

**BC Association for
CRANE SAFETY**

Crane Operator Qualification

INDUSTRY WORKSHOP REPORT

**MOBILE, BOOM AND TOWER CRANE TASKGROUP
MEETING #7
“SUMMING UP, MOVING FORWARD”**

*CLRA,
New Westminster, BC
Sept. 8th, 2006*

JOINT CRANE TASK GROUP MEETING

New West, BC

Sept. 8th, 2006

In Attendance:

Wil Denhortog – boom – Rona

Kathy Sheppard – WCB – tower / chair

Val Coupal – tower – Coupal climbing cranes

Ron Karras – tower – Micron construction

Joe Bishop – tower - operator

Vic Vendrasco – tower – Fibre-crown / ITAL

Wayne Fettback – boom – Western Pacific Enterprises

Dominic Verhelst – mobile - TeckCominco

Greg Starchuk – tower – Eagle West

Jim Barkman – boom / chair – Eagle West

Larry Sinclair – mobile – BC Marine & Pile Driving

Brian Fehr – mobile – Vanderhoof – BID Construction

Bob MacMillan – mobile – GWIL - operator

Howard Muir – mobile – PG – Caribou Pulp

Brad Benson – mobile – PG – Caribou Pulp

Don Nelson - WCB

Russel Robertson - ITA

Bill Meechan – mobile – Vancouver Shipyard

Rob Magee – mobile – GWIL – chair of BCACS board

Daryle Chafe – boom – Phoenix Truck Crane

Rod Griffiths – mobile – Griffiths Pile Driving

Kerry Hawley – mobile – boom – tower – Mega Cranes

Fraser Cocks – BCACS Executive Director

Lee Middleton – facilitator – Fulford Harbour Consulting Ltd.

Background

This workshop was the seventh in a series of task group workshops for crane industry stakeholders. These stakeholders are working toward a competency based, licensing and certification framework for mobile crane operators in BC. The BC Association for Crane Safety (BCACS) is facilitating this process and providing the administrative support needed for industry to lead this change. The competency based certification framework will be used by WorkSafeBC as the foundation for a crane safety regulation to be enacted in July of 2007.

This workshop came at a key moment in the life of crane competency certification in the Province.

1. The Crane 'Competency Regulation' had just been announced by the WCB on Tuesday September 6th enshrining proof of operator competence into the Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.
2. The ITA Board approved in late July the three applications submitted by the BC Association for Crane Safety for training program standard revision: These approvals essentially aligned the training for crane operators with the competency certification scheme outlined in the regulations.

Achieving both these milestones generated a good deal of paper and over the month of August industry digested this material. Through stakeholder consultation the BCACS determined the need for a workshop to sum up progress to date, and gain a final validation of the competency certification and training scheme from industry before proceeding with the development of the assessment tools and training pieces that are now required.

Workshop Goals

The following goals were outlined at the start of the workshop:

1. Explain the certification scheme and how it fits with the training proposed.
2. Explain assessment of existing operators.
3. Answer questions and concerns about the certification scheme and regulation.
4. Get answers on specific points prior to development of assessments:
 - a. Limited Use
 - b. Hour requirements in a competency based structure
 - c. Role of the BCACS
5. Gain an endorsement by industry of the way forward through:
 - a. development of 'capstone' assessment tools with WCB funding
 - b. development of training resources and interim assessment tools with ITA funding

Endorsement of Competency Certification

Issue:

Task groups have expressed reservation at the hour requirements to achieve Certificates of Qualification. Various hour requirements make equivalency with Regulation competency requirements and training schemes difficult.

Decision:

Mobile and Boom: Remove required hours from the Qualification achievement criteria. Align the competency requirements for the Regulation with the final training standard.

Tower: Maintain six month hour requirement prior to competency assessment. Request made by stakeholder to extend hours requirement.

Action:

Mobile and Boom: Submit modification letter to ITA Board to remove hours from Program Standard. Develop Assessment and Training resources harmonised across both the Regulation and the Qualification. Proof of competence under the Regulation will be equivalent to the Certificate of Qualification.

