



# **SIXTH ANNUAL** NCCCO FOUNDATION **Industry Forum**

## **Tools You Can Use**

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

**Graham Brent, CEO**  
NCCCO Foundation

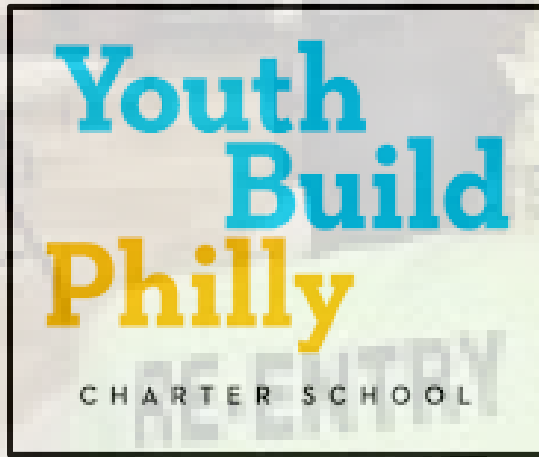
*November 11, 2021*

# The NCCCO Foundation

- *501(c)3 Charitable Organization formed by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators in 2018*
- *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.*

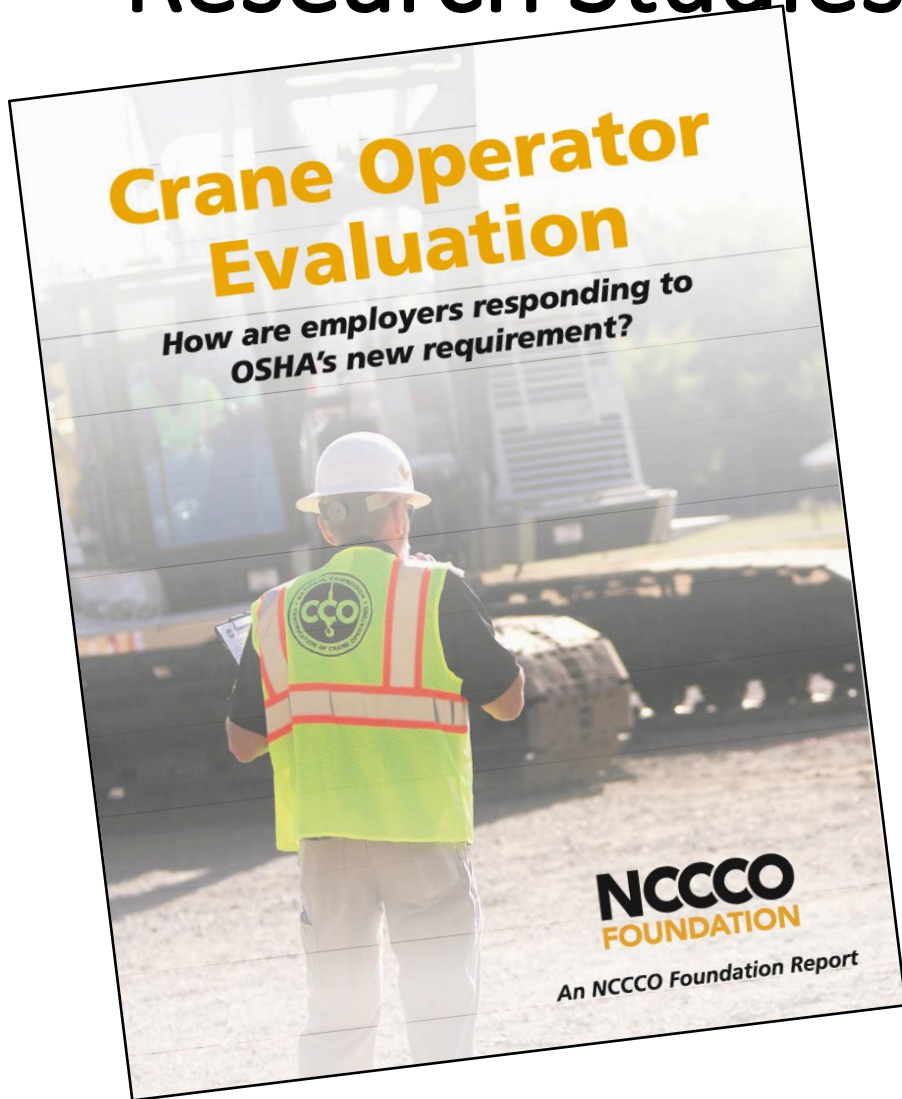


THE AMERICAN LEGION



**SIXTH ANNUAL** NCCCO FOUNDATION  
**Industry Forum**

# Research Studies



*Safety  
Information  
Research  
Education  
Network*



*Free download at:*  
[ncccofoundation.org](http://ncccofoundation.org)

