

November 21, 2019

As a courtesy to NAXSA and its member employers, **OVERTON** Safety Training, Inc. is providing this article or recap of the Final Federal Crane Rule revised document, specifically section 1427 & 1430 which deal with employer's responsibilities for Operator Certification, Qualification and Training. It includes selected statements from the final 29CFR1926.1427 & 1430 Fed OSHA revised document and preamble, but it does not include all the rationale utilized, nor do we attest that it is the complete or exact wording from the Fed OSHA document. We have taken steps to organize and condense the OSHA changes in a manner we feel will be better suited for ease of comprehension for the employers affected. Before I address the changes for the Crane Operators let's review the current employer requirements in the crane rule regarding other personnel involved in craning.

NOTE: Employers are to reference the specific revised Federal OSHA document for any specific regulatory questions or interpretations. (Individual States may have different regulations, please refer to and follow your specific State regulations)

Workers Around Craning:

1. Required training: Hazards associated with craning, pinch point hazard areas, basic craning and load movement dynamics, energized powerline clearance rules and dangers, communication requirements with crane operator when working around the crane or in areas around the crane but out of sight of operator. Training documented and records retained.

Riggers:

1. Only "qualified persons" shall rig loads for craning whenever people are within the fall zone.
2. Required training: All required worker training plus training, testing and evaluation of rigging skills necessary to perform required rigging tasks including required inspection and rejection criteria, proper use, techniques, application, angle stress, load stability, for all rigging gear and below the hook devices. Training documented and records retained.

Signalpersons:

1. Only "qualified persons" shall signal or spot for craning.
2. Required training: All required worker training plus training, testing and evaluation of ability to properly position and provide spotting duties for craning, communicate with the operator and provide appropriate signaling duties. Proof of training is required to be on the person identifying modes of signaling and crane classifications they are qualified to signal for. Training documented and records retained.

Crane Operators:

1. Required crane operator training by the employer. (specifics shown later in recap)
2. Required crane operator evaluation and qualification statement by the employer. (specifics shown later in recap)
3. Required crane operator National Certification. (specifics shown later in recap)

Recap of changes to the Federal OSHA Crane Rule: (Note your State/City Regulations may be slightly different)

1. Amended the wording on the specification for National Certification Requirements.
2. Clarified and defined in clear terms, the differences between “Qualification” and “Certification” of Crane Operators.
3. Established minimum requirements for determining operator competency.
4. Clarified the employer responsibilities for Training, Evaluation and Qualification of their Crane Operators in addition to the requirement for National Certification (as applicable).
5. Communicated the revised mandatory compliance effective date for the requirement for Crane Operator National Certification (as applicable). **Effective date was December 10, 2018**
6. Communicated the revised mandatory compliance effective date for the employer requirement for Crane Operator Training and Evaluation. **Effective date was April 7, 2019**

Final changes to the requirement for Operator National Certification:

1. The requirement for Crane Operator “National Certification” (as applicable) did **NOT** go away.
2. Crane Operator “National Certification” is **NOT** the same as Operator “Qualification”.
3. This requirement for Crane Operator National Certification (as applicable) **is in addition to** the requirement for employer training, evaluation and qualification of their crane operators.
4. The effective date **was December 10, 2018.**
5. National Certification (from an accredited certification agency) may be now provided based on either equipment “Type” **or** by “Type and Capacity”. NCCCO National Certifications are by crane “Type”.
6. Second language certification exams can be issued by the accredited testing/certification agency;
 - a. Certification must identify the second language in which the certification exams were provided and passed.
 - b. Operators may **only** operate equipment with load ratings, operator’s manual and safety decals printed in the second language designated on the national certification. NOTE: HIAB, Palfinger and Fassi have decals and manuals also available in Spanish.
 - c. Currently NCCCO is in the final stages of offering second language testing for mobile cranes (est. spring of 2020) and next would be articulating cranes (est. fall of 2020)
 - d. I would like to remind you that the certification agency and the exams themselves must be recognized/approved by a recognized accrediting source.

Employer Responsibility for Operator Training and Evaluation (New requirement)

1. Training, evaluation and qualification of their crane operators, effective date was **April 7, 2019**
2. **Trainer/Training**
 - a. Must be provided by an employee or agent of the operator-in-training’s employer.
 - b. Trainer must have the knowledge, training and experience necessary to direct the operator-in-training on the equipment in use.
 - c. Trainer does **NOT** have to be a Nationally Certified Operator **unless** training is done on a jobsite.
 - d. While operating in training, the operator must be continually monitored by the trainer. There are few exceptions.
 - e. Trainer must never be distracted from the ability to monitor the operator at all times.
 - f. Trainer and operator must remain in direct line of sight and be able to communicate verbally or via hand signals. Tower cranes are slightly different.
 - g. Employer must provide each operator with **sufficient** training before operating the equipment.
 - i. Level of employer training may vary according to the operator prior experience/training

