "a key factor in OSHA's decision to reaffirm the program is that it provides an objective and independent assessment of the skills and knowledge of crane operators." Burkhammer also in-

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*Meeting with OSHA Administrator, John Henshaw (second from left), at the Department of Labor in July were (r to l): Stewart Burkhammer, Director of OSHA's Office of Construction Services; Ronald Schad, President NCCCO, and President Essex Crane Rental Corp., Buffalo Grove, IL; R. Bruce Swanson, Director, OSHA Directorate of Construction; and (far left) Graham Brent, Executive Director, NCCCO.*





## OSHA Representative Elected to NCCCO Commission

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has announced the appointment of Stewart Burkhammer as OSHA's official representative on the NCCCO Commission.

Stewart Burkhammer is head of OSHA's Office of Construction Services and serves as liaison between OSHA and NCCCO. Prior to coming to OSHA in June 2002, Burkhammer served for 10 years as Principal Vice President & Manager for Corporate Environmental, Safety and Health Services, at the Bechtel Group of Companies.

"I am sure Stew will be an excellent representative for OSHA on NCCCO's Commission," said OSHA Administrator, John L. Henshaw.

Burkhammer has spent 40 years working as an environmental safety and health professional in the private sector. He is a former acting chairman of ACCSH, OSHA's construction advisory

committee, and has a long history of dealing with OSHA and occupational safety and health issues. He possesses a wide range of professional licenses and certifications, and has served in high-ranking capacities with numerous professional organizations, including the Safety Equipment Institute, the Executive Standards Council of the American National Standards Institute, and the Board of Certified Safety Professionals.

As Director of OSHA's Construction Services, Burkhammer oversees an office that provides assistance on safety and health program issues, and manages a comprehensive outreach and training program aimed at increasing safety and health awareness and reducing work-related accidents in the construction industry.

Burkhammer is an elected Fellow of the American Society of Safety Engineers, and a member of the ASSE Board of Directors.



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**Stewart C. Burkhammer, Director of OSHA's Office of Construction Services**



## OSHA Reaffirms NCCCO Agreement

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dedicated that "industry is accepting and acknowledging this third-party certification to a great extent."

"Over the past three-and-a-half years, NCCCO has received many accolades, most notably in the support and endorsement it has received from industry groups such as the American Subcontractors Association (ASA), the Associated General Contractors of America (AGC), the International Union of Operating Engineers (IUOE), the NEA-Association of Union Constructors, the Specialized Carriers & Rigging Association (SC&RA), and the Steel Erectors

**"It is very important that crane operators are well trained. This certification program provides evidence—in a highly professional and effective manner—that such training has taken place, and that it will continue to help reduce the number of crane incidents."**

**John L. Henshaw, OSHA Administrator.**

Association of America (SEAA)," Schad noted.

NCCCO was formed in January 1995 to develop effective performance standards for safe crane operation to assist all segments of general industry and construction. The NCCCO program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), the authority on certification standards. NCCA was established in 1977 to develop criteria and standards for certifying agencies. The National Skill Standards Board (NSSB) also formally recognizes NCCCO crane operator certification through its certification recognition program.

Additionally, NCCCO is approved both by the Department of Defense through its DANTES program to provide certification to serving military personnel, and the Department of Education for reimbursement of certification fees to eligible military personnel under the provisions of the Montgomery G.I. Bill of 2000.



February 26, 1999



VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT

BETWEEN THE

OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION

AND THE

NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF CRANE OPERATORS

This Statement of Agreement describes a voluntary cooperative action between representatives of the crane industry and OSHA to recognize crane operator certification issued by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators, NCCCO. The NCCCO has been accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). NCCCO certification is based on criteria that will contribute to our mutual goal of reducing the number of deaths and injuries resulting from crane related accidents. The ability of crane operators to safely operate mobile cranes plays a major role in overall safety on most construction sites. An accredited certification program that attests to the qualifications and experience of crane operators will provide employers and OSHA with a valuable tool in determining if crane operators are "qualified" to perform their tasks. The execution of this agreement with the NCCCO should have an immediate, significant and beneficial impact on safe crane operations.

