



CCO Certification

***Washington State Construction
Crane Certifier Program***

CANDIDATE HANDBOOK



Table of Contents

Program Description	1
Certification Policies	2
Eligibility.....	2
Examination Fees	2
RETEST POLICY	2
Certification Time Frames	2
Certification Cards.....	2
Certification Overview	3
Written Examination	3
Written Examination Content Outline	5
Domain 1: Washington State Regulations	5
Domain 2: Crane Inspection, Documentation, and Maintenance.....	5
Domain 3: Safety Standards and Regulation	5
Reference List	6
CCO Policies	7



Program Description

Welcome to the Washington State Construction Crane Certifier Program administered by CCO. The Washington State Department of Labor and Industries oversees the content of the Washington State Construction Crane Certifier Program. It is comprised of experts from all aspects of the crane industry, who collectively represent many thousands of hours of crane-related experience. These volunteers freely give of their time and expertise to improve the safety of all whose work involves cranes and lifting equipment.

In the State of Washington, candidates may seek accreditation as a Crane Certifier in one or more of the following crane categories:

- Articulating Cranes
- Mobile Cranes
- Overhead Cranes
- Tower Cranes

There are three steps to follow to become accredited to certify cranes in the construction industry:

Step 1 — Take and pass a national crane/equipment certification from a nationally recognized accredited crane certifier testing organization for the type of crane(s) equipment to be certified.

Crane Certifiers are required to have a current and valid national crane/equipment certification from a nationally recognized accredited crane certifier testing organization for the type of crane(s) equipment to be certified. [CCO Certification offers certification for crane inspectors for mobile, tower, overhead, and articulating cranes.](#) For more information about CCO's Crane Inspector program, go to:

<https://nccco.org/nccco/certifications/crane-inspector/certification-overview>

The CCO Crane Inspector certification requires 2,000 hours of documented work experience within a five-year period related to maintaining, inspecting, servicing, repairing, or modifying cranes.

Step 2 — Take and Pass the Washington General Crane Certifier Certification Examination

Washington General Crane Certifier Examination
All candidates must take the Washington General Crane Certifier Examination. This examination consists of 50 multiple-choice questions. Candidates are allowed 60 minutes to complete the examination.

Step 3 — Submit a Construction Application for the Crane Certifier Accreditation to the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries

- Candidates must submit an application for accreditation to the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries. Complete this application online at:

<https://www.lni.wa.gov/forms-publications/F416-153-000.pdf>



Certification Policies

ELIGIBILITY

To be eligible for accreditation, candidates must:

- Complete a minimum of 40 hours of crane-related training, in courses recognized by the department, in the five years prior to applying for the recognition.
- Pass Washington General Crane Certifier Examination
- Pass a national crane/equipment certification from a nationally recognized accredited crane certifier testing organization for the type of crane(s) equipment to be certified.

EXAMINATION FEES

The fee for the Washington General Crane Certifier Examination is \$250.

For all CCO exam and related fees, visit

www.nccco.org/fees.

RETEST POLICY

If a candidate fails a Written Exam or a Recertification Exam, he/she may retake it at a regularly scheduled test administration. Retest fees are the same as the original fees.

CERTIFICATION TIME FRAMES

Accreditation for Washington State Crane Certifiers is valid for five years.

CERTIFICATION CARDS

Candidates who complete the requirements for accreditation or renewal receive a card designating them as a "WA State Crane Certifier" and listing the specific category(s) in which they have successfully met all requirements.



Certification Overview

WRITTEN EXAMINATION

The Washington General Crane Certifier written exam consists of a single examination. This examination has 50 multiple-choice questions. Candidates are allowed 60 minutes to complete the exam. A calculator is permitted for this exam.

CCO has three options for taking written exams:

Online Proctored Testing (OPT), Test Center Testing (TCT), and Event Online Testing (EOT). Testing fees remain the same regardless of the option you choose.

All methods of test delivery offer:

- Easy and fast online application
- No late application fees
- Quick and simple online scheduling
- No rescheduling fees
- Switch between testing options easily and at no cost
- Immediate score reporting *

**A preliminary score will be available immediately.*

Results are subject to review and approval in accordance with standard testing protocols.

The same exam delivery platform is used to administer all written exams, so the look and feel is nearly identical, no matter which option is selected. Exams that require supplements (e.g., load charts) or calculators have these available on-screen. In place of scratch paper, candidates may use a physical whiteboard/dry-erase board up to 8.5 in. x 11 in. or an on-screen whiteboard that is built into the exam.