Tower: Consult with industry prior to the next task group meeting to validate or modify hour requirements.

Comment:

This decision by industry requires development of an extremely high quality practical assessment of competence for existing operators. This same assessment would function as the 'capstone' assessment for trainees to receive their Certificate of Qualification.

Work is underway to develop these assessments and these will be reviewed at the Joint Task Group meeting on September 29th.

Requested modifications to Regulation Guidelines

Issue:

The regulation requires 'learners' (a catch all phrase to cover all operators not yet certified competent under terms of the regulation) to operate under direct supervision. Industry strongly felt this situation would require paying two operators for the length of the training or pre-certification period adding tens of thousands of dollars to the cost of certifying operators.

Decision:

Industry request that 'learner' operators work under a learner certificate with standard due diligence procedures of supervision in place. The 'learner' certificate would be valid for six months maximum and would prohibit all critical lifts.

Action:

Industry request the WCB to revise the Regulation guideline as follows:

Change "Direct Supervision" to Supervision and permit regular channels of site supervision to oversee the work of 'learners' who will operate under restricted allowable duty.

Comment:

That the industry has largely endorsed a competency assessment as the means of certifying competence and awarding Certificates of Qualifications means the use of 'learner' certificates will be much less prevalent than in an hours based qualification system. The 'learner' permit will likely not be used by incumbent operators who will in practice move to be practically assessed as competent at their first opportunity. See discussion below on Limited Use.

Limited Use/ Restricted Use Decision

Issue:

Limited Use and Restricted Use are grey areas that need clarification. Who can use this type of certificate? Is this a loophole that undermines the certification scheme?

Decision:

The certification scheme is now clearly focused on practical demonstration of competency as the foundation of certification. If on industrial settings a person is competent to perform lifts then they will not need to access a limited use certification. They are likely fully competent and will be assessed as such.

Action:

Remove Limited Use or Restricted Use certification from the Regulation guideline once consultation with Heavy Industry users has determined the mechanics of how assessment and certification of operators on industrial sites will function. This work will be completed at the September 29th Joint Task Group Meeting.

Comment:

Removing a mandatory hour requirement from certification that is equivalent to a certificate of Qualification means that anyone who is competent in crane operation, regardless of whether or not they operate a crane full time, will be certified as so competent under the crane certification scheme.

Business models: Role of the Association in Assessment

Issue:

Under a competency based system an agency connected with industry must assess existing and new operators. Who will do this?

Decision:

The BC Association for Crane Safety is the logical choice to conduct or contract this work. Industry requests the BCACS to perform the central coordinating role in the certification scheme, administering assessments and registering operators.

Action:

The BCACS Board will determine if they have the capacity and capability to charge the organisation with coordinating and running the certification scheme. The BCACS will report back to the Joint Task Group their decision on September 29th.

Next steps

The next task group meeting is scheduled for September 29th at the CLRA in New Westminster, BC.

Main items to be covered are:

- Overview and validation of competency assessments
- Development of assessment procedure for industrial sites
- Conclusion on Tower Crane hours requirements for the Certificate of Qualification
- Business model of the BCACS and role in certification

The diagram on the first page of Appendix A illustrates the development of the Crane Certification scheme at this milestone point (between Phase 1 development and Phase 2) right before development of all of the resources and tools to make the certification scheme work.

