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Introduction

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

Certification Insider has a three-fold purpose:

- Eliminate the mystery that surrounds certification of personnel.
- Give news updates.
- Provide a forum to answer your questions and share your opinions.

Certification Insider is an online newsletter published by Crane Institute Certification (CIC). CIC Certification programs are NCCA accredited and

recognized nationally as an approved entity for the certification of crane operators, riggers and signalpersons.

What do you think?

In addition to crane operators, who else should be certified?

Should Calculators be used during certification exams?



To submit your answers, click on this link. We will have the results of this survey in the next *Certification Insider*. ■

Certification: Myths and Trends

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

True or False – Crane Operators, nationwide, must have an accredited certification.

True or False – Riggers and Signalpersons, nationwide, must have an accredited certification.

False, False, however, if the current trends continue, those answers will become True and True for good reasons. Certification supports crane safety that saves lives and increases productivity. In addition to cities and states requiring accredited certification, military bases, utilities, refineries, manufacturers, and construction sites require accredited certification as a condition for being allowed on job sites.

Until recently, the focus was almost entirely on crane operator certification. The focus is expanding to riggers and signalpersons. Currently, no *accredited* program exists for riggers and signalpersons. However, CIC and NCCCO offer riggers and signalperson certification and both programs are in the process of having their rigger and signalperson programs accredited. Accreditation is expected in the near future. More information on this subject will be available in coming issues.

True or False: Calculators are *not* allowed in valid, certification exams.

The answer is False, again. While it is true that not all operator certification programs allow the use of calculators, Crane Institute Certification (CIC) does. CIC

offers five accredited, operator-certification programs and they allow the use of calculators in all written exams. The CIC Governing Committee (i.e., Commissioners), which includes members of the ASME B30 Main Committee, the Advisory Council and testing partner, 4ROI, studied the question of calculators carefully and set certain parameters before allowing the use of calculators when taking exams.



Standard academic practices allow the use of calculators during exams. The purpose of certification is to test the knowledge of the individual in a manner that is relevant to the job requirements. Crane operators use calculators and computers installed in the cranes. The issue is whether or not the operator knows how to determine the capacity of the crane in the context of work to be performed. The operator has to know what deductions to make, how many parts of line to use, head room/tip height, line pull and more. Operators calculate what the crane can and cannot safely do.

If calculators are to be disallowed, where do we stop? Do we say that

paper and a pencil may not be used? Must the operator calculate all the deductions in his or her head? Is that the best and safest method for determining capacity and other calculations needed to make a safe lift?

Even tests, such as the math portion of the SAT (Standard Aptitude Test used to determine high school students' readiness to enter college), allow the use of calculators. In this case, the purpose of the math test, like a crane operator certification exam, is to determine if the individual knows what to do in given situations. The purpose of the test is not to assess the person's ability to add, subtract, multiply or divide. The administration of those skill tests are the responsibility of third and fourth grade teachers.

However, exam security related to calculators is an important and valid concern. To maintain the security and validity required with an accredited certification and to allow the use of calculators, CIC participated in a special session on the use of calculators at a NCCA (National Commission of Certifying Agencies) conference in San Antonio, TX.

At this conference, exam security, not validity of knowledge assessment, was the primary issue surrounding the use of calculators. Small, innocent looking hand held calculators may have the technology to take pictures, record and display information and more.

Certification: Myths and Trends

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CIC solved the problem of too much technology for security. CIC put a process in place to provide secure calculators to candidates at exam sites. They do so at no additional charge. Outside or personal calculators are not allowed, only those provided by CIC. These calculators perform all the math functions needed for an operator certification exam. ■

Crane Institute Certification (CIC) operator certifications are accredited by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA). CIC operator certifications are a valid means for certifying crane operators nationwide. Debbie Dickinson has more than 15 years experience of leadership in the crane industry and is Executive Director of CIC.



Lift & Access People of Distinction Award

Katie Parish, *Lift & Access*
Nomination for *People of
Distinction*
kparrish@liftandaccess.com

Committee Being Nominated:
The Governing Committee and
Advisory Board (combined group)
c/o Crane Institute of America
Certification, Inc.
3380 St. John Parkway
Sanford, FL 32771
800.832.2726
www.CraneInstituteCertification.com

Crane Institute Certification (CIC) Governing Committee & Advisory Board members volunteer untold hours, all for no personal gain. Their sole purpose is to improve safety and to oversee certification of the knowledge, skills, and abilities of personnel in the lifting industry. Every decision meets the test of, "How will this benefit, improve or better serve the crane industry?"

Each member of the CIC Governing Committee and Advisory Board is a recognized industry expert field and has first-hand knowledge of best practices to keep the people in our industry safe. They work diligently to understand the challenges facing the industry and strive to make certification worthwhile and beneficial to the people who work in the industry. Their expertise includes safety directors, crane manufacturers, ACOE, insurance providers, operators, inspectors, riggers, signalpersons, trainers, industry advocates, engineers and more.

The CIC Governing Committee and Advisory Board serve the industry in a variety of ways. Their volunteerism

includes the ASME Committees, Main and Sub-Committees, ASCE and numerous Safety Councils. They also volunteer to support schools, care for those in need; raise funds for heart transplants, cures for MS, cancer and Alzheimer's. They include active and former military. They are quietly people of distinction, day in and out. They did not seek this recognition but we are proud to know, work with and submit this nomination on their behalf.

