

G14.34.1 Operator certification

Preliminary Issue January 1, 2007

Regulatory excerpt

Section 14.34 of the *OHS Regulation* provides:

Operator Certification	14.34.1	On and after July 1, 2007, a mobile crane, tower crane or boom truck must be operated only <ul style="list-style-type: none">(a) by a person with a valid operator's certificate issued by a person acceptable to the Board, and(b) in accordance with any conditions stipulated on the certificate by the issuing person.
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Purpose of guideline

The purpose of this guideline is to set out that WorkSafeBC considers the BC Association for Crane Safety (BCACS) to be a "person acceptable to the Board" under section 14.34.1. BCACS provides a program for issuing operators' certificates for mobile cranes, tower cranes and boom trucks.

Background

Prior to 2007, the OHS Regulation required that crane operators have an appropriate trade qualification, be an indentured apprentice, or have a qualification determined by the Industry Training and Apprenticeship Commission ("ITAC"). For employers and prime contractors, ensuring crane operators were appropriately trained, qualified and competent has been very challenging. While there have been a number of programs available for training and apprenticeship, there has been no easy means to evaluate crane operator qualifications or competence. With the dissolution of ITAC compliance with the OHS Regulation became even more difficult.

After wide industry consultation, a program for assessment and documentation of crane operators' competency was developed. The BCACS was then formed to administer the program and issue crane operator certificates. The OHS Regulation was then revised to reflect the availability of operator certification to require operators of mobile cranes, tower cranes, and boom trucks to possess valid operating certificates.

Person acceptable to the board

Operators of mobile cranes, tower cranes, and boom trucks must possess a valid operator's certificate, issued by a person acceptable to the Board. The BCACS is currently the only person acceptable to the Board to issue operator's certificates for these types of cranes.

The BCACS includes representatives of employers and workers from many of the industries that use this type of equipment, as well as representatives of WorkSafeBC and other government agencies. The BCACS has developed a program for assessing mobile and tower crane and boom truck operator competency and the issuing of a "proof of competency" document (operator's certificate) to a person who successfully completes the assessment processes.

WorkSafeBC would also consider other persons to be acceptable issuers of operators' certificates under section 14.34.1 if they meet criteria established by the board. This would include criteria around the assessment of candidates and the qualifications of assessors.

Types of equipment covered

Section 14.34.1 applies to mobile cranes, boom trucks and tower cranes over 5 tons lifting capacity or with a boom length of over 25 feet. WorkSafeBC considers this equipment to include the following:

Mobile Cranes and Boom Trucks:

As described in:

- CSA Standard Z150-1998, Safety Code for Mobile Cranes,
- ANSI Standard ANSI/ASME B30.5-2004, Mobile and Locomotive Cranes, or
- ANSI Standard ANSI/ASME B30.22-2005, Articulating Boom Cranes.

Tower Cranes

As described in:

- CSA Standard Z248-2004, Code for Tower Cranes, or
- ANSI Standard ASME B30.4-2003, Portal, Tower, and Pillar Cranes.

The certification program

BCACS will issue operators' certificates to competent operators following the completion of a competency assessment. BCACS does not offer crane operator training, nor is a specific training program required. Training may be undertaken through an employer's in-house program or through a third party program provider or training agency.

Operators' certificates will be specific to certain types of equipment. Operators who are certified for one type of equipment will be restricted to operating that type of equipment until they pass an assessment for another type of equipment.

Interim certificate

For all types of equipment, new candidates may be issued an interim certificate provided they pass a basic theory test. This certificate will be temporary and will contain other restrictions around the types of situations the candidate may operate a crane, and will restrict the candidate to operating under the direct supervision of a certified operator.

Theory assessment

Every operator of a mobile crane, tower crane, or boom truck must pass an assessment on the theory, operating principles and regulatory requirements relating to the type of equipment they intend to use. For certain types of equipment, the successful completion of an assessment will permit the operator to operate that type of equipment. For other types of equipment, there may be restrictions, such as a requirement to work under the direct supervision of a certified operator.

Practical assessment

For certain types of equipment, in order to operate the crane independently without direct supervision, the operator will be required demonstrate their operating skills in a practical test on the equipment.

Implementation

The BCACS will initiate its program in January of 2007. By July 1, 2007, operators must have obtained an appropriate certificate and be operating in accordance with that certificate or be in the process of obtaining an appropriate certificate.