**SIXTH ANNUAL 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 [1926.1427(d)(1)(i)] 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

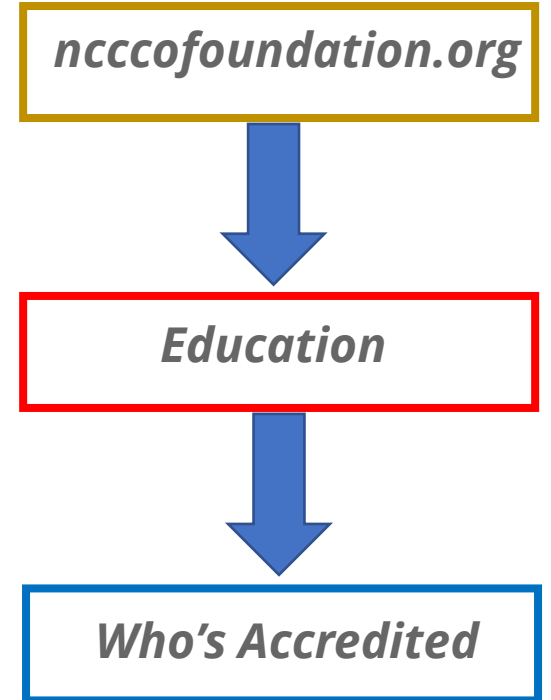
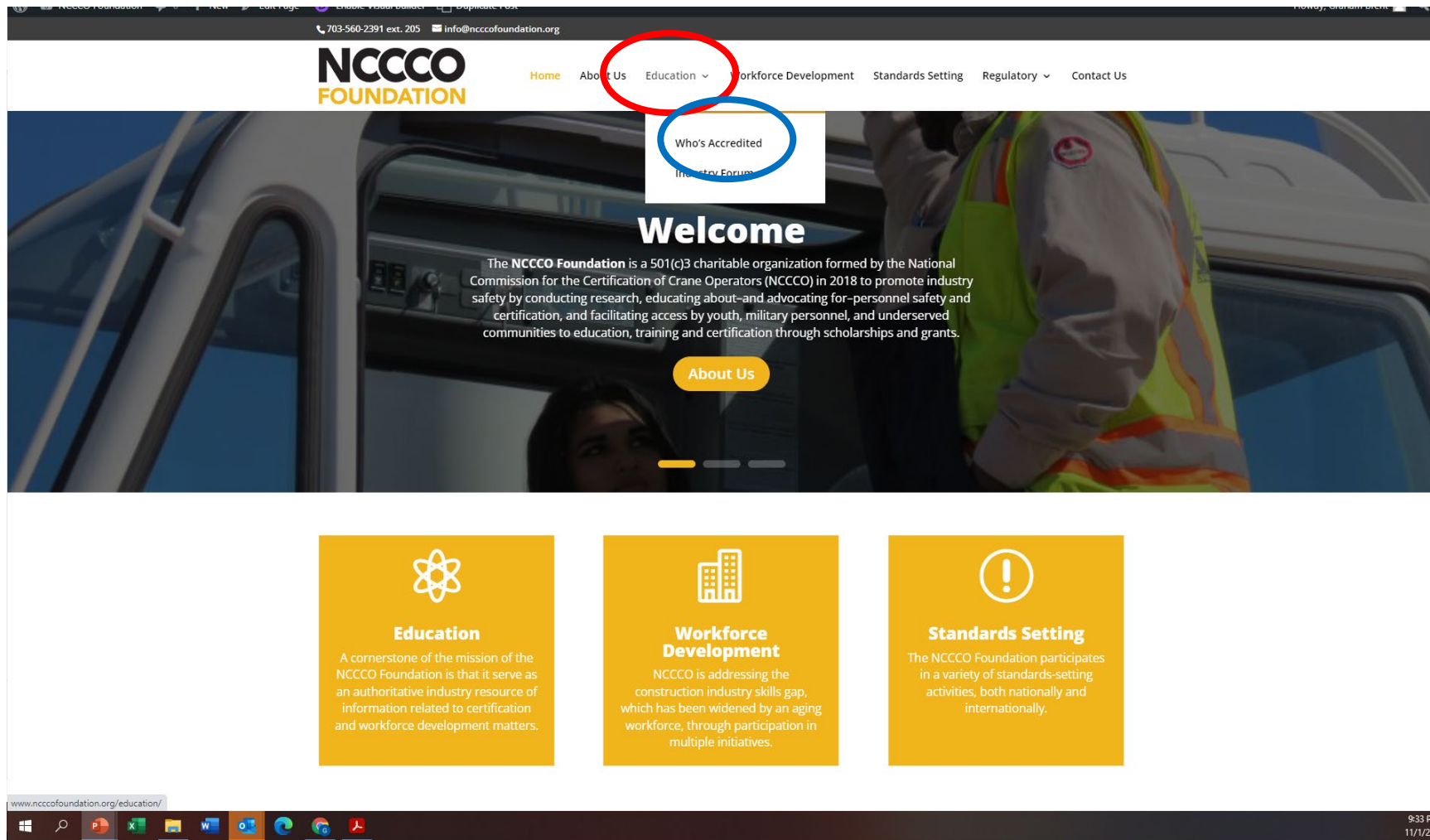
- OSHA's Final Rule on crane operator qualifications requires crane operators to be certified [29 CFR 1926.1427(c)(2)].
- Certification must be from an “accredited . . . .”
- Rationale for the *Directory*:
  - Industry uncertainty regarding status of Certification Body status
  - Need for independent, reliable and accurate information
  - Clarification as to the *certification programs* accredited
  - “One-Stop Shop” for latest information, from original sources, regularly updated
- **New feature:** Summary of updates

