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## Selecting the Right Certification

*Contributed by Debbie Dickinson, Executive Director, Crane Institute Certification (CIC)*

The number of organizations that provide accredited certification of lifting personnel has grown. Competition is good and having a choice increases the availability and access to operator certification. However, understanding the different wording and options can be a challenge. Following is a summary of what is available to operators interested in saving time and money by certifying through CIC.

### CIC Written Exam Advantages

- Calculators allowed and provided by CIC.
- Take a single exam for certification or a combination exam for multiple certifications.
- Take on line exams for instant results.
- No additional fees for on line exams.
- Exams may be scheduled in as little as 10 days without a rush fee.

However, to guarantee a space, scheduling two weeks or more in advance is recommended!

### CIC Practical Exam Advantages

- One practical exam may earn up to (5) certifications.
- Ease of set up on the job site makes taking the practical on your site and crane possible.
- Obstacle course and course materials realistic to a job site.
- Exams may be scheduled in as little as 10 days without a rush fee. ■



# Growing Recognition

Contributed by Debbie Dickinson, Executive Director,  
Crane Institute Certification (CIC)

## What do these organizations have in common?

- NYC Department of Buildings
- State of California OSHA
- State of Washington OSHA
- Southern Company
- Chevron
- Toyota
- Taminco

## Analysis

Three are government entities; two are major automobile manufacturers; one is a large chemical producer; one is a power company. What do they have in common? Two things – 1) Each of these organizations formerly required crane operators who worked on their sites to be CCO certified. 2) Now, these organizations have joined the many that recognize and accept Crane Institute Certification as a valuable provider of accredited certifications for crane operators.

Crane Institute of America Certification (CIC) provides certification for crane operators, riggers and signalpersons, and crane inspectors.

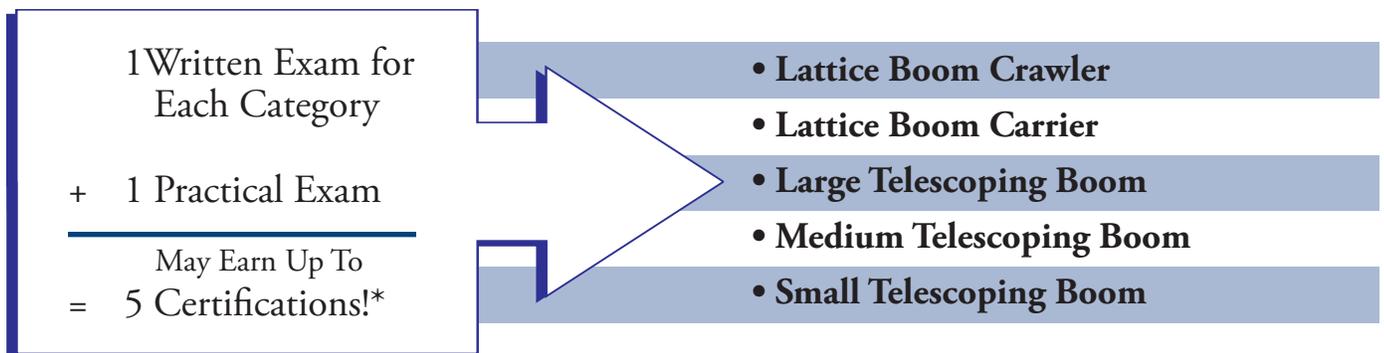
## Steps to the Switch

CIC will send a formal request to any organization that has or is considering using wording mandating CCO or using vague language such as “or an approved and accredited provider.” To request package(s) to specific companies, contact Debbie Dickinson, CIC Executive Director by email at [ddickinson@craneinstitutecertification.com](mailto:ddickinson@craneinstitutecertification.com) To have requests submitted:

- Supply name of organization(s)
- Name(s) of contact(s)
- Physical and email addresses of contacts
- Telephone numbers of contacts

CIC does the rest. The packages CIC sends include formal request for recognition and acceptance, copies of NCCA certificates of accreditation; statements of support from industry experts and the Executive Director of NCCA. Companies may also verify, for themselves, the fact that CIC has more accredited certifications than any other provider in existence. For third party verification of CIC’s accreditation, visit the NCCA website at <http://www.ncca.org/NCCAaccreditation/AccreditedCertificationPrograms/tabid/120/Default.aspx> In addition to the (5) levels of certification already accredited, additional applications for accreditation have already been filed. CIC has earned the NCCA seal of accreditation. ■

*For more information about CIC, visit [www.CICcert.com](http://www.CICcert.com)*



**\*Operator’s must pass written exams for each level of certification. CIC does offer combination exams for candidates pursuing multiple certifications. One Practical exam can be administered to cover all five (5) levels of certification.**

# The Risk of Being Single

Contributed by Debbie Dickinson, Executive Director,  
Crane Institute Certification (CIC)



## What happens if this basket loses a wheel?

Organizations that tie certification requirements to a single provider run a greater risk of having their certification program encounter problems outside their sphere of control or influence. In any market, but particularly in a tumultuous economy, businesses can disappear. This principle applies to for profit and non-profit businesses alike. For example, a recent scandal caused the U.S. Census Bureau to distance itself from the non-profit ACORN. Businesses tied to ACORN may now be experiencing survival-threatening trouble.

