

March 26, 2010

**VOLUNTARY AGREEMENT BETWEEN**  
**THE OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**  
**AND**  
**THE CRANE INSTITUTE OF AMERICA CERTIFICATION, INC.**

This Statement of Agreement describes a voluntary cooperative action between Crane Institute of America Certification, Inc. (“CIC”) and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (“OSHA”) to recognize crane operator certifications issued by CIC. The National Commission for Certifying Agencies (“NCCA”) recognizes CIC as an accredited certification program for the following: large telescoping boom crane, telescoping boom crane over 75 tons, small telescoping boom crane, lattice boom crawler, lattice boom carrier, and rigger/signalperson. NCCA accredits organizations that issue technical and professional certifications, e.g., the Board of Safety Professional, which examines and issues Certifications for Safety Professionals (CSP). OSHA believes recognizing certifications issued by CIC will help attain the goal of reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by accidents related to cranes.

The ability of crane operators to operate cranes safely is a major part of overall safety on many construction sites. An accredited certification program that attests to the qualifications of crane operators will provide employers and OSHA with a valuable tool in determining whether a crane operator is “qualified” to operate a particular crane.

The execution of this agreement with CIC should have an immediate, significant, and beneficial impact on the safe operation of cranes.

**I. PURPOSE**

The purpose of this agreement is to provide a non-regulatory means of recognizing a program that validates the competency and certifies the qualifications of crane operators. CIC has developed a certification program that has been accredited by NCCA for the following: large telescoping boom crane, telescoping boom crane over 75 tons, small telescoping boom crane, lattice boom crawler, lattice boom carrier, and rigger/signalperson.

The establishment of programs to certify crane operators, like this one, is an important step in achieving the goal of safe crane operations. As these programs become widely used, education and training will become the primary focus of employers and operators regarding the development and maintenance of necessary skills. Certification, as

regarding the development and maintenance of necessary skills. Certification, as evidence of proficiency, will be a benchmark for crane operators who work with the variety of equipment in use today and the increasingly advanced cranes of the future.

## **II. CRITERIA**

NCCA has accredited the following CIC certification programs:

- Large Telescoping Boom Crane
- Telescoping Boom Crane Over 75 Tons
- Small Telescoping Boom Crane
- Lattice Boom Crawler
- Lattice Boom Carrier
- Rigger/Signalperson

CIC evaluates applicant qualifications by verifying, through written and practical examinations, that applicants possess the required knowledge and experience to operate the specified crane safely. CIC bases the examinations on the qualification criteria outlined in the appropriate ANSI/ASME B30 consensus standards.

A key issue in OSHA's decision to recognize certification of crane operators by CIC is the objective and independent assessment of the skills and knowledge of crane operators. Regarding separation of certification and training functions, CIC, a certifying organization, provides no crane operator training. An applicant's performance on written and practical examinations determines whether CIC certifies the applicant.

CIC is an independent corporation formed and established for the sole purpose of administering a certification program that examines the knowledge and proficiency of applicants.

## **III. COMPLIANCE**

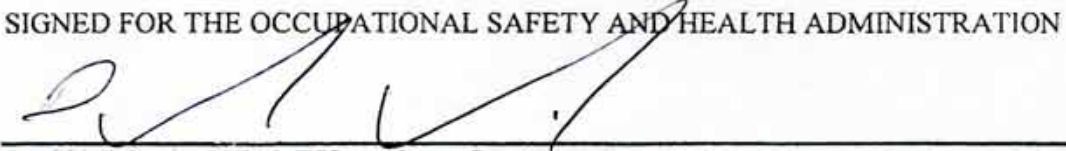
OSHA will continue to conduct crane inspections under applicable policy. Compliance Safety and Health Officers ("CSHO") will recognize CIC certification as verification of crane operator qualifications. However, the CSHO will independently verify that the operator has the required knowledge of and familiarity with the type and configuration of crane in use through observation, questioning, and other investigative techniques. Possession of CIC certification is not mandatory and OSHA will not issue citations to employers for failure of crane operators to possess a CIC certification. Neither will possession of a CIC certification alone be dispositive of compliance with OSHA standards.

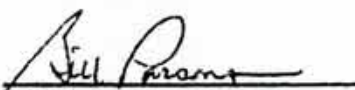
It is a benefit for an employer to employ a CIC certified crane operator to operate a crane on a jobsite because certification indicates to compliance officers that an operator with the demonstrated knowledge, skills and abilities with respect to specified crane types and configurations, is operating the crane. An employer's practice of requiring crane

operators to be certified by an NCCA-accredited certification organization like CIC also indicates an employer's commitment to an effective safety and health program and contributes to a project's qualification for a "Focused Inspection."

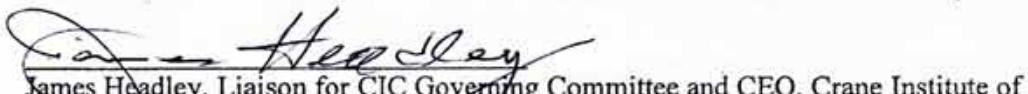
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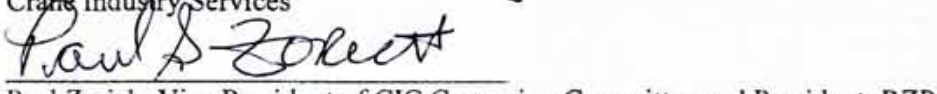
  
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David Michaels, PhD, MPH, Assistant Secretary

  
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Bill Parsons, Acting Director  
Directorate of Construction

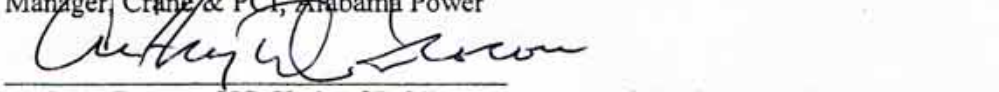
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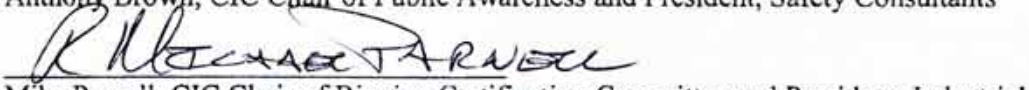
  
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James Headley, Liaison for CIC Governing Committee and CEO, Crane Institute of America

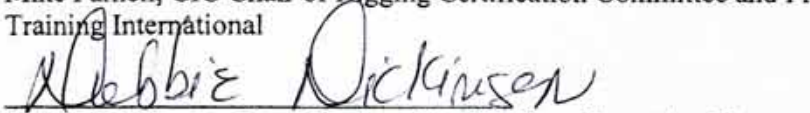
  
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William (Cliff) Dickinson, Jr., President of CIC Governing Committee and President, Crane Industry Services

  
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Paul Zorich, Vice President of CIC Governing Committee and President, RZP International, Ltd.

  
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Larry Warren, Secretary - Treasurer of CIC Governing Committee and Maintenance Manager, Crane & PCI, Alabama Power

  
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Anthony Brown, CIC Chair of Public Awareness and President, Safety Consultants

  
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Mike Parnell, CIC Chair of Rigging Certification Committee and President, Industrial Training International

  
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Debbie Dickinson, Crane Institute Certification, Executive Director