# Who's Accredited to Certify?

[ncccofoundation.org/whos-accredited](https://ncccofoundation.org/whos-accredited)

- Accredited by ANSI National Accreditation Board
  - **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: <https://ice.learningbuilder.com/Public/MemberSearch/ProgramVerification>

CERTIFICATION ORGANIZATION	ACCREDITED THROUGH
<b>ELECTRICAL INDUSTRY CERTIFICATIONS ASSOCIATION (EICA)</b> Accredited by the ANSI NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD Digger Derrick Rotating-Control Crane Stationary-Control Crane	9/22/2022 9/22/2022 9/22/2022
<b>NATIONAL CENTER FOR CONSTRUCTION EDUCATION AND RESEARCH (NCCER)</b> Accredited by the ANSI NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD Crawler Mount Crane Industrial/All Purpose Crane Rough Terrain/All Terrain Rubber Tire Truck Mount Crane	12/8/2023 12/8/2023 12/8/2023 12/8/2023
<b>NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR THE CERTIFICATION OF CRANE OPERATORS (NCCCO)</b> Accredited by the ANSI NATIONAL ACCREDITATION BOARD Mobile Crane Operator: Lattice Boom Crawler Cranes Lattice Boom Truck Cranes Telescopic Boom Cranes—Swing Cab	9/10/2022





# 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](mailto: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
- 15 Crane Industry Experts
  - 500+ collective hours of crane experience
  - All major crane types
  - Broad range of industries
- Met 12+ times
- Made 30 “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



