

**OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY
AND HEALTH STANDARDS BOARD**

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February 1, 2005

To Interested Parties:

The Occupational Safety and Health Standards Board (Board) is evaluating the status of industry's preparation for Title 8: Chapter 4, Subchapter 7, Article 98, Section 5006.1(f) of the General Industry Safety Orders, Crane Operator Certification, which becomes effective June 1, 2005. In response to testimony at the January 20, 2005, Board meeting, the Board is seeking further information so that it can thoroughly consider the impact of the June 1, 2005, effective date for crane operator certification. The Board will schedule the issue on its February 17, 2005, agenda, encouraging the public to comment. The meeting begins at 10:00 a.m. at the State Resources Building, 1416 Ninth Street, Sacramento, CA 95814. You may submit written comments to the Standards Board at 2520 Venture Oaks Way, Suite 350, Sacramento, CA 95833. If your written comments are received by **February 11th**, they will be provided to the Board members before the meeting. You may comment at the hearing or submit written comments, or both.

We have attached a copy of specific questions that will assist the Board. If you need an additional copy, you may find it on our website <http://www.dir.ca.gov/OSHSB/oshsb.html>. In addition, we have included a copy of Sections 5006 and 5006.1 for your reference.

You may fax the answers to (916) 274-5743 or email them to OSHSB@dir.ca.gov.

Thank you for your assistance and cooperation.

CRANE CERTIFICATION QUESTIONNAIRE

Please take a moment to provide your input for Board consideration of the following.

I. Number of cranes, operators, and status of certification

How many of your cranes are affected by the crane certification standard?

Number of mobile cranes _____
Number of tower cranes _____

How many of your operators are affected by the crane certification standard?

Number of mobile crane operators _____
Number certified by February 17 _____ Expected by June 1 _____
Number of tower crane operators _____
Number certified by February 17 _____ Expected by June 1 _____

II. Method of certifying your operators

What is your method of certifying operators? Check as appropriate.

- A. Utilize an accredited third party testing organization (e.g. NCCCO) _____
B. Self-certification, accredited by NCCA _____
If you check, self-certification, please indicate:
Have you applied to be accredited by NCCA? _____
If not, when do expect to submit your application? _____ (date)

III. Process of certifying your operators

Since the adoption of the standard in May 2003, have there been any unexpected developments that affected your ability to certify your crane operators? _____ If so, please explain.

In the event you are unable to meet the June 1, 2005 date, when do you expect to have your crane operators certified to your satisfaction? Date _____

Also, what are your plans during the interim?

- A. Apply for a temporary variance _____
B. Reduce operations _____ how much? _____
C. Train new operators _____
D. Contract certified operators _____
E. Other, please specify _____

IV. Policy

If you are not able to satisfactorily comply by June 1, what do you believe will be the impact to your business/operations or public safety?

Should the effective date be extended? Yes _____ No _____
If so, until when? _____ (date)

Subchapter 7. General Industry Safety Orders
Group 13. Cranes and Other Hoisting Equipment
Article 98. Operating Rules

§5006. Operators--Qualifications.

(a) Only employees authorized by the employer and trained in the safe operation of cranes or hoisting apparatus shall be permitted to operate such equipment.

(b) Trainees may be authorized to operate cranes or hoisting apparatus provided they are under the supervision of a qualified operator.

Exception: Mobile and tower cranes regulated by Section 5006.1.

§5006.1. Mobile Crane and Tower Crane-Operator Qualifications and Certification.

(a) Qualifications. The employer shall only permit operators who have a valid certificate of competency (certificate) issued in accordance with this section by an Accredited Certifying Entity for the type of crane to be used to operate a crane covered by this section. Certificates shall be issued to operators who:

(1) Pass a physical examination conducted by a physician which at a minimum shall include the examination criteria specified in the American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) B30.5-2000 standard, Chapter 5-3.1.2(a)(1-5, 7, 8) or the U.S. Department of Transportation (US DOT) physical examination requirements contained in 49 CFR Sections 391.41 through 391.49.

(2) Pass a substance abuse test. The level of testing shall be consistent with the standard practice for the industry where the crane is in use and this test shall be conducted by a recognized laboratory service;

(3) Pass a written examination developed, validated, and administered in accordance with the Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing (Copyright 1999) published jointly by the Joint Committee of the American Educational Research Association, the American Psychological Association, and the National Council in Measurement in Education. The exam shall test knowledge and skills identified as necessary for safe crane operations and shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(A) operational characteristics and controls, including characteristic and performance questions appropriate to the crane type for which qualification is sought;

(B) emergency control skills, such as a response to fire, power line contact, loss of stability, or control malfunction;

(C) a demonstration of basic arithmetic skills necessary for crane operation and the ability to read and comprehend the crane manufacturer's operation and maintenance instruction materials, including load capacity information (load charts) for the crane for which certification is sought;

(D) knowledge of chapters 5-0 through 5-3 of The American Society of Mechanical Engineers (ASME) B30.5-2000 and B30.5a-2002 Addenda to the standard for mobile and locomotive cranes or chapters 4-0 through 4-3 of the ASME B30.4-1996 standard for portal, tower, and pedestal cranes or Chapter 3-3 of the ASME B 30.3-1996 standard for Construction Tower Cranes, depending on the type of crane(s) the operator intends to operate.

(4) Pass a "hands-on" examination to demonstrate proficiency in operating the specific type of crane, which at a minimum shall include pre-start and post-start inspection, maneuvering skills, shutdown, and securing procedures.

(b) Certification. Certificates shall be valid for a maximum of five (5) years. An Accredited Certifying Entity shall issue the certificate of competency to operators who successfully demonstrate the qualifications set forth in (a)(1)-(4) of this section.

(c) Accredited Certifying Entity. A certifying entity is any organization whose certification program is accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA).

(d) Re-certification. Crane operators shall re-certify every five (5) years and shall be required to meet all of the qualifications set forth in subsection (a). Operators with at least one-thousand (1,000) hours of documented experience operating the specific type of crane for which re-certification is sought as covered by this section during the immediately preceding certification period and who meet the physical examination, substance abuse, and written examination requirements set forth in subsections (a)(1), (a)(2) and (a)(3) of this section shall not be required to take the "hands-on" examination specified in subsection (a)(4) to re-certify.

(e) Trainees may be authorized to operate mobile or tower cranes provided they are under the direct supervision of an operator possessing a valid certificate of competency for the type of crane operated by the trainee.

The term direct supervision means the supervising operator is in the immediate area of the trainee and within visual sighting distance and able to effectively communicate with the trainee. When performing direct supervision, the supervising operator shall have no other duties other than to observe the operation of the crane by the trainee.

(f) Effective Date. The requirements of Section 5006.1 shall become effective on June 1, 2005.

EXCEPTIONS TO SECTION 5006.1:

(1) Mobile cranes having a boom length of less than 25 feet or a maximum rated load capacity of less than 15,000 pounds.

(2) Operators of electric line trucks as defined in Section 2700 of the Electrical Safety Orders, and regulated by Section 2940.7 of the High Voltage Electrical Safety Orders.

(3) Marine terminal operations regulated by Article 14 of these Orders.