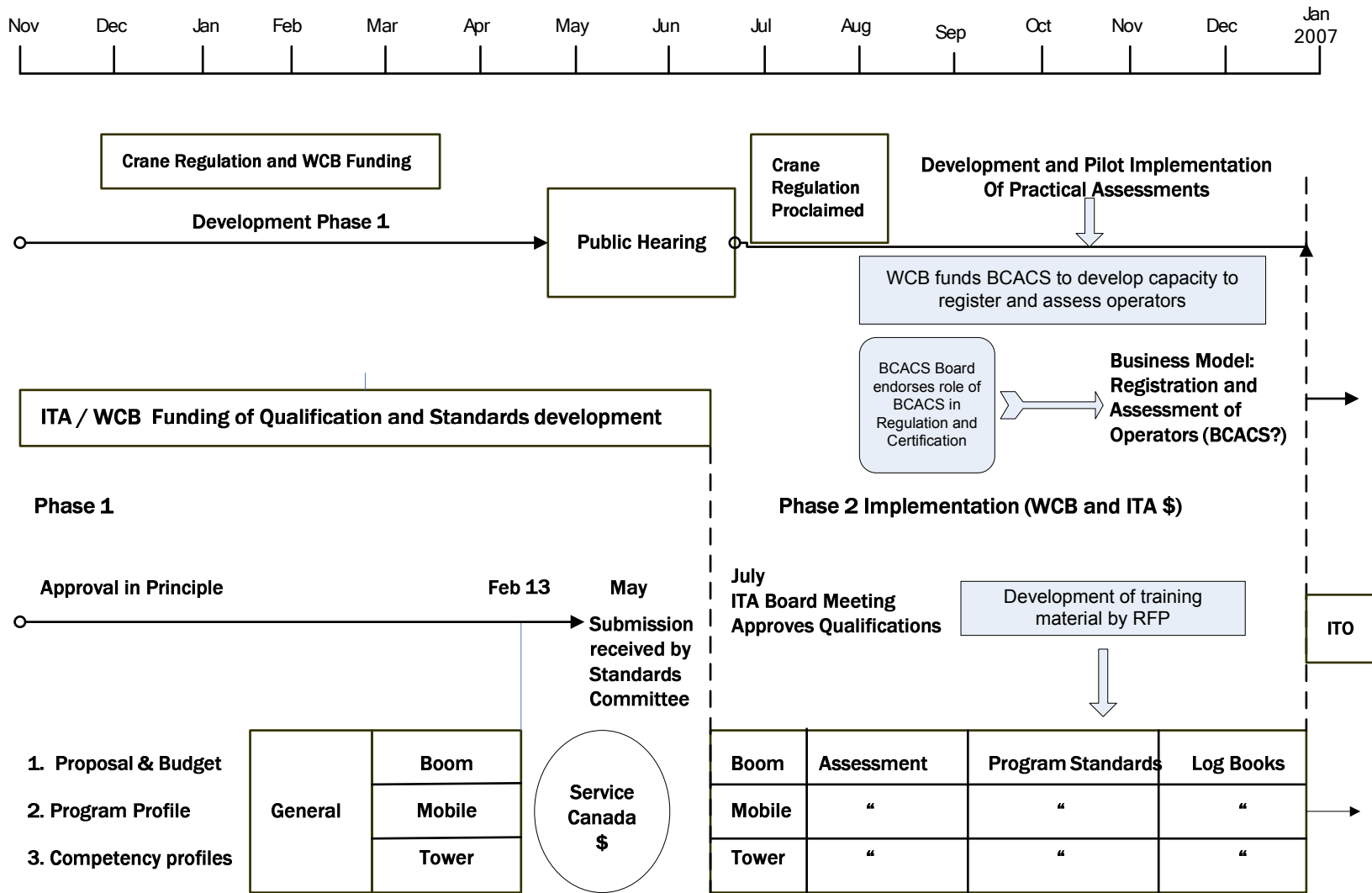
Following the next meeting the BCACS with Industry's blessing will embark upon development of all required tools and resources to implement the crane regulation in July 2007 through support of the funding partners, who are:

- WorkSafeBC
- Industry Training Authority
- Service Canada
- Industry in kind contribution

