



## National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators

*Committed to Quality, Integrity and Fairness in Testing Since 1995*

### January/February 2015

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**Dear Paul,**

NCCCO turns 20 this month and we have prepared a slate of activities as part of a special Anniversary Recognition Program developed to mark the occasion. The story of NCCCO is one of vision, determination and hard work by a dedicated group of industry volunteers who gave freely of their time and expertise over almost a decade leading to the creation of the non-profit organization we know today as the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators. In addition to detailing the contributions to crane safety that CCO certification has made over the past two decades, we're excited about sharing our insight into cranes and crane-related activity from a certification point of view that has come from administering almost one million exams. We'll be doing this in a variety of ways during the year, so be sure to check back regularly at [nccco.org/20Years](http://nccco.org/20Years) for regular updates on developments as they occur.

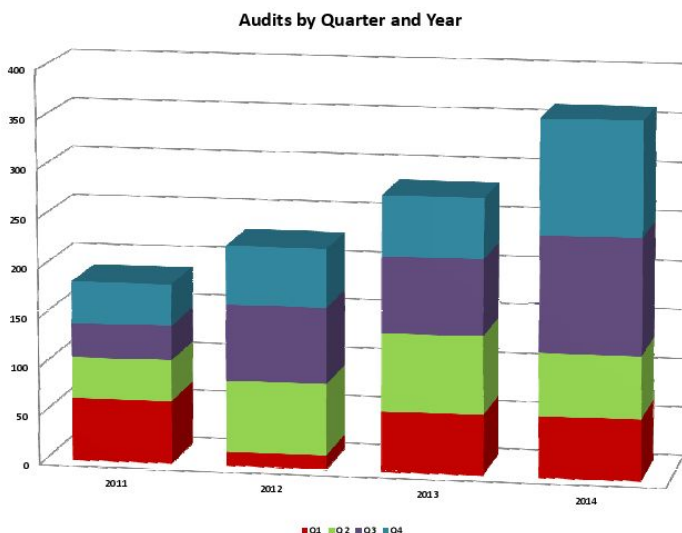
**NCCCO Turns 20!**

The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) has announced the 20th anniversary of its professionally developed and nationally accredited personnel certification programs.



"Over the past two decades, CCO certification has made an indelible contribution to crane safety by establishing a national benchmark of the knowledge and skills needed to operate cranes," said NCCCO President, Thom Sickelsteel. "CCO certification, without question, is one of the most powerful tools available to an employer in ensuring only qualified personnel work with and around cranes." [Read More](#)

## NCCCO Audit Program Sets Record



NCCCO's Practical Exam Audit Program, an integral part of the NCCCO quality assurance process, continued to grow last year following a trend begun in 2011. Last year, the number of completed audits rose to an all-time high of 360, a 28% increase over the previous record. The audits were conducted at 147 practical exam test sites around the nation. [Read More](#)

## Washington State Updates Crane Certifier Requirements

NCCCO, working with representatives of the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries (L&I), has established written exam protocols for the reaccreditation of Washington State accredited crane certifiers. Washington State accredited crane certifiers who wish to become reaccredited must take the Washington State General Crane Certifier Exam and the Additional Inspection Criteria and Proof Load Test Exam in the area for which reaccreditation is being pursued. Additionally, reaccreditation candidates must take the NCCCO crane operator recertification examination in the category related to their crane certifier



## Pile Driving Rig Operator Task Force Holds Second Meeting

The NCCCO Pile Driving Rig Operator Task Force, which is developing a new certification in conjunction with the Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA), held its second meeting in January in Houston, courtesy of sponsor, Bauer Pileco. The subject matter experts who comprise the Task Force represent stakeholder groups reflecting all interests of the pile driving industry. Collectively, they bring hundreds of years of experience in pile driving work to the development



Members of the Pile Driving Rig Operator Task Force gather at conclusion of inaugural meeting in December. project, said NCCCO Director of Operations, Joel Oliva. The certification program, for which PDCA has contracted with NCCCO, will launch in the first quarter of 2016.

## CCO Certification Fact Sheet Updated

Although the Verify CCO Online ([VCO](#)) system, available 24/7 via Internet-capable devices, provides real-time verification of a certificant's credentials, a "hard-copy" reference document still has its place in ensuring the validity of an individual's credentials. Accordingly, NCCCO has updated its [CCO Certification Cards Fact Sheet](#) featuring enlarged views of both the front and back of all current designs of the four (4) certification card it issues, along with an explanation of the various types of certification available and their three-letter identification codes.

Separate color-coded certifications cards are issued for crane operator, rigger and signalperson, lift director, and crane inspector. Employers are exhorted **NEVER** to accept a photocopy of a certification card, and **ALWAYS** to access [verifycco.org](#) or to contact NCCCO if ever in doubt as to a card's authenticity.

