



**NATIONAL COMMISSION  
FOR THE CERTIFICATION  
OF CRANE OPERATORS (NCCCO)**

## **FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**CONTACT:** Graham J. Brent, Executive Director  
National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators  
Phone: (703) 560-2391  
Fax: (703) 560-2392  
[info@nccco.org](mailto:info@nccco.org)  
<http://www.nccco.org>

**NCCCO Introduces Tower Crane Operator Certification Program**  
*Fairfax, Virginia, June 7, 2004*-The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) has announced the introduction of a new certification program for operators of tower cranes, effective July 6, 2004.

NCCCO announced its plans for the new program in March last year. Drawing on support in three main areas-subject matter expertise, psychometric guidance, and financial contributions-NCCCO developed an aggressive development schedule with the aim of making the first certification examinations available by mid-2004. "That goal was achieved," said NCCCO President, Ronald Schad, "and in record time for a certification program of this quality."

Paying tribute to the dedication of the 22 subject matter experts responsible for development of the content of the new program, Tower Crane Task Force chairman, David Ritchie, St. Paul Travelers, noted that their commitment also extended to participation in six (6) meetings across the nation. "We met approximately every other month for 12 months," said Ritchie. "What really impressed me, beyond the extraordinary knowledge of these experts, was their unfailing dedication to the project at hand."

NCCCO has modeled the new tower crane program on its existing mobile crane operator certification program. Certification requirements include: a written examination, a practical examination, physical (medical) requirements, and a recertification requirement.

"All elements of the new program have been developed according to the strict psychometric standards that have been a hallmark of the mobile crane operator program since its inception," said Dr. Anthony Mitchell, President of International Assessment Institute (IAI), NCCCO's test development and services provider. "This ensures the certification process is fair, valid, reliable, and legally defensible," he added.

A keystone of exam development activities, Mitchell noted, was the professional Job Task Analysis that IAI conducted over an eight-month period. Input from several hundred crane operators helped validate the work of the Task Force in establishing the content of both the written and practical examinations, he said.

Commission Chairman, Kerry Hulse, recognized the invaluable contribution played by

the four firms that had underwritten the cost of development. "Without the financial assistance of Liebherr Tower Cranes, Manitowoc Crane Group, Morrow Equipment Company, and Terex Cranes, this program would not have been possible," he said. These companies have our sincere gratitude for stepping forward in this way. They are to be sincerely congratulated for their contribution to crane safety."

The firms and organizations that hosted the meetings also deserved commending for their generous donations of facilities and hospitality, Hulse added. Hosts included: IUOE Local 825, New Jersey; SI Equipment Services and Swinerton, Inc., California; McGriff, Seibels & Williams, Alabama; Morrow Equipment Company, Oregon; Ohio Operating Engineers, Ohio; and Terex Cranes, North Carolina.

The introduction of CCO tower crane certification marks the first expansion of the program since NCCCO was formed in January 1995. Full program information, including Candidate Handbook and Application Forms, will be posted on the NCCCO web site July 6, said NCCCO Executive Director, Graham Brent.

The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO) was formed in January 1995 to develop effective performance standards for safe crane operation to assist all segments of general industry and construction. Since NCCCO began testing in April 1996, more than 25,000 crane operators have been tested through over 1,300 separate test administrations conducted in 48 states.

The NCCCO crane operator certification program is the only program to be recognized by federal OSHA as meeting OSHA and ASME (ANSI) requirements for crane operator competency. The program is unique in that it is: third-party; independent of training; developed and supported by industry; a joint labor/management initiative; psychometrically sound; validated through peer review; and administered on a standardized, secure, nationwide basis.