



## Crane Operator Certification



### Rule Implementation: November 10, 2017

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires that all crane operators be certified by **November 10, 2017**. Planning ahead will enable your sign business to get the training and certification needed at the lowest cost and with the smallest disruption to staff and workflow.

**Here is what you need** to start thinking about six months in advance of the Crane Operator Certification rule coming into effect.

#### [Printable FAQs and Checklist](#)

It is critical that your operators are being certified on the type of crane they operate. [Click here](#) for additional information.

### Arizona Sign Association Training / Certification Program

Although there are many providers who offer crane operator certification programs, the sign industry is slightly unique in the types of cranes its candidates typically operate. Recognizing that fact, ASA has developed a relationship with two training providers who will train sign industry members.

Regardless of the training provider you select, the key to passing both the written and practical examinations is following all instructions provided, including devoting a significant amount of out-of-classroom study time, and plenty of practice on the crane upon which the operator will be tested. The best chance your sign crane operators have of passing both the written and practical tests is that they are staying in a hotel near the training facility and devote each evening to studying and practicing on the crane. This is regardless of the length of experience in the operation of a sign crane.

Liberty Crane & Rigging Consultants, led by Howard Kaplan, will provide classroom training to prepare operators for the written/theory test as well as practice and testing for the practical exam on a crane designed to relieve test anxiety and enhance your chances of passing the practical exam on the first attempt. A schedule of classes is available at their [website](#). ASA members will be offered a \$100 discount off their regular prices (\$2,000 for a single specialty and \$2,500 for both specialties). Your operators will be taking this training/testing along with operators from other industries.

Another provider has been secured who is willing to train and test at a location you identify and on your crane. However, a minimum of 10 operators must register to schedule a class at an identified site. Under this scenario, the service provider will bring the tester onto the site to administer the written and practical exams on the final day of instruction. The training provider, Gary Kubo, has trained nearly 20,000 crane operators in his career. Some of his clients who have realized a pass rate of 98% include: Union Pacific, Mountain States Training and Nebraska Public Power. He has also recently trained/certified 1,500 linemen in the Western U.S. Gary says, "if an operator can read and write English, he can pass the written examination after taking this course." Operators whose first language is Spanish are acknowledged as being a problem in terms of pass rates. The instruction schedule for the written examination is three to three and one-half days (depending upon applicant comprehension) from 8 a.m. until 3 p.m. The time after 3 p.m. is devoted to additional study and practicing for the practical examination with the specific crane on which the applicant will be tested. The price for CSA members for the above-described format is \$1,500 per person plus testing fees. The price for nonmembers will be \$1,800 plus testing fees. Gary will provide the practical course, submit operators' applications to NCCCO as well as the documentation to certify each crane (separate crane certification fee applies). A member of the sign association will be sought to donate classroom space and practical exam course space.

A final training/certification option is to sit in on another industry's "open group" training that is being instructed by Gary. These are infrequent and short-notice opportunities, but if you are interested in pursuing this opportunity, please submit your name to be placed on a notification list and when an opportunity presents itself, you will be notified. An example at the moment is an open group class that begins March 6 and is being offered in Casper, Wyoming.

Gary Kubo can be reached at (970) 260-2645

### **Clarification: Designation of a Crane versus Platform / Aerial Lift**

If you have controls in the upper carrier (ANSI 92.2 Controls 4.3) and you do not use the hoist (ANSI 92.2 Alternative uses 3.1.3(5)), then you have an aerial platform and the company needs to qualify the operator to operate the aerial lift.

If you use the equipment for alternative uses (i.e. you use the hoist) then you are using the equipment as a crane and the operator needs to be certified as a crane operator.

NOTE regarding qualification: whether you have a certified operator or a qualified operator, the company still has to document its files with what that operator is qualified to do. This can be done within the company by "a qualified person" or it can be done by a third-party training company. Either way, the operator is required to "intelligently defend himself" if there is an accident and he is questioned. They will be required to know the law, the load chart, basket capacities, and components on the equipment at the very least. Therefore, whether the training is done within the company or through a third-party, the company is responsible for ensuring the operator is properly qualified.

[Read the OSHA Regulation.](#)

[Read the OSHA interpretation letter, which helps distinguish between crane and aerial uses.](#)

### **Crane Capacity Limitation Option**

As an option to certifying your crane operators, an owner has the option of mechanically limiting the lifting capacity of crane(s) being operated to less than 2,000 pounds. Several product manufacturers offer this equipment and then certify that the crane's lifting capacity is less than the 2,000 OSHA limit. Contact your crane manufacturer for additional information.