- ii. Combination of formal and practical hands-on instruction
- iii. Ensure skills, knowledge and ability to operate the equipment safely for assigned work are taught and demonstrated
- iv. Ensure they can recognize and avert risk during operation
- h. The employer's trainer may only assign task within the ability of the operator-in-training
- i. Examples of required training tasks that might be covered may include: (as applicable)
 - i. Equipment inspection, setting up the crane, leveling the crane, accounting for hazards, making judgements about wind speed or other environmental factors, using outriggers/stabilizers, utilizing cribbing,
 - ii. Assessing unstable loads, rigging the load, calculate and determine load weight
 - iii. Operating from a barge, hoisting/handling loads of irregular size, personnel hoisting, hoisting in tight spaces, performing multiple crane lifts, traveling with or without a load.
 - iv. Engaging, hoisting, moving and placing loads at height, blind picks, using ancillary attachments and extensions.
- j. The operator-in-training shall **not** operate in any of the following circumstances:
 - i. Could encroach on the 20ft for 350kV or the 50ft for 500kV clearance requirement.
 - ii. Equipment used to hoist personnel.
 - iii. Equipment is used over a shaft, cofferdam or in a tank farm.
 - iv. In multiple lift rigging operations (unless sufficiently skilled).

3. Evaluator/Evaluation (New requirement)

- a. Must be evaluated by an employee or agent of the operator-in-training's employer.
- b. Must be conducted by an individual who has the knowledge, training and experience necessary to assess equipment operators.
- c. Evaluator does **NOT** have to be a Nationally Certified Operator **unless** evaluation is done on a jobsite and the operator is **NOT** Nationally Certified.
- d. Must be done after **sufficient** training has been accomplished.
- e. Evaluations can be done at the worksite during the regular craning work.
- f. Evaluations must be documented. Evaluation documentation does not have to be in any specific format but must include required information.
 - i. Must include: Operators name, evaluators name and signature, date, make, model and configuration of equipment used in the evaluation. (Note that some individual States may require capacity).
- g. A single successful evaluation may cover other equipment that does not require substantially different skills, knowledge or ability to recognize and avert risk to operate.
- h. Proof of evaluation must be available at the worksite while operator is employed by the employer.
- i. Through an evaluation, employer will ensure that each operator is qualified by a demonstration of: (as applicable)
 - i. Skills, knowledge and ability to recognize and avert risk associated with using this type of crane and performing the required tasks.
 - ii. Crane inspection, skills to safely operate the equipment, including setup, outrigger/stabilizers/cribbing, hazards, ground requirements, maintain clearances.
 - iii. Ability to operate the crane in various applicable configurations necessary.

- iv. Ability to competently and safely perform hoisting activities required for assigned work including (as applicable) load handling, load movement, load placement, blind lifts, personnel hoisting multi load lifting, and multi-crane lifts.
- v. Knowledge of safety devices, operational aids, software/computers utilized.
- vi. Knowledge of lifting capacity, boom lengths, use of applicable extensions, lifting at height, attachments or alternate counterweight set-up.

4. Retraining/Re-evaluation (New requirement)

- a. Retrained and reevaluated when an evaluation or other indication that retraining is necessary.
- b. Retraining/reevaluation is to be in relevant topics, not necessarily retrained thru the entire program again.
- c. Proof of retraining and reevaluation is to be documented. Evaluation documentation does not have to be in any specific format but must include required information.

5. Trainees

- a. Can be in-training operating on the worksite if mentored/instructed and **constantly** observed by an employer's designated trainer. (see rule for some slight variances and exceptions).
- b. Must complete training and then be evaluated by the employer demonstrating the required skill and knowledge for the job tasks.
- c. May require additional training and/or multiple evaluations on different models of equipment demonstrating different skills for the job tasks.
- d. Training and successful evaluation must be documented, proof of evaluations must be at the worksite.
- e. Must have both employer training/evaluation completed and National Certification (as applicable) prior to operating the crane without constant supervision.

Employer Assistance

To assist NAXSA member employers in regulatory compliance and meeting the new crane rule employer responsibilities we offer a range of services and products which include: (Contact us about the NAXSA discount on our Trainer Media Kits)

1. **Rigger and Signaller/Spotter:** End User classes, Train the Trainer courses, Trainer Media Kits
2. **Employer Operator Evaluators:** Evaluator Trainer Media Kits and evaluation forms
3. **NCCCO National Certification:** Preparatory courses and NCCCO National Certification Exams

We appreciate the opportunity to assist NAXSA by providing this recap article and look forward to assisting you in any manner we can.

Take care and work safely,

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NCCCO Certified Crane Operator & Accredited Practical Examiner