

NEW SECTION

**WAC 296-155-533 Crane operator qualifications and certification.**

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(1) Prior to operating any crane covered under chapter 296-155 WAC, Part L, with the exception of the trainee/apprentice requirements outlined in subsection (2) of this section, the employer must ensure that the crane operator:

(a) Has a valid crane operator certificate, for the type of crane to be operated, issued by a crane operator testing organization accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency. The operator certification must include a successful passing of a written and practical examination.

**Notes:**

- An operator's certificate issued by the accredited testing agency is valid for a five-year period, and must be renewed to ensure operators maintain qualified operator status.
- For self-erecting tower cranes, the department will accept a tower crane certification issued by a nationally accrediting testing agency.
- For derricks, the department will accept, at a minimum, a lattice boom truck or crawler mobile crane operator's certificate.

(b) Has crane hours of experience as shown in Table 1; and

(c) Pass a substance abuse test conducted by a recognized laboratory.

**Exemption:** When it is necessary in the performance of their duties, manufacture representatives, factory representatives and maintenance personnel are not required to be certified crane operators.

**Crane Operator Experience  
Table 1**

<b>Crane Type</b>	<b>Number of Hours of Actual Crane Operating Experience</b>	<b>Number of Hours of Crane Related Experience</b>
<b>(1) Mobile Cranes</b>		
(a) Lattice Boom Crawler Cranes (LBC)	300 tons and above 1000 Hours	300 tons and above 1000 Hours
	300 tons and above 1000 Hours	Under 300 tons 500 Hours
(b) Lattice Boom Truck Cranes (LBT)	300 tons and above 1000 Hours	300 tons and above 1000 Hours
	Under 300 tons 500 Hours	Under 300 tons 500 Hours

<b>Crane Type</b>	<b>Number of Hours of Actual Crane Operating Experience</b>	<b>Number of Hours of Crane Related Experience</b>
(c) Large Telescopic Boom Cranes (Swing Cab) (TLL)	Over 130 tons 750 Hours	Over 130 tons 750 Hours
	Over 40 tons to 130 tons 250 Hours	Over 40 tons to 130 tons 250 Hours
	40 tons and under 40 Hours	40 tons and under 40 Hours
(d) Small Telescopic Boom Cranes (Fixed Cab) (TSS)	15 tons and above 40 Hours	15 tons and above 40 Hours
	Under 15 tons 20 Hours	Under 15 tons 20 Hours
(e) Articulating Boom Cranes	20 Hours	20 Hours
<b>(2) Tower Cranes</b>		
(a) Hammerhead	500 Hours	500 Hours
(b) Luffer	500 Hours	500 Hours
(c) Self-Erecting	50 Hours	50 Hours
<b>(3) Overhead Cranes</b>		
(a) Cab Operated	40 Hours	40 Hours
(b) Pendant/Remote	40 Hours	40 Hours
<b>(4) Derricks</b>	20 Hours	500 Hours
<p><b>Hours of actual crane operating experience.</b> For all cranes: Time while the operator is at the controls of the crane; and/or has direct control of that crane; and/or a combination of operating hours within the same crane type. For mobile cranes: It also includes time while installing/removing boom sections, luffing boom, jib, extending and retracting outriggers/stabilizers, leveling crane, and replacing hoisting rope. For tower cranes: It includes time while jumping (increasing the height of the tower/mast).</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Additional actual crane operator experience may account for crane related experience.</p> <p><b>Hours of crane related experience:</b> Time as a signalman/bellman, oiler, crane mechanic, crane inspector, formal classroom training, crane simulator operation, and a combination of operating hours on other categories of cranes.</p>		

**Note:** Cranes and other lifting machines that are exempt can be found in WAC 296-155-52900(2).

(2) Prequalification/certification training period. An employee who is not a qualified crane operator as outlined in subsection (1) of this section is permitted to operate the crane as part of his/her training providing the following requirements are met:

(a) The employee ("trainee/apprentice") must be provided with sufficient training prior to operating the crane to enable the trainee to operate the crane safely under limitations established by this section (including continuous supervision) and any additional limitations established by the employer.

(b) The tasks performed by the trainee/apprentice while operating the crane must be within the trainee's ability, as determined by the supervising qualified crane operator.

(c) Qualified crane operator. While operating the equipment, the trainee/apprentice must be continuously supervised by a qualified crane operator who meets the following requirements:

(i) The qualified crane operator is an employee or agent of the trainee's/apprentice's employer.

(ii) The qualified crane operator under this section is

familiar with the proper use of the equipment's controls.

(iii) While supervising the trainee/apprentice, the qualified crane operator performs no tasks that detract from the qualified crane operator's ability to supervise the trainee/apprentice.

(iv) For cranes other than tower cranes: The qualified crane operator and the trainee/apprentice must be in direct line of sight of each other. In addition, they must communicate verbally or by hand signal.

(v) For tower cranes: The qualified crane operator and the trainee/apprentice must be in direct communication with each other.

(d) The trainee/apprentice must not operate the crane in any of the following circumstances:

(i) If any part of the crane, load line or load (including rigging and lifting accessories), if operated up to the crane's maximum working radius in the work zone, could get within twenty feet of a power line that is up to three hundred fifty kV, or within fifty feet of a power line that is over three hundred fifty kV;

(ii) If the crane is used to hoist personnel;

(iii) In a multiple-crane lift situation; or

(iv) Multiple-lift rigging, as defined in WAC 296-155-52902, can only be accomplished by the trainee/apprentice when the qualified crane operator determines that the trainee's/apprentice's skills are sufficient for this high-skill work.

(v) Critical lifts, excluding tower cranes, and as defined in WAC 296-155-52902, can only be accomplished by the trainee/apprentice when the qualified crane operator determines that the trainee's/apprentice's skills are sufficient for this high-skill work.

(3) The employer must obtain documentation showing hours of crane operator experience and crane related experience separated out by crane type and capacity.

(4) The department may recognize crane operator certification from another state or territory of the United States as equivalent to qualified crane operator requirements if the department determines that the other jurisdiction's credentialing standards are substantially similar to the qualified crane operator requirements.

(5) For experience obtained prior to January 1, 2010, the employer may accept a declaration from the crane operator attesting to actual hours of crane operator experience and crane related experience separated out by crane type and capacity. Hours documented prior to 2010 will count towards the hour requirements of actual crane operating experience and crane related experience.

(6) Beginning January 1, 2010, crane operator experience and crane related experience must be documented and separated out by crane type and capacity. If the employer is documenting crane operating and/or related crane experience hours, the employer must provide a copy of the hours to the operator as soon as practical, if requested.