

Crane Certification FAQs

as of May 2016

The following are common FAQs explaining what you need to know in order to be in compliance with the new OSHA crane certification requirement. Please note as additional information becomes available and rule clarification from OSHA is made public, this information may change. Please check back often for the latest information.

What is the new OSHA crane certification requirement?

OSHA will require crane operators to be certified to operate most cranes that have a lifting capacity of 2000 pounds. Certification must be issued by an accredited crane operator testing organization.

What types of cranes used in the precast concrete industry are covered by the new requirement?

Telescoping boom cranes (fixed or rotating)

Rail/Trolley trucks

*Under 21 Tons

*Boom Length 36' +/-5'

When does the new crane certification requirement go into effect?

November 10, 2017

Which organizations are accredited crane operator testing organizations?

There are several accredited organizations you can work with to become certified including:

- Crane Institute of America (CIC)
- National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO)
- National Center for Construction Education and Research (NCCER)

Does it matter which testing organization I go through for my certification?

All of the above crane operator testing organizations are accredited and issue OSHA-accepted crane certifications. You can pick the organization that is the best fit for your needs.

Is training required for certification?

There is no specific training requirement tied to the OSHA certification regulation. The regulation states that an operator must be certified and qualified. While there is not a required training class as part of the certification and qualification process, NPCA strongly recommends operators take a training course in preparation for the certification exam. The pass rate for crane operators taking the certification exam goes up substantially when he or she has taken a preparatory training course.

Where can I find training courses to prepare for the certification exam?

Each accredited certification organization listed above offers a prep course to help prepare for the certification exam. To find a course and instructor in your area, visit the website of the certification organization and click "training."



What is the difference between “certified” and “qualified”?

A “certified” crane operator is one who has successfully passed a stringent written and practical exam. A “qualified” crane operator is one who has extensive knowledge, training and experience in safely operating a crane, and has demonstrated the ability to resolve problems related to proper crane operation. Qualification of a crane operator can be done within your plant by observing the operator during the operation of the crane to validate his or her knowledge, training and experience.

Do I have to be both certified and qualified under the new crane requirements?

Yes.

How long is my certification good for?

Five years from the date of certification.

What is NPCA doing?

NPCA is aware that a significant percentage of precast concrete crane operators who have taken existing certification exams offered by CIC, NCCCO and NCCER have failed the exam. The primary reason for the failed exam is due to the complexity of the load charts used for the written exam. These load charts are for larger cranes not used in the precast industry, and not familiar to our crane operators. In order to help precast concrete industry crane operators be compliant with OSHA's new requirement, NPCA is working closely with OSHA and CIC. NPCA and CIC are creating a modified written crane certification exam that will use load charts more commonly used within our industry. These load charts include QMC and USTC cranes. This new exam will be accredited and meet the OSHA requirements for certified crane operators. It is important to note the new NPCA/CIC written exam will be for 21 ton and under precast delivery cranes and trolley/rail cranes. All practical exams for this certification must be taken on a boom truck with 21 ton capacity with 36 feet of boom length +/- 5'. If your plant uses larger cranes, crane operators will need to take the current written certification exams offered by CIC, NCCCO and/or NCCER.

Are there any exemptions?

OSHA has issued an exemption for burial vaults at this time. NPCA anticipates burial vaults will be included in the requirement, and recommends precast concrete burial vault manufacturers consider having their crane operators certified in preparation for this change.

How does the OSHA regulation impact local regulations?

Some states and cities have enacted more stringent crane certification requirements for operators in their jurisdiction. NPCA recommends you check with state and local officials to verify what regulations may apply to your crane operators.

Where can I find the OSHA regulation?

[Click here](#) to view the OSHA regulation.