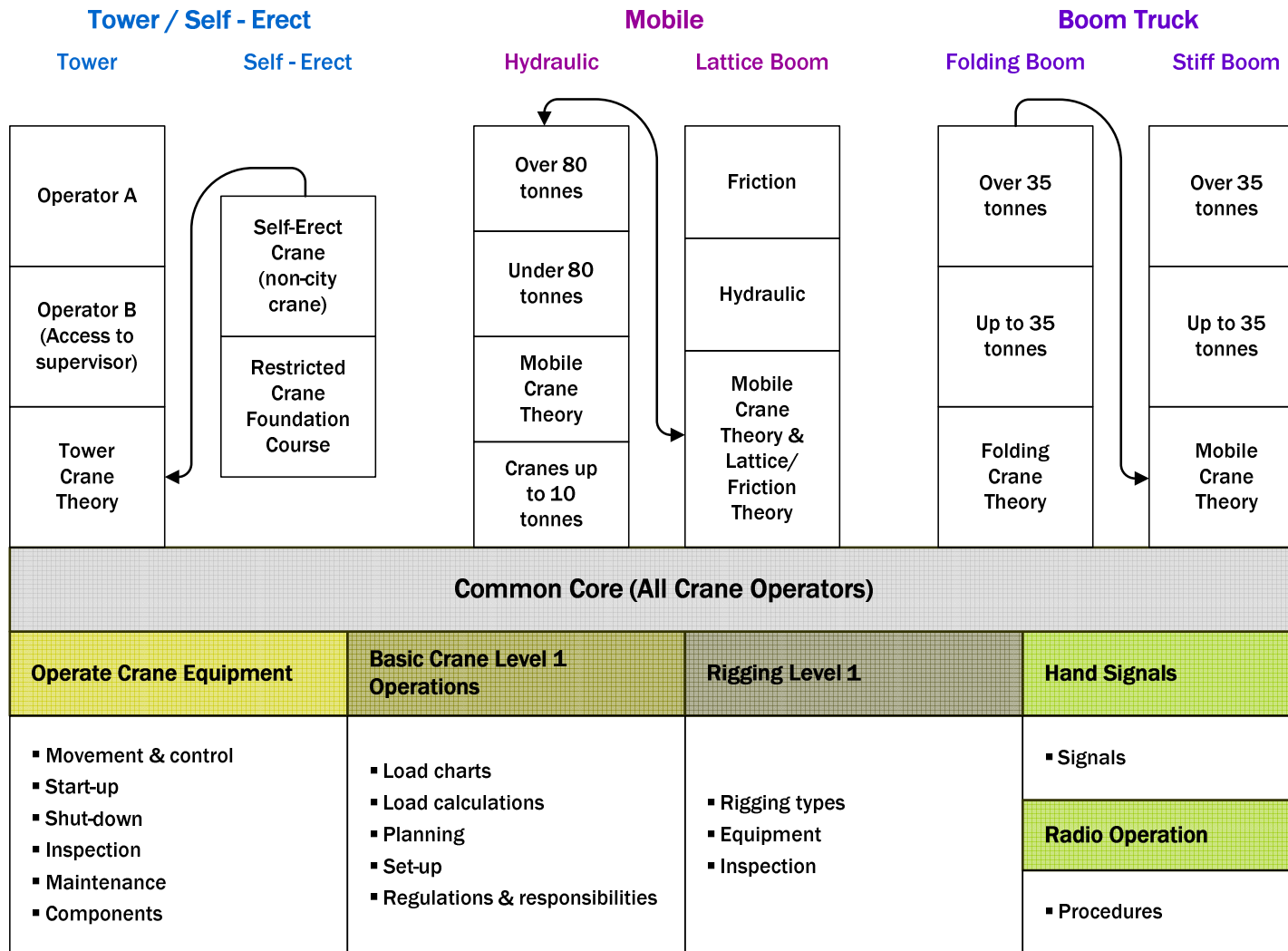
Appendix A – Diagrams

- **Competency Certification Scheme**
- **Overview of certification and theory requirements for all certifications**
- **Map of each Qualification and Certification Equivalencies**