**CCO Certification Cards FACT SHEET**

- Color Photo:** Look for photos embedded in laminated card.
- Certification Number:** The CCO Certification Number should be 8-10 digits.
- Certification Designation:** This area specifies which categories the individual is certified in.
- Name and Expiration Dates:** These dates show if the certification card is valid.
- NCCCO Logo:** Look for the ghosted logo in the background.
- Certification Code:** On the back of the card is a detailed information about each certification designation.
- Verification:** If you have questions regarding the status of a certificant, please verify using the Verify CCO Online (VCO) system at [www.verifycco.org](#).

**IMPORTANT**

- Verify certification is current and in the appropriate category.
- Check card for irregularities.
- Card holders must meet the physical requirements and comply with NCCCO substance abuse policy.
- Use the Verify CCO Online (VCO) system at [www.verifycco.org](#) to instantly check the validity of all CCO card holders via the Internet.
- Never accept a photocopy of a CCO card or a VCO printout as proof of certification, verify using the VCO system.
- Contact NCCCO if you have questions.

**Crane Operator certification cards look similar to the card shown below:**

**Rigger & Signalperson certification cards look similar to the card shown below:**

**Crane Inspector certification cards look similar to the card shown below:**

**Lift Director certification cards look similar to the card shown below:**

**National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators**  
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## Tappan Zee Mandates CCO Certification



The \$3.9 billion replacement of the aging Tappan Zee Bridge, one of the largest infrastructure projects in North America, is benefiting from the risk mitigation and enhanced safety provided by CCO certification. Tappan Zee Constructors, LLC, (TZC), a consortium composed of four contracting companies, is requiring all riggers and operators working the project's more than 30 cranes to be certified through the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO). [Read](#)

[More](#)

## OSHA Updates

### OSHA Removes Guidance Regarding Type & Capacity in Operator Certification

In anticipation of rulemaking to review the requirements for crane operator certification, Federal OSHA has removed guidance regarding certification by "type and capacity".

The removed guidance included portions of the Cranes and Derricks FAQ and Small Entity Compliance Guide, as well as the

OSHA Fact Sheet on Operator Certification. This action follows OSHA's delay of operator certification for the purpose of revisiting and revising portions of OSHA 1926.1427 that deal with accredited crane operator certification.



### Amendments to OSHA's Cranes and Derricks in Construction Rule Moving Forward

Federal OSHA continues to move ahead with plans to incorporate a collection of technical amendments to OSHA 1926.1427. These amendments are intended to correct minor mistakes in the rule as well as to add clarity to certain provisions. They cover areas including hand signals, proximity alarms requirements and outrigger/stabilizer position sensor/monitors. The federal regulatory agenda indicates that a notice of proposed rulemaking is planned in the near future.

## Annual Renewal for the NCCCO Employer Recognition Program

It's time for all employers enrolled in NCCCO's *Committed to Crane Safety* Employer Recognition Program to renew for another year. As with initial enrollment, there is no fee for renewal.

The nearly 60 companies that currently participate in this program continue to be recognized for their time, effort and dedication to safety by employing CCO certified crane operators, signalpersons and riggers. Companies that participate in the program, and achieve recognition, enhance their standing in the industry and are nationally recognized for their commitment on the NCCCO website, the CCOonline newsletter, and in other industry media. NCCCO strongly encourages all eligible employers to apply for inclusion in the directory as NCCCO recognizes its 20th Anniversary in 2015.

All companies currently enrolled in the *Committed to Crane Safety* program should re-apply for 2015 [here](#).

Companies that employ CCO-certified operators, riggers, and/or signalpersons wishing to be considered for inclusion, should apply [here](#).



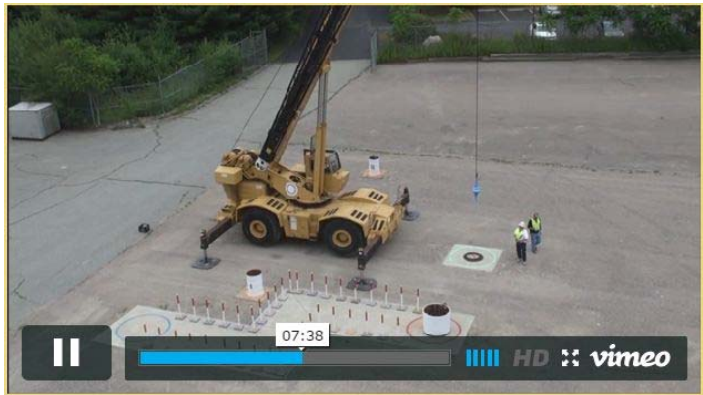
## Training Providers to Complete Annual Listing Renewal



All Training Providers currently listed on the NCCCO website are reminded that it's time to renew and update their listing. All providers must resubmit the [Application for Listing as a Training Provider](#) and required documentation in order to continue being listed in 2015. Don't delay in submitting the form and documentation; the deadline is February 28! A Certificate of Recognition for 2015 will be mailed to all renewing companies. Not yet applied to be listed on the NCCCO Training Providers website? Apply [here](#).

