

OPERATING ENGINEERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FAQ

- **Only** certifies International Union of Operating Engineers operators
- Nationally accredited and recognized by Federal OSHA
- **NO** cost to members in good standing with the IUOE
- Certifications available include:
 - Boom Truck Crane
 - Lattice Boom Crane
 - Telescopic Boom Crane (Hydro)
 - Tower Crane
 - Overhead Crane (In Development)
- Eligibility requirements include:
 - Proof of meeting ASME B30.5 physical requirements for crane operators as evidenced by inclusion with the application of a copy of a current DOT or State issued DMV Medical Card
 - Proof of meeting ASME B30.5 substance abuse testing as evidenced by inclusion with the application of a copy of drug test results (from a recognized laboratory) taken within 90 days of application submission
 - 1,000 hours of documented crane operation experience and/or training obtained within the previous five (5) year period prior to application submission
- No third party test specific training is allowed
- Test experience is controlled by limiting the number of examination attempts a candidate can perform before exclusion from further testing. Currently, candidates are only allowed five (5) attempts of any particular certification examination category before being barred from further testing for a period of two years. Those that fail an examination must wait at least two (2) weeks prior to reattempting the test.
- Candidates are **NEVER** allowed to practice the practical (hands on) test prior to attempting the actual examination.
- All examinations, both written and practical are conducted and scored under the direction of an independent, third party Chief Examiner.
- All examinations, both written and practical require the presence of one (1) Chief Examiner and a minimum of two (2) proctors, one Labor and one Management. Practical examinations must be simultaneously scored by one Labor proctor and one Management proctor

OPERATING ENGINEERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FAQ

Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is Crane Operator Certification?

A. Crane Operator Certification is the process used to evaluate a crane operator's knowledge and skills with crane operations, procedures, safety, and regulations. This certification process consists of a written and practical (hands-on) examination.

Q. Who is conducting this certification?

A. A joint Labor / Management program has been formed to create, implement, and manage the crane operator certification process. The program is called the Operating Engineer Certification Program (OECF).

Q. Who conducts the examinations?

A. An third party, independent, and impartial Chief Examiner is responsible for conducting all of the written and practical examinations. This assures that there is no conflict of interest or favoritism during the examination process.

Q. Why do I need a certification?

A. Each IUOE local is different in that the requirement for certification may arise from one or more sources. For example, many states (e.g., California, Nevada) now require crane operators to be certified from an accredited organization. In other cases, the requirement is stated in the labor agreements the local has signed with their union contractors, while in many areas, insurance providers are now requiring their policy holders to certify their operators.

Q. Can any member obtain this certification?

A. The certification process is open to all members of the IUOE who meet the eligibility requirements. It will require extensive knowledge and skills of crane operations to successfully complete the process.

OPERATING ENGINEERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FAQ

Q. I have a city license, e.g., a City of Chicago Crane License. Do I still need to get the OECP certification?

A. A city license has absolutely nothing to do with this or any other crane certification. A city can require any licensing regulation they wish within their own jurisdiction.

Q. How can I prepare for the written examination?

A. Your experience in operating cranes will be your best preparation, however, one of the main goals of this certification is to promote training. Read the Candidate Manual It contains sample questions and a list of references used in the examinations' development that can help your preparation.

Q. Is there a "Grandfathering" process if I have been operating cranes for a certain amount of time?

A . No. There is no "Grandfathering" process for the initial certification.

Q. How long is this certification valid?

A. The certification card will be valid for five (5) years.

Q. How do I recertify when the card is due to expire?

A. Information for recertification can be found in appropriate sections of this Candidate Manual. Contact the OECP Certification Coordinator for an Application for Recertification and/or to obtain more information.

Q. What does recertification entail?

A Recertification requires passing a 50 question written examination(s) for the crane type(s) you wish to recertify on. Operators with at least one-thousand (1,000) hours of documented experience since receiving their initial certification operating the specific type of crane for which recertification is sought are initially exempt from having to take the practical examination(s) to obtain recertification.

OPERATING ENGINEERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FAQ

Q. How long does recertification take?

A. If the practical examination(s) has been waived, recertification should not take more than a few hours of your time (outside of filling out forms, obtaining required documents, etc.). If practical examinations are required, plan on spending at least one full day at the practical examination site. *Note: It is recommended you commence the recertification process at least six (6) months prior to the expiration date on your certification card to ensure your certifications do not expire due to unforeseen delays. Even though the actual process is relatively short, one still has to work around scheduled examination dates and availabilities.*

Q. Where will the written examinations and practical examinations be conducted?

A. The OECP conducts examinations in all geographical areas covered by the IUOE. The location(s) of the examinations vary and are based on the number of applications received from any of the different areas. A candidate may attend a scheduled examination in any area.

Q. I am currently on the out of work list. How will I be able to find a crane to complete the practical test?

A. Signatory Contractors or an IUOE local will provide the cranes and facilities for the practical examination.

Q. What will I need when I attend the written examination?

A. You must have your completed application and all required application documents (e.g., DOT or DMV Medical Card, substance abuse test results, experience form, etc.) on file with the OECP Certification Coordinator prior to attending the examination. At the examination, you will be provided with everything you need to take the testes), i.e., pencils and scratch paper.

OPERATING ENGINEERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FAQ

Q. What type of crane information do I need to know to pass the written examinations?

A. The written examinations cover all aspects of craning operations including, current regulations, jobsite conditions, setup, safety, maintenance, rigging, and crane load chart calculations. See the Written Examinations Outline, Sample Questions, and Written Examination References sections of this Candidate Manual for a more complete list.

Q. What does the practical examination entail?

A. All candidates will be required to perform a series of maneuvers that will test their ability to perform the basic functions of operating a crane. These will include placing a test weight onto specified targets, controlling the drift, performing multifunction lifts by guiding a load through a pre-set obstacle course, and following hand signals. See the Practical Examinations Outline section of this Candidate Manual for a more complete list.

Q. How many written tests are there?

A. You must pass the 75 question mobile crane written examination to obtain certification in either boom truck cranes, lattice boom cranes, or telescopic boom cranes. Tower crane candidates must pass the 75 question tower crane written examination. You must then complete the practical examination (hands-on) for each crane type (boom truck crane, lattice boom crane, telescopic boom crane, tower crane) in which you wish to become certified.

Q. Can I use a calculator for the examinations?

A. No electronic calculators nor any other personal calculators and/or Pocket PC or PDA (Personal Digital Assistant) type devices that have input/memory ability are allowed.

OPERATING ENGINEERS CERTIFICATION PROGRAM FAQ

Q. After completing the examinations, can I see and discuss the actual questions that I answered incorrectly?

A. No. The written examinations are knowledge/skill assessment instruments used to evaluate an operator's existing knowledge. They must be administered securely using standardized procedures. Any discussion of the actual questions could compromise and invalidate the examinations.

Q. Will the written examinations be scored at the time that I take them?

A. No. You will receive your scores by mail within a few days after completing the examinations.

Q. If I do not feel that my score was correct, can I request a rescore?

A. Yes. You must submit a written request to the OECP Certification Coordinator within 30 days of your examination date.

Q. Will the OECP release any information to an employer or other party concerning my application?

A. The OECP will release information regarding a candidate's certification status to any employer, government agency, person, or entity that submits a request. This information will be limited to the candidate's name, date of application, date of written examination, date of practical examination, and current certification status. No information concerning the written or practical examination scores, results of substance abuse tests, information contained on the medical evaluation form and/or any other personal information concerning the candidate will be released without prior written authorization from the candidate or the candidate's legal representative.