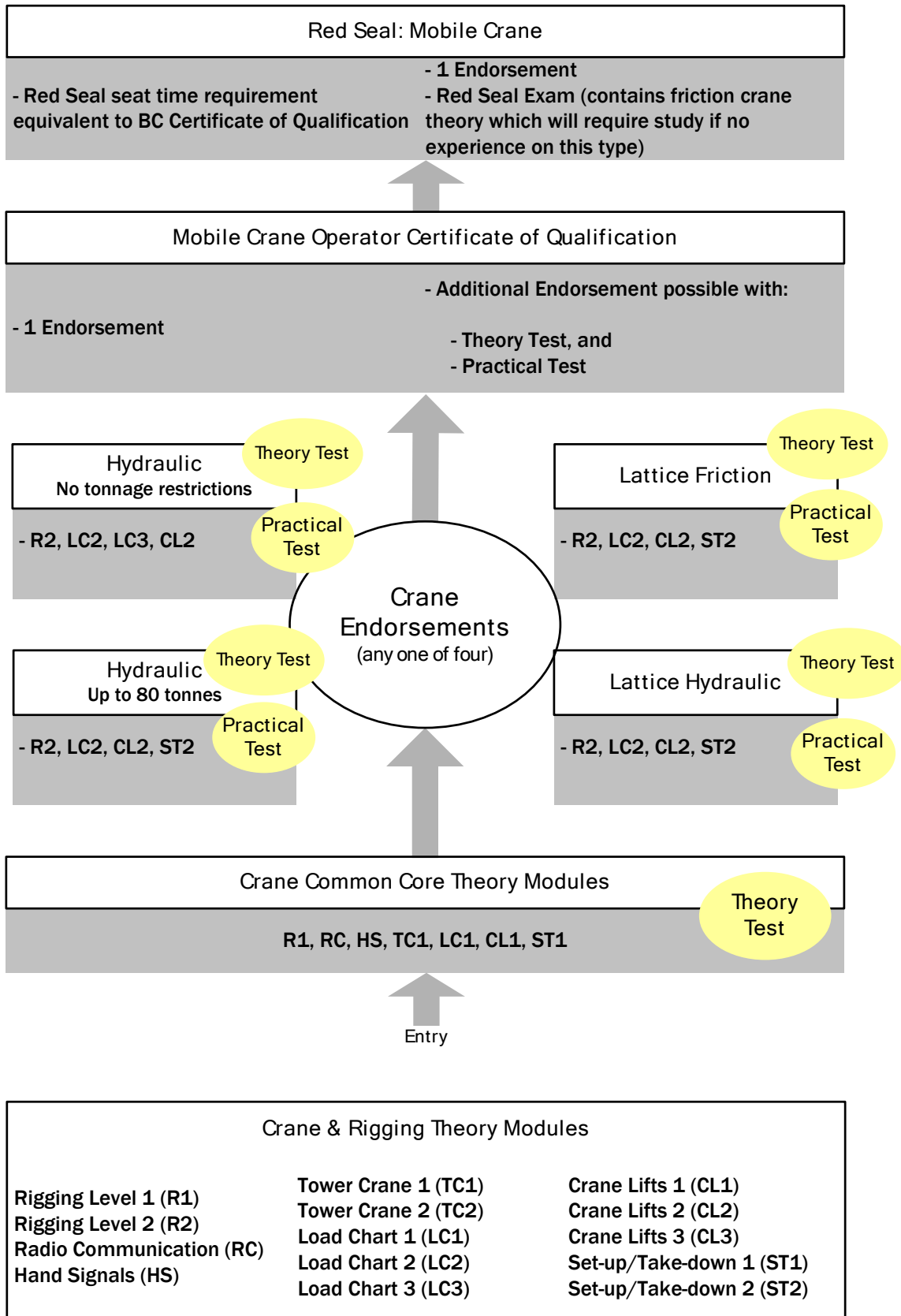
Competency Certification of Crane Operators