Their wisdom, experience and diligence, above all else, benefits people who work in the lifting equipment industry. The Committee & Board tasks include reading and analyzing in depth research and studying work sites, equipment and industry changes and expectations, so the lifting industry can be safe. They test their conclusions in blazing hot temperatures and cold breezy climates. They work up high and down low. In short, they put themselves in the shoes of lifting personnel to evaluate the work from personal insights. Their combined expertise is remarkable and appreciated.

Crane Institute Certification appreciates *Lift & Access* providing the platform and opportunity for us to nominate the CIC Governing Committee and Advisory Board members for recognition of their tireless efforts to improve of the quality and safety of operation in the crane industry. The CIC Governing Committee and Advisory Board members include these notable leaders and companies:

Continued on next page.

CIC Governing Committee & Advisory Board Members

William (Cliff) Dickinson, Jr., Safety Director, Inspection, Certification, and Training of Crane Industry Services, President of the Rigger Certification Committee

Paul Zorich, ASME B.30 Main President, Operating Engineer of RPZ International, Vice-President Governing Committee

Larry Warren, Crane Operations manager for Southern Company, Secretary/Treasurer Governing Committee

Debbie Dickinson, Crane Industry Certification & Training Development Expert for Crane Institute Certification, Executive Director for CIC

James Headley, Sponsoring Company Liaison and Director of Crane Institute of America, Inc., Governing Committee and Rigger Certification Committee Member

Robert Cooper, Crane Inspection for Southeast Crane Inspection and Governing Committee Member

Tom Horvath, Public Member of the Employee Advocate Consultant, Governing Committee Member

Dave McElrath, Crane Insurance Provider for McElrath Insurance, Governing Committee Member

Keith Morical, President of Testing for 4ROI, Governing Committee Member

Ron Scott, Company Partner of Deep South Crane Rental, Governing Committee Member

Robert Wild, Crane Operator and Operating Engineer for the Army Corps of Engineers, Governing Committee Member

Anthony (Tony) D. Brown, Crane Works Consultant, Retired OSHA, Advisory Board Member

John Colletti, Crane Inspection for Colletti & Sons, Advisory Board Member

Robert Cook, Crane Rentals for Pinnacle, Virgin Islands, Advisory Board Member

Bob Jenkins, Crane Manufacturer for Engineering and Design, Advisory Board Member

Henry Lopez, Crane Operations Manager and Spanish Adaptation for George's Crane Service, Advisory Board Member

Bill Schofield, Crane Operations consultant for Schofield Consulting, Inc., Advisory Board Member

Matt Turner, Terminal Manager for Black Hawk Crane & Rigging, Advisory Board Member

Bruce Whitten, East Coast Safety Director for Sim's Crane Service, Advisory Board Member

Mike Parnell, President of ITI & WRRRC, Chair of the CIC Rigger & Signalperson Committee

Jim Cahill, Contractort of Rigging & Safety for J.F. White Contracting, Rigger/Signalperson Certification Committee Member

Peter Cooke, Rigging Manufacturing for Columbus McKinnon Corp., Rigger/Signalperson Certification Committee Member

Jeff Dudley, Contractor, Rigging & Safety for Archer Western Contractors, Rigger/Signalperson Certification Committee Member

Jerry Klinke, Crane & Rigging Safety for ACRA Enterprises, Inc., Rigger/Signalperson Certification Committee Member

Alexandra "Alex" Muller, PhD, Sr. Consultant, Testing for 4ROI, Rigger/Signalperson Certification Committee Member

Paul Boeckman, Vice President Engineering for The Crosby Group, Rigger/Signalperson Certification Committee Member ■

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Combined Certification Tests Available for the First Time

(Orlando, FL) August 4, 2009- Crane Institute Certification unveiled an innovative new approach to certification and testing. Now a combined Riggers and Signalpersons Certification is available in one written and one practical exam.

“The idea behind combining the Riggers and Signalpersons Certification into one exam,” said Debbie Dickinson of CIC, “is to reduce the headaches for both the employers of and persons taking the exam. Every exam takes up valuable time and money. We are cutting those expenses in half while providing a top-notch certification.”

In the past, Riggers and Signalpersons were forced to take (2) written exams and (2) practical exams to be certified. That was an unnecessary use of time and money.

CIC is providing the new, combined Rigger and Signalperson Certification for an introductory fee of \$99. Candidates can complete both the written and practical exam in less than 2 hours.

CIC also added a new twist to the way certification testing is done with the availability of on-line written exams. Test takers, who opt for the on-line rather than the paper exam, will know the result of their written exam immediately.

All CIC crane operator certifications are NCCA accredited which means that the CIC crane operator certifications meet the highest standards of a certification program. The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) accreditation of the combined Riggers and Signalpersons Certification is in progress and anticipated in the near future. Riggers and Signalpersons certified during this waiting period meet all the qualifications and eligibility for accredited certifications. As soon as available, CIC will replace Rigger and Signalperson certification cards with a card bearing the NCCA seal of accreditation, at no additional charge.

Crane Operators - Riggers - Signalpersons Exercise Your Freedom!

Choose CIC, the most
affordable, accredited
certification,
nationally available.

Rigger &
Signalperson
Certification
\$99.00
Introductory
Offer!

Let Freedom Ring!



CIC certifications are
accredited by NCCA.

For friendly, personal service, call us at:

(763) 476-4242

- **Lowest cost**
- **Practical exams realistic to work site**
- **NCCA accredited certifications**
- **Calculators allowed**
- **Online or paper tests available**
- **Operator recertification available**



www.craneinstitutecertification.com

Certification

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