Tools You Can Use

How the NCCCO Foundation Directories can help you navigate compliance and adopt best practices

Graham Brent, CEO, NCCCO Foundation

October 29, 2020
The NCCCO Foundation

• 501(c)3 Charitable Organization formed in 2018

• Governing body: NCCCO Foundation Board of Directors
  • President: J. Chris Ryan, Boh Bros (ret)
  • Vice President: Peter Juhren, Morrow Equipment
  • Secretary/Treasurer: Tim Watters, Hoffman Equipment
  • Director: Garry Higdem, Mario Sinacola & Sons
  • Director: Ingo Schiller, Tadano America
  • Director: Kerry Hulse, Deep South Crane & Rigging

• Mission: To promote industry safety by:
  • educating and advocating for personnel safety and certification,
  • performing research to improve standards and certification protocols,
  • making certification possible for more individuals by providing scholarships for training and certification programs.
Workforce Development: Youth Outreach
Offender Re-Entry
Research Studies

Crane Operator Evaluation
How are employers responding to OSHA’s new requirement?

Virtual Reality
Does it have a role in certification testing?

Free download at:
ncccofoundation.org

5th NCCCO Foundation Industry Forum
Two Online Directories

• **Who’s Accredited? Directory**

• **Most Similar Certifications Directory**

• **What do they have in common?**

  • OSHA Crane Operator Certification Requirements

  • 1926.1427(c)(2) *Certification.* When an operator is not required to be licensed under paragraph (c)(1) of this section, the operator must be certified in accordance with paragraph (d) or (e) of this section.

  • 1926.1427(d)(1) For a certification to satisfy the requirements of this section, the crane operator testing organization providing the certification must be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency based on that agency’s determination that industry-recognized criteria for written testing materials, practical examinations, test administration, grading, facilities/equipment, and personnel have been met.
The *Who’s Accredited?* Directory

• OSHA’s Final Rule on crane operator qualifications requires crane operators to be certified [29 CFR 1926.1427(c)(2)].

• Certification must be from an “accredited . . . .”

• Rationale for the *Directory*:
  • Industry uncertainty regarding status of Certification Body status
  • Need for independent, reliable and accurate information
  • Clarification as to the *certification programs* accredited
  • “One-Stop Shop” for latest information, from original sources, regularly updated
Who’s Accredited to Certify?

- Accredited by ANSI/ANAB
  - NCCCO – National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators
  - NCCER – National Center for Construction Education and Research
  - EICA – Electrical Industry Certifications Association

- Accredited by NCCA
  - OECP – Operating Engineers Certification Program

- Verify at the source:
  - For ANSI: https://anab.ansi.org/credentialing/
  - For NCCA: www.credentialingexcellence.org/nccadirectory
The Who’s Accredited? Directory

ncccofoundation.org/whos-accredited
The Most Similar Certifications Directory

• OSHA’s Final Rule on crane operator qualifications requires crane operators to be certified [29 CFR 1926.1427(c)(2)].

• However, where no accredited certification exists OSHA states that “an operator will be deemed to have complied with the certification requirements of this section if the operator has been certified for the type that is most similar to that equipment.

• BUT, how are those “most similar” determinations to be made, and by whom?

• OSHA “does not believe it is in the best position” to make these determinations.
Most Similar Certifications Directory

CTAG
CRANE TYPE ADVISORY GROUP

cranetype@ncccofoundation.org
CTAG: A Brief History

• Formed May 2017 by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators

• Activities transferred to the NCCCO Foundation Fall 2019

• 14 Crane Industry Experts
  • 500+ collective hours of crane experience
  • All major crane types
  • Broad range of industries

• Met 12+ times

• Made 25+ “Most Similar” Determinations

• Most Similar Certifications Directory unveiled August 2020
Crane Type Advisory Group (CTAG)

**Mission**
To provide authoritative advice and direction to employers and crane operators as to the appropriate certification for operators of different types of cranes

**Vision**
To ensure that no type of crane is left undocumented as to the appropriate certification required by the operator of that type of crane
CTAG Members

Dave Foster
Tony Dotto
Dave Ritchie, Chair
Jim Jacobs
Brian Haight
Fred Simmons
Pete Laux
Ron Overton
Stephanie Wood
Derek Sather
Chris Smith
Chris Treml

CRANE TYPE ADVISORY GROUP (CTAG)
Need for *Most Similar* Determinations
The Most Similar Certifications Directory

ncccofoundation.org/most-similar

**Part 1: Type of Equipment** — determinations made for cranes for which no known accredited certification exists.

**Part 2: Type of Installation** — determinations made for cranes for which an accredited certification does exist, but whose installation, application or the use to which they are being put may call the type of certification into question.