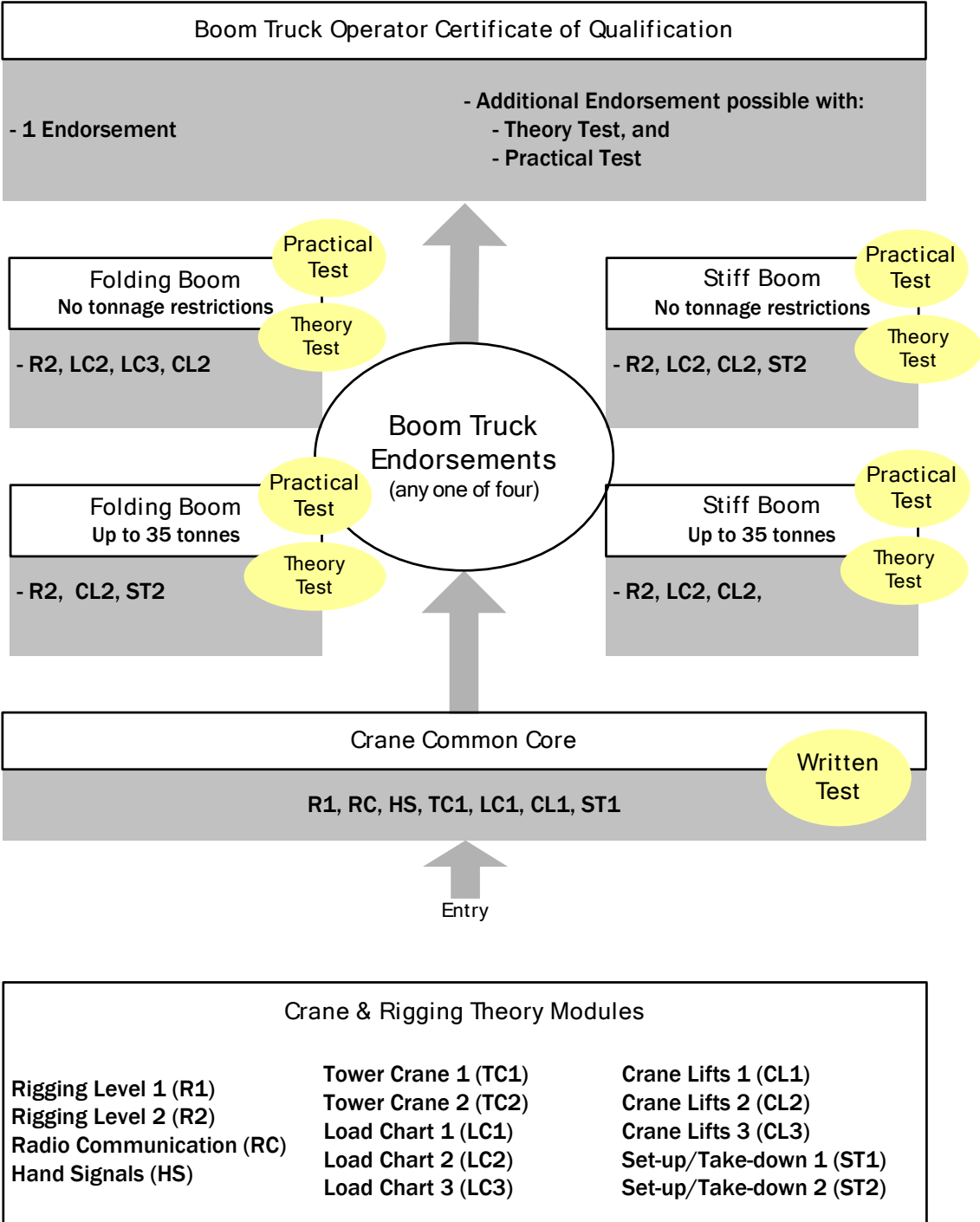
BC Crane Certification Framework



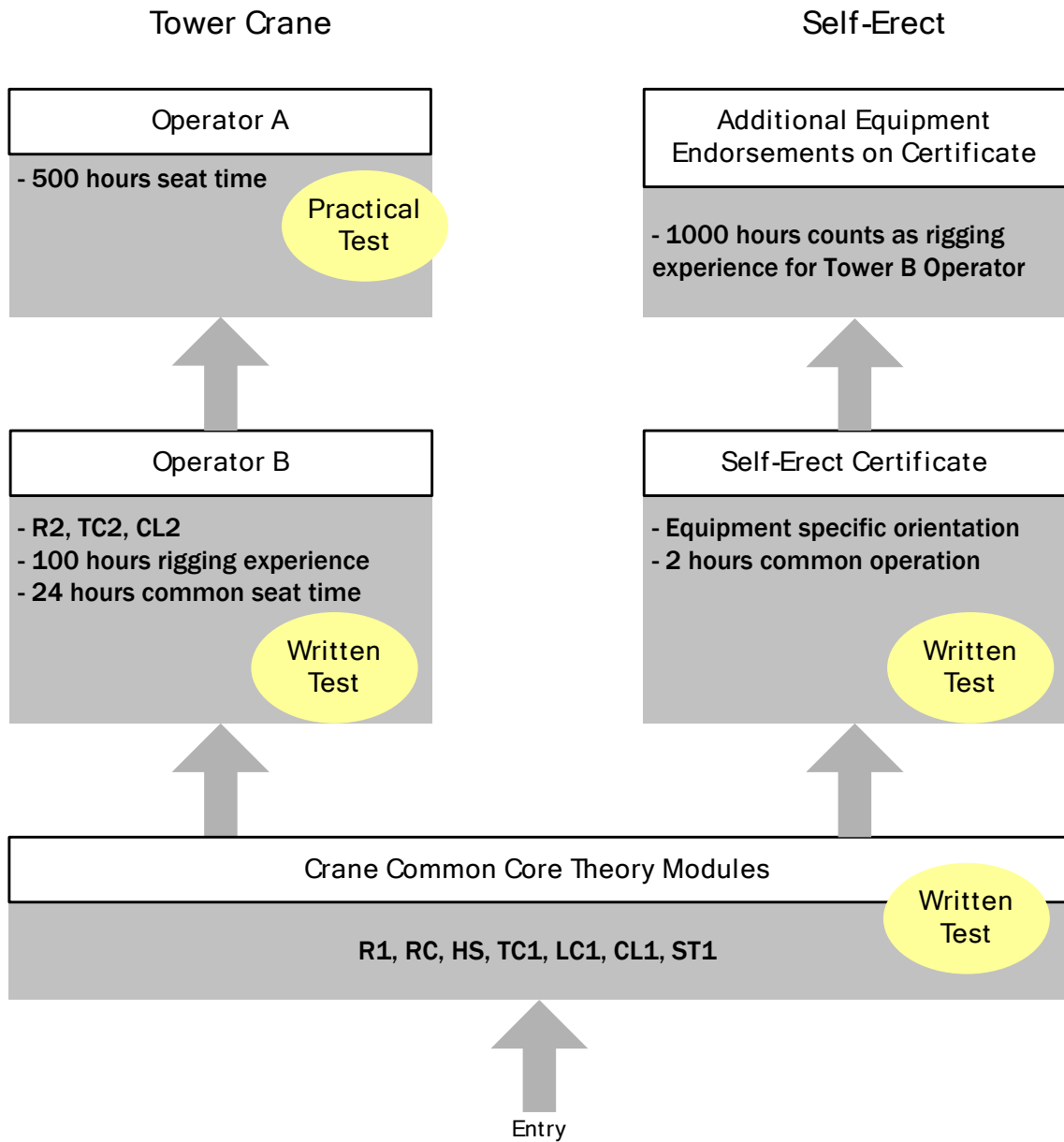
Mobile Crane Certification



Boom Truck Certification



Tower Crane & Self-Erect Certification



Crane & Rigging Theory Modules		
Rigging Level 1 (R1)	Tower Crane 1 (TC1)	Crane Lifts 1 (CL1)
Rigging Level 2 (R2)	Tower Crane 2 (TC2)	Crane Lifts 2 (CL2)
Rigging Level 3 (R3)	Load Chart 1 (LC1)	Crane Lifts 3 (CL3)
Radio Communication (RC)	Load Chart 2 (LC2)	Set-up/Take-down 1 (ST1)
Hand Signals (HS)	Load Chart 3 (LC3)	Set-up/Take-down 2 (ST2)