Pat Cran



Tony Dotto



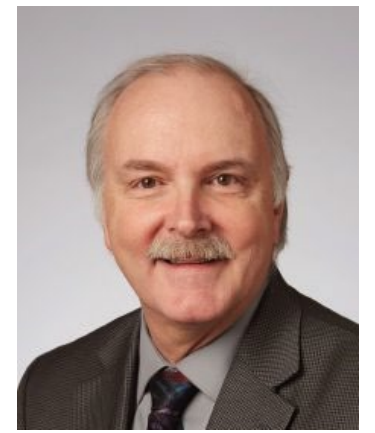
Dave Foster



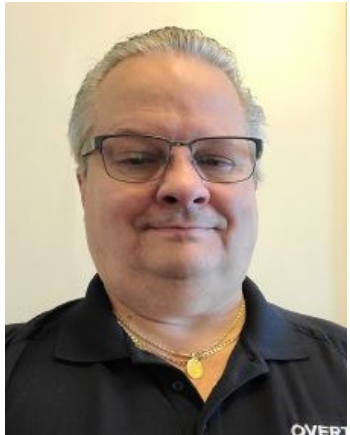
Brian Haight



Jim Jacobs



Pete Laux



Ron Overton

# CRANE TYPE ADVISORY GROUP (CTAG)

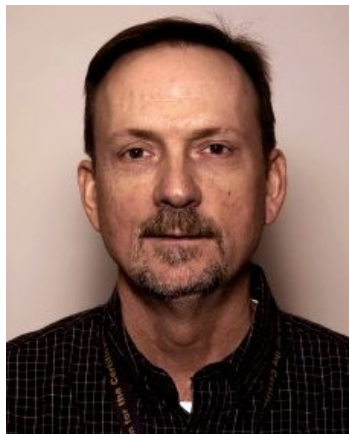


Dave Ritchie, *Chair*



Derek Sather

Fred Simmons



Chris Smith



Dick Thompson



Chris Trembl



Stephanie Wood



Thom Sicklesteel *ex officio*



# Need for *Most Similar* Determinations



# The *Most Similar* Certifications Directory

The screenshot shows the NCCCO Foundation website. At the top, it says "Most Similar Certification Directory | NCCCO Foundation" and provides contact information. The main heading is "Most Similar Certifications Directory". Below this, there is an introductory paragraph explaining that the directory represents determinations made by the Crane Type Advisory Group (CTAG) based on requests from employers, training firms, regulators, and other industry stakeholders. It notes that while CTAG makes every effort to make its determinations on a particular piece of equipment applicable to a type of equipment, some installations and/or equipment may be so unique that they do not lend themselves to generic categorization. Hence, the Directory is divided into three parts.

Part 1 - contains the determinations made for cranes for which no known accredited certification exists. (Accompanied by an image of a crane on a barge).

Part 2 - contains the determinations made for cranes for which an accredited certification does exist, but whose installation, application or the use to which it is being put may call the type of certification into question. (Accompanied by an image of a crane at a construction site).




Part 2 - contains the determinations made regarding lifting equipment of a hybrid nature for which the appropriate certification is unclear. (Accompanied by an image of a crane on a truck).

Click on the headings below to reveal more information and the applicable "most similar" certification.

If you do not find a "match" for the equipment you seek a "most similar" certification for, or are unsure as to whether a particular "most similar" determination applies, please contact CTAG at [craneapp@ncccofoundation.org](mailto:craneapp@ncccofoundation.org).

[You can read more about the Directory of "Most Similar" Certifications here.](#)

**Part 1: By Type of Equipment**

-  **Davit Crane (Equipped with Winch)**
-  **Gantry Crane (Mobile)**
-  **Harbor Crane (Lifts in Room) - Mobile**

At the bottom left, the URL [ncccofoundation.org/most-similar-certification-directory](http://ncccofoundation.org/most-similar-certification-directory) is visible.

[ncccofoundation.org/most-similar](http://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: By Crane Type



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## Most Similar Certifications Directory

The Most Similar Certifications Directory represents the determinations made by the [Crane Type Advisory Group \(CTAG\)](#) based on requests received from employers, training firms, regulators and other industry stakeholders.

This Directory is maintained in an effort to assist industry in determining whether an operator may be deemed qualified to operate equipment in situations where no accredited testing organization offers certification for that particular equipment type.