Another issue is sustainability. Non-profits that rely on contributions suffer when their customers'

businesses are no longer able or compelled to make donations. For profit and non-profits organizations alike, must achieve a profitable status to survive long term. They both must protect the processes and intellectual capital that are foundational to their credibility and reliability.

Certification is increasing in importance to the crane industry. Best practices can safeguard personnel certification as a reasonable requirement. The steps are to:

- Identify multiple providers whose programs meet the needs that compelled your organization to require personnel certification.
- Assure quality of certification by accepting only accredited certifications.
- List the names of approved certification providers.

## Which Provider Is Best?

The simple truth is that any certification provider who meets the requirements of a nationally, recognized accrediting organization, such as NCCA or ANSI, has the policies, procedures, reliable testing and protocols to be worthwhile.

Choose a certification provider on the same basis you select other suppliers. Which provider best meets your needs on these levels:

- Your need – the supplier must have certification programs relevant to the personnel to be certified; other aspects in this category may include an evaluation of how realistic the written and or practical exam process is to your workplace
- Ability to provide certification in a timely and affordable manner.
- Customer service – pleasure and ease of doing business; mutual respect.
- Local access.

Crane Institute of America Certification (CIC) provides certification for crane operators, riggers and signalpersons, and crane inspectors. Certification programs provided by CIC are NCCA accredited. CIC has the dual advantage of governance by industry experts and support from our parent organization's 21 year history as an industry leader. Visit [www.CICcert.com](http://www.CICcert.com) for more information or contact Debbie Dickinson, *CIC Executive Director*, by email at [ddickinson@craneinstitutecertification.com](mailto:ddickinson@craneinstitutecertification.com). ■

*Coming Soon!*

Advanced Rigger and Lift Director certifications are being developed and will be available in 2010.



## Excellent Preparation for CIC Written Exams

Mobile Crane  
3 days  
\$995.00

Rigger/Signalperson  
2 days  
\$595.00

Sign up Today!  
Call 800-832-2726



# Certification, Training Dominate ACRP General Assembly Activities

On November 3, 2009, practical and written certification exams were offered during the *2009 Workshop and General Assembly of the Association of Crane & Rigging Professionals (ACRP)*, held last month at the facilities of Industrial Training International (ITI), Woodland, Wash. A new slate of officers, approved earlier in the year, was recognized as well. Mike Riggs of Slingmax was named president; Scott Fleming of Unirole Ltd., vice president; and Ron Overton of Overton Safety Training, secretary/treasurer.

Elected to serve on the board were professional trainers Devon Beasley, ITI; Brad Closson, CRAFT Forensics; and Jerry Klinke of ACRA Enterprises. Corporate trainers Tom Gilbert of Cianbro; Paul Kuber, industry consultant; and Ed Tamas, Fluor Corp., will also serve on the board. Kuber, recently retired from Exxon, Baton Rouge, La., and Ray Linton of Linton Lifting Gear Supply, were honored by ACRP for decades of service to both the association and the industry. Also recognized was Joe Crispell of the North American Crane Bureau (NACB) for his contributions to this year's assembly.

Opportunities to earn accredited certification were offered during the ACRP Workshop. The Crane Institute of America Certification gave participants the opportunity to earn Crane Institute Certification (CIC) crane operator certification. CIC also provided basic rigger/signalperson certification exams and piloted the Advanced Rigger practical exam. NACB and the National Center for Construction Education and Research teamed to offer written and practical exams toward crane operator certification. Other attendees were allowed to work in industrial settings, using chain falls, rollers, and skates.



**ITI dedicated the company's training classroom to the late George Arsenault.**



**Assembly attendees gain practical experience with chain falls.**

Mike and Darlene Parnell of ITI hosted a ribbon-cutting ceremony for the company's training classroom, which was named the George Arsenault Training Center in memory of the Cianbro rigging trainer and active ACRP member who passed away earlier this year. Cianbro attendees were invited to help cut the ribbon.

Approximately 50 people attended this year's meeting. The next ACRP

Workshop and General Assembly will be held in May 2010 in Shreveport, La. ■

# Se Habla Espanol Para Construcción? Tell Us What You Think!

The November 2009 issue of Crane Hotline announced the publication of a new Spanish-language magazine, Construcción Pan-Americana. This initial publication anticipates an initial circulation of 14,000 construction professionals and contractors.

While English remains a strong first as the accepted business language, Spanish is the most spoken language in the world. Many manufacturers now produce operator manuals and load charts in English and Spanish. CIC is ready, willing and able to translate its certification exams and score reports into Spanish. However, before we go take that next step, we would like to know what you think of that idea.



One school of thought often voiced is that people living and benefitting from working in the US should be able

to communicate in the language of the land. No argument here. However, taking tests, particularly tests required for employment, in a language that is a second language makes the test significantly more difficult.

The goal of certification is not to be as difficult as possible. It is to find out if people know enough to do the job they are expected to do.

Send us your comments. With your permission, we may post some of the opinions in the next CIC Newsletter. ■

**CLICK HERE TO  
Tell us what you think!  
Take part in our  
online survey.**

## Responses to the last CIC newsletter survey are:

**100%** of those responding affirmed calculators should be allowed in certification exams.

**33%** reported each of the following should be required, as crane operators are, to be certified:

- a) Riggers,**
- b) Signalpersons, and**
- c) Lift Directors.**