**Part 3: By Specific Model/Brand** — determinations made regarding a specific brand and/or model of lifting equipment with unique characteristics for which the appropriate certification is unclear. The determinations may also apply to similar equipment made by other manufacturers.
The MSC Directory – Example 1: Crane Type

Precast Launcher | Most Similar Certifications: Overhead Crane

Most Similar Certifications Directory

Part 1: Type of Equipment
- Preparing crane, deferent boom, etc.
- Crane operation for which no known accredited certification exists.

Part 2: Type of Installation
- Containing the determinations made for cranes for which an accredited certification does exist, but whose application or version to which they are being put may not allow the type of certification in question.

Part 3: By Specific Model/Brand
- Containing the determinations made regarding a specific brand and/or model of lifting equipment with unique characteristics for which the appropriate certification is unclear. The determinations may also apply to similar equipment made by other manufacturers.
The MSC Directory – Example 2: Type of Installation
Directory of “Most Similar” Certifications

Navigating a Pathway to Compliance

OSHA’s Final Rule on crane operator qualifications requires crane operators to be certified.[20 CFR 1926.147(b)(2)]. However, in those cases where no accredited certification examinations for a particular type of equipment exist, OSHA states that “an operator will be deemed to have been certified for the reason that is most similar to the equipment and for which a certification examination is available.”[14297]

This requirement arose from a concern by the Cranes and Derrick Advisory Committee (C-DAC) — the industry group that wrote the document on which OSHA based its Final Rule published in 2015 and the crane operator qualifications requirements of which were updated in 2018 — to limit the number of certifications an operator should be required to hold. By establishing the requirement for certifications based on certain types of cranes, and addressing an individual’s competency to operate any equipment for which an accredited certification has not been developed, C-DAC and, later, OSHA felt they had reached an acceptable resolution. Thus, “most similar” certification concept was born.

The key question is how to determine which certification is the closest to the equipment for which no accredited certification exists would be identified. In other words, how are those “most similar” determinations to be made, and where?

OSHA provides a hint as to its intention and preference in addressing those questions when in the Promulgation of the Final Rule it states:

“... the agency does not define it as in the best interest to determine the various types of cranes for which certification should be necessary.”

[Federal Register, Vol. 85, No. 218, November 9, 2018, p. 62477] and goes further to say:

“... it would be easier for OSHA to consider a major change to the standard before the NCCCO Crane Type Advisory Group concludes its work which could include a consensus standard that identifies crane types that require a similar capability and knowledge to operate.”

[Cranes and Derrick Advisory Committee, June 2018, p. 56277]

Who is the Crane Type Advisory Group?

Building on Decades of Experience

The NCCCO Foundation’s Crane Type Advisory Group (CTAG) is comprised of crane subject matter experts with an unwavering wealth of experience across a multitude of different types of cranes and applications, representing many decades of the field, hands on experience. Learn more about how the NCCCO Foundation is Navigating a Pathway to Certification with the assistance of the CTAG through the development of the Most Similar Certification Directory.

Here is a list of the current members of the committee:

DAVID REITZER, ESQ, CHST, CTAG Chair
David Reitzer, President of Crane Media Consulting. He has over 15 years of construction experience, including 15 as a mobile crane and tower crane operator. Among his current and past professional affiliations are membership in the ASME, AHA, and NACE committees, and AHA and McDonald’s Tower Crane Group. Other NCCCO experience includes CTAG Chair, and member of the NCCCO Safety Committee and member of the Crane Advisory Committees. He is a past chairman of the Crane Advisory Committees, and an active member of the Crane Advisory Committees.

TOM POTTERTON, CTAG Member
Toni Potterton has more than 30 years in the crane and heavy equipment industry, 12 of those working with the railroads. During this time, he has accumulated many years’ experience in operating cranes. He is an instructor for the NCCCO Crane Operator’s course and training (30 years). For 25 years, Toni worked for the Canadian National Railways.
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THANK YOU FOR YOUR ATTENTION

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