**New NCCCO Practical Exam Videos Now Available**

NCCCO has released revised editions of its practical exam candidate videos for Mobile Cranes, Tower Cranes, and Overhead Cranes. These videos now detail the new Pre-Operational Inspection and Shutdown tasks that have been added to the practical exams, and are being phased in at practical exam sites nationwide. View the videos here: [Mobile Crane](#), [Tower Crane](#), [Overhead Crane](#)



## Power Line Safety Cards Prove Popular



Since they were first released last year, NCCCO's Power Line Safety Cards have proven to be a big hit with the nation's leading crane users. Bulk orders have been received from crane rental firms, contractors, rigging firms and utilities from Florida to Washington state and all across the Gulf states for the cards which are published in cooperation with the Florida Crane Safety Alliance. Now in their second printing, the laminated cards fold to the size of a credit card for portability and ease of reference, and detail power line best practices based on the ASME B30.5 national ANSI standard. They also provide a "compliance flowchart" with the latest OSHA requirements of 29 CFR 1926 Subpart CC. The Cards are shrink-wrapped in packs of 10 and provided at cost by NCCCO.

[Order Cards Here](#)

## "It Was 20 Years Ago 'today' . . ."

On January 10, 1995, the Specialized Carriers & Riggers Association (SC&RA) filed papers in Washington, DC that established a new independent non-profit organization, the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) to continue the development of, and ultimately administer, the first national crane operator certification program in the United States.



## Did You Know?



While NCCCO does not offer training in order to provide an independent assessment of knowledge and skill, there are still plenty of resources available to assist candidates prepare for the exams.

- **Candidate Handbooks**

contain exam outlines so candidates know exactly what they will be tested on as well as sample test items.

- A list of **Reference**

**Material** is available for each program as well as any **load charts** that are used during testing so candidates can become familiar with them before entering the testing environment.

- If a certification requires a practical exam, the **Certification Quick Link** at the top of the NCCCO web site home page provides access to a video preview of the exams.
- The Mobile Crane Operator program has even more **load chart and core sample questions** online.

Finally, if training is what you need to prepare, NCCCO maintains a directory of companies that have indicated they conduct both **classroom style** and/or **online/internet** training for CCO exams.

## From the Seat: Operators Talk About CCO Certification

"My CCO Certification has helped me foresee and stop upcoming safety problems before someone is hurt".

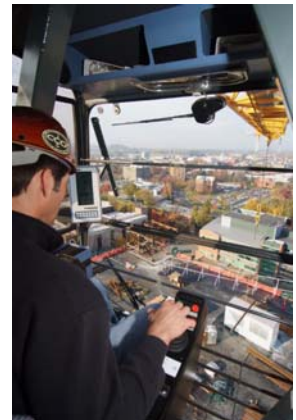
**One-Star Recertified CCO Crane Operator**

"Even though I have been operating cranes for 40 years, CCO certification has made me more professional. I always got the job done; now I do it safer with a more professional look."

**Two-Star Recertified CCO Crane Operator**

"CCO certification has helped me foresee--and stop--likely safety problems before someone is hurt."

**Three-Star Recertified CCO Crane Operator**



## Employer Quote of the Month



"CCO Certification has driven our operators to perform on a more professional level, raising awareness of best practices. Our customers have a greater sense of safety and security, knowing our operators are tested and certified in their craft." **Jeff Hammons, AmQuip Crane Rental**

## NCCCO's 20th Anniversary: What's Your Story?

It's 20 years since NCCCO was founded and we'd like you to help us tell our story. If

CCO certification has had an impact on you or your company we'd like to know about it. To start, just tell us briefly [here](#) what you'd like to share, and if you'd like us to follow up with you about it. We'll be offering special, limited edition CCO merchandise for any stories we use.

## CCO By the Numbers

# 360

The number of Practical Exam Audits conducted in 2014 on CCO Practical Test Sites by NCCCO's Auditors as part of the NCCCO Quality Assurance Program.

## Upcoming Practical Examiner Workshops

Are you interested in being able to administer CCO practical exams? Why not apply to become a Practical Examiner by attending an upcoming Practical Examiner Accreditation Workshop?

### Articulating Crane

February 19-20  
Salt Lake City, UT

### Signalperson

March 17  
Salt Lake City, UT

### Rigger Level I

March 18-19  
Salt Lake City, UT



## Supporter Spotlight

The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators gratefully recognizes the generous support of its industry sponsors.



"Maniowoc is committed to providing the most innovative, advanced and comprehensive range of lifting solutions, with products that have long set the standard for excellence worldwide: Grove mobile telescoping cranes, Maniowoc lattice boom crawler cranes, Potain tower cranes, National Crane boom trucks and Shuttlelift industrial cranes. In addition to our outstanding product lines, Maniowoc offers outstanding support services through Maniowoc Crane Care."



Did you notice? We've redesigned CCOOnline for greater readability! We'd appreciate you [telling us what you think](#) and letting us have your suggestions for further improvements.

Sincerely,

Tara Whittington  
NCCCO

National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO)

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