

Important Crane Operator Certification Notice for Ohio Public Employers

On Nov. 8, 2010, the Public Employment Risk Reduction Program (PERRP) adopted an **Ohio Employment Risk Reduction standard for cranes and derricks** used during public employment construction activities. If you are a state or local government (public) employer or employee in Ohio, you must comply with this adopted standard, **29 CFR 1926, Subpart CC**.

One provision in the adopted standard requires qualified or certified crane operators. If you are a public employer using **equipment covered by this standard**, you must make certain your equipment operators are qualified or certified on or before Nov. 10, 2017.

Section 1427 – Operator Qualification and Certification of the adopted standard contains new requirements designed to ensure crane operators have the knowledge and skills necessary for safe operation.

After Nov. 10, 2017

Operators of most equipment the standard covers must be qualified or certified by, or under the scrutiny of, a third party other than the operator's employer. The standard provides an exception for operators in training who may operate equipment with certain limitations until they can become qualified or certified.

Certification describes a process whereby an operator passes both written and practical tests administered by an accredited crane operator testing organization. To qualify for this title, a nationally recognized accrediting agency must accredit the testing organization. **Operator certification from an accredited testing organization** is portable between employers and the certification is valid for five years.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has identified two organizations qualified as nationally recognized accrediting agencies. They are

- **The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA);**
- **The American National Standards Institute (ANSI).**

The NCCA and ANSI websites identify the testing organizations with programs they have accredited for crane operator testing.

The respective accreditation agency must review the testing organization's accreditation at least every three years. In addition, a testing organization may offer multiple certification programs for different types of crane operators. Therefore, it is important that employers determine which testing program is appropriate for the type(s) of equipment they use in their workplace and select an accredited program.

The rule also uses the term qualification in describing three other options:

- (1) **Qualification by an audited employer program** (see important note below);
- (2) **Qualification by the U.S. Military** is not portable and is limited to employees of the Department of Defense or members of the Armed Forces;
- (3) **Licensing by a government entity**. At the present time, Ohio does not have a licensing process.

Important note

Operator qualification through option (1) requires an employer to administer written and practical examinations developed by an accredited testing organization. An accredited testing organization must audit an employer operator qualification program every three years. Operator qualification is not portable and is limited to employees of the employer that issued the qualification. Employers must ensure their qualified operators re-qualify every five years.

Excluded equipment

The certification requirements exclude a few types of equipment. However, they are not exempt from operator training and several other requirements in the standard. This equipment includes:

- **Derricks;**
- **Sideboom cranes;**
- **Equipment with a rated hoisting/lifting capacity of 2,000 pounds or less.**

Public employers must ensure that operators of derricks, sideboom cranes and equipment rated at 2,000 pounds or less are competent to operate equipment safely.

For more information on requirements for safe crane operation, call **PERRP** at 1-800-671-6858.