Learn more about how the NCCCO Foundation is [Navigating a Pathway to Certification](#) with the assistance of CTAG

While CTAG makes every effort to make its determinations on a particular piece of equipment applicable to a type of equipment, some installations and/or equipment may be so unique that they do not lend themselves to generic categorization. Hence, the Directory is divided into three parts.

- Part 1: Type of Equipment** — containing the determinations made for cranes 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 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** — 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.





- Pipelaying Crane (Rotating Boom)
- Pick and Carry Crane (Non-Rotating Boom)
- Portal Crane
- Precast Launcher



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### Pipelaying Crane (Rotating Boom)

Most Similar Certification: Telescopic Boom Crane - Swing Cab





# The MSC Directory – Example 2: Type of Installation



703-560-2391 ext. 205 info@ncccofoundation.org

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**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.

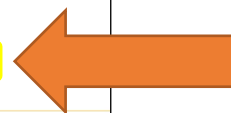


Part 2: By Type of Installation

- Articulating Boom Crane (Installed on Tower Mast)
- Telescopic Boom Crane (Trailer Mounted)
- Wind Turbine Service Crane
- Wind Turbine-Mounted Derrick**

Part 3: By Specific Model/Brand

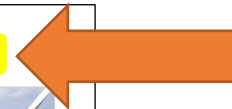
- Palfinger PK 480 TK
- Pettibone Speed Swing



Wind Turbine-Mounted Derrick

Most Similar Certification: **Telescopic Boom Crane – Fixed Cab**

Shown: Ultra LT1000



# The *Most Similar* Certifications Directory

[ncccofoundation.org/directory-of-most-similar-certifications](https://ncccofoundation.org/directory-of-most-similar-certifications)

[ncccofoundation.org/who-is-the-crane-type-advisory-group](https://ncccofoundation.org/who-is-the-crane-type-advisory-group)



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## Directory of "Most Similar" Certifications

### Navigating a Pathway to Compliance

OSHA's Final Rule on crane operator qualifications requires crane operators to be certified [29 CFR 1926.1427(c)(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 complied with the certification requirements of this section if the operator has been certified for **the type that is most similar** to that equipment and for which a certification examination is available." [1427(d)(2)].

This requirement arose from a concern by the Cranes and Derricks Advisory Committee (C-DAC)—the industry group that wrote the document on which OSHA based its Final Rule published in 2010 (and the crane operator qualifications requirements of which were updated in 2018)—to limit the number of certifications an equipment 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 had not been developed, C-DAC (and, later, OSHA) felt they had reached an acceptable resolution. Thus, the "most similar" certification concept was borne.

That left the question as to how the certifications which most closely align to equipment for which no accredited certification exists would be identified. In other words, how are those "most similar" determinations to be made, and by whom?

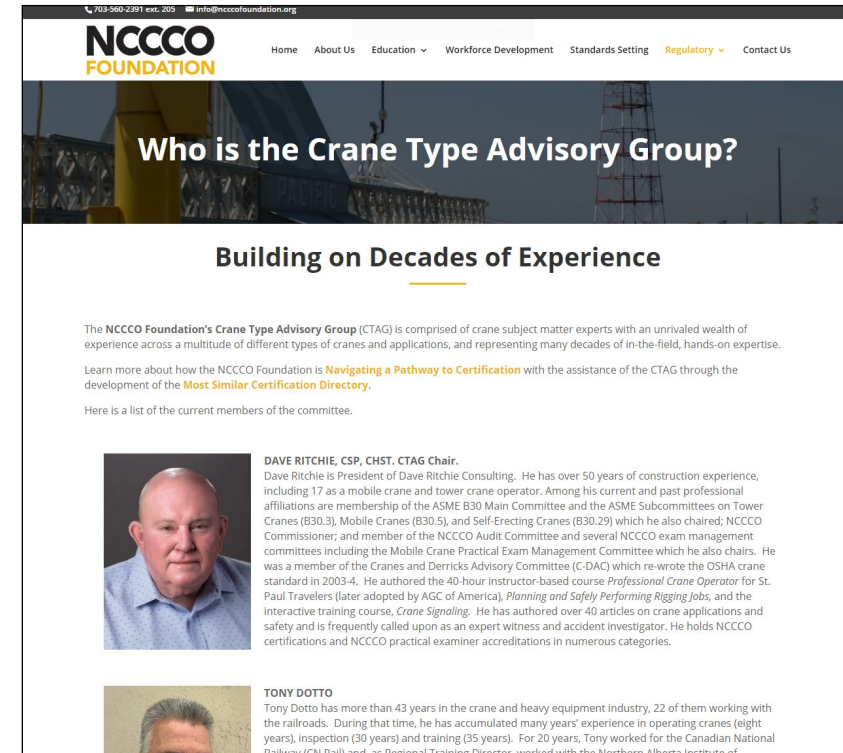
OSHA provides a hint as to its intent and preference in addressing these questions when in the Preamble to the Final Rule it states:

"... the agency does not believe it is in the best position to determine the various types of cranes for which certifications should be necessary." [Federal Register, Vol. 83, No. 218, November 9, 2018, p. 56217.]

and goes further to say:

"... it would be unwise 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 skillset and knowledge to operate." [Federal Register, Vol. 83, No. 218, November 9, 2018, p. 56217.]

Crane Type Advisory Group



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## 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 unrivaled wealth of experience across a multitude of different types of cranes and applications, and representing many decades of in-the-field, hands-on expertise.

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](#).

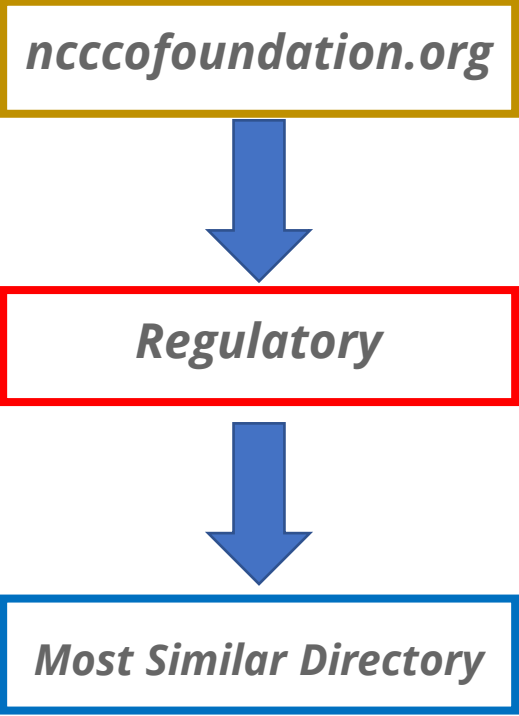
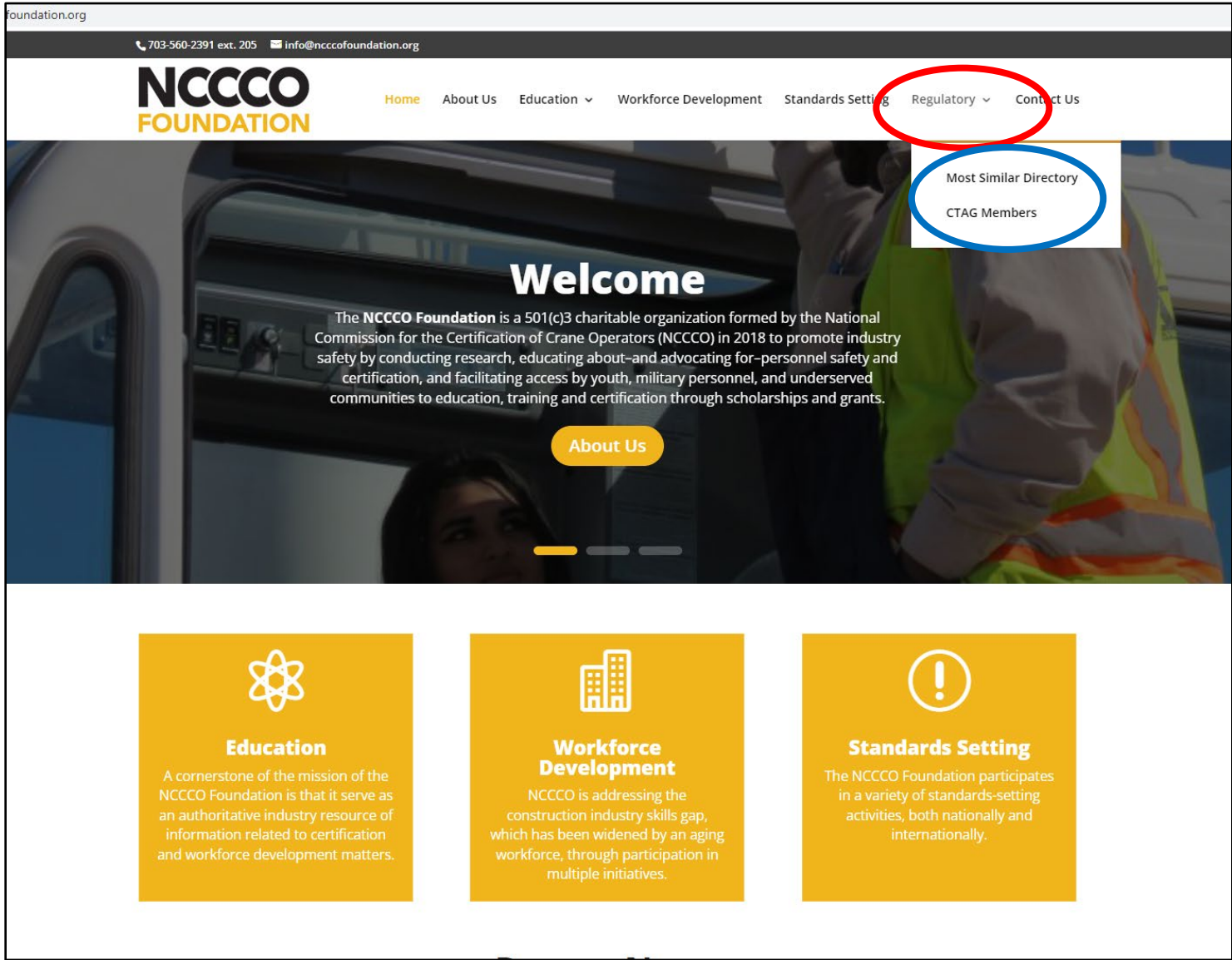
Here is a list of the current members of the committee.



