

**PA Crane Operator Licensure Law**  
Frequently Asked Questions – Revised 2015-1

- 1) **When did the Commonwealth of PA pass the Crane Operator Licensure act?** Oct 2008
- 2) **When do crane operators need to be licensed?** Since Dec. 9, 2010. All crane operators operating a mobile crane of 15 ton maximum capacity or a tower crane of 10 meter ton capacity will need to be licensed after Dec. 9, 2010.
- 3) **How does a crane operator qualify to be licensed?** The PA Crane Operator Act 100, states a crane operator is qualified to be licensed if they are certified by the NCCCO (National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators) or another recognized certifying agency, has a current physical exam (CDL physical qualifies), is of good moral character, and has not had a felony conviction for a drug offense.
- 4) **Is there a provision for a crane operator to be “Grandfathered”?** Yes, although the “Grandfathering Option” has expired. All crane operators desiring to be licensed in PA must now first be certified by a recognized certifying agency.
- 5) **If a crane operator is currently certified, is there another exam they will need to take to be licensed?** No
- 6) **Will the PA Crane Operator license list the types of crane(s) that the operator is licensed to Operate?** Yes.
- 7) **What types of cranes require a licensed operator?** Any mobile crane with a maximum rated capacity of 15 tons or more and all tower cranes of 10 meter tons or more.
- 8) **What machines are exempt?** Cranes used in intermodal operations, manufacturing, Maritime operations, and in the direct operation of mining coal.
- 9) **What crane operator certifications does PA accept?**
  - a) NCCCO – National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators
  - b) NCCER – National Center for Construction Education and Research
  - c) CIC – Crane Institute Certification
  - d) OECF – Operating Engineers Certification Program (members only)
- 10) **Is the Commonwealth of PA going to be involved in giving the certification exams (written or practical)?** No.
- 11) **If a crane operator is currently certified, will he/she also have to apply and possess a PA Crane Operators license?** Yes.
- 12) **How do I apply for a PA Crane License?** See how to apply for a PA license link
- 13) **Once I have the license, do I have to renew?** Yes. The crane operator’s license will be a two year license, although all PA Crane licenses expire 10/31/2016, 10/31/2018, etc. All PA licensed professions can renew online at: <https://www.mylicense.state.pa.us/>
- 14) **When I renew my license, do I need to keep my certification current?** Yes. Your PA Crane Operators license will remain valid only if you keep your certification current.
- 15) **Does PA require operators of articulating (knuckle-boom) cranes to be licensed?** No
- 16) **If I use my 15 ton maximum capacity (or larger) crane for my own use, do I need to have a licensed operator operate it?** Yes
- 17) **Does PA require operators of overhead/gantry cranes to be licensed?** No
- 18) **If I am a licensed crane operator in another state and plan to work in PA, do I need to apply for a PA Crane Operator license?** Yes, PA does not have any reciprocal agreements with other states.

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**19) Can I operate a covered crane without a PA Crane Operators license if a PA Licensed operator works with me?** PA law requires any operator that is learning the trade (training) to apply and possess a PA Crane Operator Trainee license. You are not permitted to operate a crane under the direct supervision of a PA licensed crane operator if you do not possess a valid PA Crane Operator Trainee License.

- a) To apply for a trainee license, the candidate must first take and pass the NCCCO written certification exam(s) in the category(s) of cranes the candidate will train on.
- b) After taking and passing the NCCCO written certification exams, download the trainee application at this link <file:///C:/Users/rfeidt/Downloads/Crane%20Trainee.pdf>
- c) After receiving your trainee license, you may operate a crane under the direct supervision of PA licensed crane operator.

**20) Does the PA Crane Operator licensure law only apply to cranes that are being used in construction work?** No, the PA crane operator licensure law requires a licensed operator on any covered crane. It does not matter what it is being use for except for the exceptions listed in §6.2 *Crane* (ii) of the <http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter6/chap6toc.html>

**To read the entire PA State Board of Crane Operators regulation go to...**  
<http://www.pacode.com/secure/data/049/chapter6/chap6toc.html>