See how the testing platform works at

www.nccco.org/ESOdemo.

Comparing Exam Delivery Options

Online Proctored Testing (OPT)

OPT allows individual candidates to take exams anytime, anywhere via computer, while being monitored virtually by a proctor. Benefits specific to OPT include:

- Available 24/7 – Test without missing work
- Test from anywhere – Home, office, hotel, anywhere with sufficient internet and a private room with a closed door
- Fast scheduling – Candidates may be able to schedule testing appointments in as little as 15 minutes (pending availability)
- Exams on your computer - Use your own computer that meets minimum technical requirements and has a microphone and webcam.
- Flexible rescheduling – You may reschedule up to 30 minutes before your exam appointment time
- No additional fees – no “sitting fee” or other hidden charges

Test Center Testing (TCT)

TCT allows individual candidates to go to a professional computer lab environment established specifically for administering secure exams. Benefits specific to TCT include:

- Testing near you – Nearly 600 testing centers available nationwide
- Plan ahead – Candidates will schedule (or reschedule) exam appointments at least 2 days before testing
- Show up and test – No need to ensure your space, computer, or internet meet specifications
- Whiteboards provided – The test center provides an 8.5 in. x 11 in. whiteboard to each candidate
- In-person Proctor – Professional, experienced TCT staff on-site to get your exam started
- No additional fees – No “sitting fee” or other hidden charges

Event Online Testing (EOT)

EOT allows groups of candidates to take tests, usually at an employer's or training provider's facility. The EOT test site has complete flexibility with setting up exams on a schedule that meets the site and their stakeholders' needs. Benefits specific to EOT include:

- Familiar setting – Testing is typically done at your employer or training provider's facility
- On-site testing personnel – Individuals credentialed by CCO will be on-site to guide you through the test day process
- Scheduling flexibility – Work with testing personnel to schedule and reschedule, even if you miss your exam time
- Show up and test – No need to ensure your space, computer, and internet connection meet specifications



Written Examination Content Outline

50 Questions / 60 Minutes / Calculator Permitted

The Washington General Crane Certifier Written Examination tests the following knowledge areas relating to the operation of construction cranes.

Domain 1: Washington State Regulations

- Approximately 38% of test

Domain 2: Crane Inspection, Documentation, and Maintenance Requirements

- Approximately 50% of test

Domain 3: Safety Standards and Regulation

- Approximately 12% of test

DOMAIN 3: SAFETY STANDARDS AND REGULATION

1. Know relevant WAC crane safety standards found in WAC Chapter 296-155, Part L.
2. Know relevant requirements in WAC Chapter 296-155, Safety Standards for Construction Work.

DOMAIN 1: WASHINGTON STATE REGULATIONS

1. Know scope of WAC 296-155-529 through 296-155-53214, Construction Crane Certification.
2. Know basic crane terminology and definitions including those in WAC 296-155-52902.
3. Know requirements for a Washington State–accredited Crane Certifier.
4. Understand the duties and record-keeping responsibilities required by this rule.
5. Understand requirements regarding temporary and annual certificates of operation.
6. Understand grounds on which crane certifier accreditation can be revoked.
7. Know requirements for crane decertification and reinstatement.

DOMAIN 2: CRANE INSPECTION, DOCUMENTATION, AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS

1. Know how to review crane maintenance records of critical components to ensure maintenance of these components has been performed in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations
2. Know how to review crane periodic and frequent inspection documentation.
3. Know how to proceed if the manufacturer's equipment criteria is unavailable
4. Know how to perform a complete and thorough inspection covering the appropriate surface of the wire rope on a drum.
5. Know the requirements for preparing and performing a proof load test.
6. Know how to conduct a visual inspection of crane components.



Reference List

The latest versions of the following reference materials are used by the Washington State Department of Labor and Industries to verify the accuracy of test questions.

ASME B30.5 (2021) - Mobile and Locomotive Cranes

- <https://www.asme.org/codes-standards/find-codes-standards/b30-5-mobile-locomotive-cranes>

WAC Chapter 296-155, Part L

- <https://www.lni.wa.gov/safety-health/safety-rules/rulemaking-stakeholder-information/cranesriggingdocs/March2024PreliminaryDraft.pdf>



CCO Policies

All program participants must adhere to CCO policies and procedures. Key policies can be found at <https://www.nccco.org/nccco/about-nccco/policies>



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