**DAVE RITCHIE, CSP, CHST, CTAG Chair.**  
Dave Ritchie is President of Dave Ritchie Consulting. He has over 50 years of construction experience, including 17 as a mobile crane and tower crane operator. Among his current and past professional affiliations are membership of the ASME B30 Main Committee and the ASME Subcommittees on Tower Cranes (B30.3), Mobile Cranes (B30.5), and Self-Erecting Cranes (B30.29) which he also chaired; NCCCO Commissioner; and member of the NCCCO Audit Committee and several NCCCO exam management committees including the Mobile Crane Practical Exam Management Committee which he also chairs. He was a member of the Cranes and Derricks Advisory Committee (C-DAC) which re-wrote the OSHA crane standard in 2003-4. He authored the 40-hour instructor-based course *Professional Crane Operator* for St. Paul Travelers (later adopted by AGC of America), *Planning and Safely Performing Rigging Jobs*, and the interactive training course, *Crane Signaling*. He has authored over 40 articles on crane applications and safety and is frequently called upon as an expert witness and accident investigator. He holds NCCCO certifications and NCCCO practical examiner accreditations in numerous categories.



**TONY DOTTO**  
Tony Dotto has more than 43 years in the crane and heavy equipment industry, 22 of them working with the railroads. During that time, he has accumulated many years' experience in operating cranes (eight years), inspection (30 years) and training (35 years). For 20 years, Tony worked for the Canadian National Railway (CN Rail) and, as Regional Training Director, worked with the Northern Alberta Institute of



The *Most Similar Certifications* Directory

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***THANKS FOR YOUR ATTENTION!***