I. PURPOSE:

The purpose of this agreement is to provide a **non-regulatory** means of recognizing a program that validates the competency and certifies the qualifications of crane operators. NCCCO has developed a validated certification program which meets the requirements of ANSI/ASME B30.5 (American National Standards Institute/ American Society of Mechanical Engineers) as referenced by 29 CFR 1926. 550 (a)(1) and (b)(2).

Establishment of a crane operator certification program through the joint efforts of the lifting industry and labor is an important step forward in promoting the common goal of safe crane operations. As this certification program becomes more widely used, education and training will become primary factors in developing and maintaining qualified crane operators in the construction industry. Certification will become the natural progression in crane operators' careers as they gain more education, training and experience working with the multitude of equipment in use today and the increasingly more advanced cranes of the future.

## II. CRITERIA

NCCCO has been accredited by the NCCA to certify crane operators. NCCCO Certification ascertains qualifications and verifies through written and practical examination that those mobile crane operators who meet the stringent criteria, possess the required knowledge and experience to safely operate the equipment identified on the certificate. The physical, written and practical examinations meet the qualifications criteria outlined in ANSI/ASME B30.5-3.1-1995, Qualifications for and Conduct of Operators and Operating Practices.

A key issue in OSHA's decision to recognize NCCCO Certification is the objective and independent assessment of the skills and knowledge of crane operators. The fact that NCCCO is a credentialing agency and provides no crane operator training itself enhances the value of its competency assessment. An applicant's certification is based on his/her performance on both the written and practical test, administered by NCCCO. NCCCO is a recognized independent not-for-profit organization formed and established for the sole purpose of administering a certification program that measures the knowledge and proficiency required for safe crane operations. NCCCO has received accreditation from the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA), which accredits organizations that issue technical and professional certifications, e.g., the Board of Certified Safety Professionals, which examines and issues Certifications for Safety Professionals (CSP).

## III COMPLIANCE

Crane inspections will continue to be conducted under current guidelines. Compliance Safety and Health Officers, when performing inspections or accident investigations will recognize NCCCO certification as verification of crane operator qualifications. However, the CSHO will independently verify the operators' knowledge and familiarity with the type of crane in use through observation, questioning, and other investigation techniques. Possession of NCCCO certification is not mandatory and citations will not be issued for failure of crane operators to possess NCCCO Crane Operator Certification. Neither will the possession of an NCCCO certification alone be dispositive of compliance with the OSHA standards.

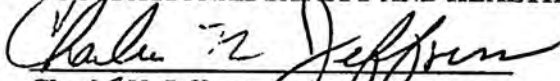
A benefit to an employer is that the presence of NCCCO certified crane operators on a job site will be an indicator to compliance officers that the crane(s) is being operated by someone with demonstrated knowledge and ability. The requirement for certified crane operators on a project would also be an indication of the contractors' commitment to implementation of an effective safety and health program and contribute to the project's qualification for a "Focused Inspection."




This Agreement recognizes the crane operator certification issued by the NCCCO as meeting the requirements of ANSI B30.5 as referenced in 29 CFR 1926.550.

February 26, 1999

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

  
Charles N. Jeffress, Assistant Secretary

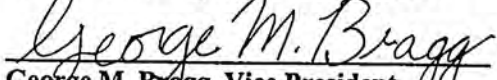
  
Russell B. Swanson, Director  
Directorate of Construction

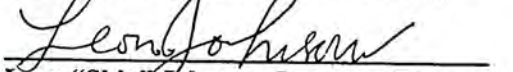
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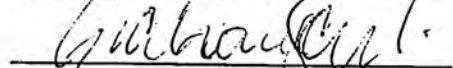
  
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