

# OSHA<sup>®</sup> FactSheet

## Subpart CC – Cranes and Derricks in Construction: Signal Person Qualification

This fact sheet describes the signal person qualification requirements of subpart CC – Cranes and Derricks in Construction, as specified in 29 CFR 1926.1419 and 1926.1428. Other requirements related to signal persons can be found at 29 CFR 1926.1404, 1926.1430, 1926.1431, and 1926.1441. These provisions are effective November 8, 2010.

### When is a signal person required?

A signal person is required when:

- The point of operation is not in full view of the operator (1926.1419(a)).
- The operator's view is obstructed in the direction the equipment is traveling.
- Either the operator or the person handling the load determines that a signal person is needed because of site-specific safety concerns.

### What does a signal person need to know?

The signal person is considered qualified if he or she:

- Knows and understands the type of signals used at the worksite.
- Is competent in using these signals.
- Understands the operations and limitations of the equipment, including the crane dynamics involved in swinging, raising, lowering and stopping loads and in boom deflection from hoisting loads.
- Knows and understands the relevant signal person qualification requirements specified in subpart CC (1926.1419-1926.1422; 1926.1428).
- Passes an oral or written test and a practical test.

### How does a signal person become qualified?

Employers must use one of the following options to ensure that a signal person is qualified (see 1926.1428).

1. *Third party qualified evaluator.* The signal person has documentation from a third party qualified evaluator showing that he or she meets the qualification requirements.
2. *Employer's qualified evaluator* (not a third party). The *employer's qualified evaluator* assesses the individual, determines the individual meets the qualification requirements, and provides documentation of that determination. This assessment may not be relied on by other employers.

Refer to 1926.1401 for definitions of qualified evaluators.

### How will an employer show that a signal person is appropriately qualified?

Employers must make the documentation of the signal person's qualifications available at the worksite, either in paper form or electronically. The documentation must specify each type of signaling (e.g., hand signals, radio signals, etc.) for which the signal person is qualified under the requirements of the standard.

### When are signal persons required to be qualified?

The qualification requirements for signal persons go into effect on November 8, 2010.

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U.S. Department of Labor

[www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

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## Subpart CC – Cranes and Derricks in Construction: Operator Qualification and Certification

This fact sheet explains the operator qualification and certification requirements of subpart CC – Cranes and Derricks in Construction, as specified in 29 CFR 1926.1427. State or local government licensing is effective November 8, 2010. Other certification and qualification is effective November 10, 2014.

### Who needs to be certified or qualified?

Any person engaged in a construction activity who is operating a crane covered by the new cranes and derricks rule, except:

- sideboom cranes\*
- derricks\*
- equipment with a rated hoisting/lifting capacity of 2,000 pounds or less\*

\*Operators of the listed equipment must meet the criteria for minimum expertise described in the applicable section in subpart CC.

### Are operators of digger derricks required to be qualified or certified?

Yes, unless the digger derrick is being used to auger holes for poles carrying electric or telecommunication lines, place or remove the poles, or handle associated materials to be installed on or removed from the poles.

### What is required in the testing for certification?

Certification has two parts:

1. A written examination that includes the safe operating procedures for the particular type of equipment the applicant will be operating and

technical understanding of the subject matter criteria required in 1926.1427(j).

2. A practical exam showing the applicant has the skills needed to safely operate the equipment, including, among other skills, the ability to properly use load chart information and recognize items required in the shift inspection.

### Does an operator need more than one certification?

With respect to certification from an accredited testing organization, an operator must be certified for the *type* and *capacity* of crane he or she is going to operate. Each accredited testing organization develops its own categories for crane type and capacity.

### How is an operator certified or qualified?

There are 4 ways that an equipment operator can be qualified or certified and meet OSHA requirements.

1. A certificate from an accredited crane operator testing organization
2. Qualification from the employer through an audited employer program
3. Qualification by the US Military (only applies to employees of Department of Defense or Armed Forces and does not include private contractors)
4. \*Licensing by a state or local government (if that licensing meets the minimum requirements set forth by OSHA)

\*When a state or local government requires a crane operator license, the crane operator must be licensed accordingly to meet OSHA requirements.

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## Operator Qualification and Certification, continued.

**Accredited crane operator testing organization.** The testing organization must be accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency and test according to the criteria listed at §§ 1926.1427(j)(1) and (j)(2). This certification is portable from employer to employer. The testing organization must have its accreditation reviewed every 3 years. The certificate must note the type and capacity of equipment for which the operator is tested and certified. The certificate is valid for 5 years.

**Audited employer program.** An employer may provide a crane operator testing program under the oversight of an independent auditor. An accredited crane operator testing organization must certify the auditor to evaluate the administration of written and practical tests. The auditor must conduct audits of the employer's program according to nationally recognized auditing standards. Crane operator qualification under an employer program is only valid while the operator is an employee of the employer and

operating a crane for the employer. The qualification is valid up to 5 years.

**U.S. Military.** This qualification applies only to civilian employees of the Department of Defense or Armed Services and is not portable. This qualification does not include employees of private contractors.

**Licensing by a government entity.** This license is obtained from a government entity, such as a city or state that has a required certification program. When this license meets the minimum requirements of 1926.1427(e)(2) and (j), OSHA requires a crane operator to have this license when operating in the applicable city, county, or state. This license is not portable outside the boundaries of the government entity that issues the license, and is valid for a maximum of 5 years.

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## Subpart CC – Cranes and Derricks in Construction: Qualified Rigger

This fact sheet describes the qualified rigger requirements of subpart CC – Cranes and Derricks in Construction, as specified in 29 CFR 1926.1401, 1926.1404, and 1926.1425. These provisions are effective November 8, 2010.

### When is a *qualified rigger* required?

Employers must use *qualified riggers* during hoisting activities for assembly and disassembly work (1926.1404(r)(1)). Additionally, *qualified riggers* are required whenever workers are within the fall zone and hooking, unhooking, or guiding a load, or doing the initial connection of a load to a component or structure (1926.1425(c)).

### Who can be a *qualified rigger*?

A *qualified rigger* is a rigger who meets the criteria for a qualified person. Employers must determine whether a person is qualified to perform specific rigging tasks. Each *qualified rigger* may have different credentials or experience. A *qualified rigger* is a person that:

- possesses a recognized degree, certificate, or professional standing, or
- has extensive knowledge, training, and experience, and
- can successfully demonstrate the ability to solve problems related to rigging loads.

The person designated as the *qualified rigger* must have the ability to properly rig the load for a particular job. It does not mean that a rigger must be qualified to do every type of rigging job.

Each load that requires rigging has unique properties that can range from the simple to the complex. For example, a rigger may have extensive experience in rigging structural

components and other equipment to support specific construction activities. Such experience may have been gained over many years. However, this experience does not automatically qualify the rigger to rig unstable, unusually heavy, or eccentric loads that may require a tandem lift, multiple-lifts, or use of custom rigging equipment. In essence, employers must make sure the person can do the rigging work needed for the exact types of loads and lifts for a particular job with the equipment and rigging that will be used for that job.

### Do *qualified riggers* have to be trained or certified by an accredited organization or assessed by a third party?

No. Riggers do not have to be certified by an accredited organization or assessed by a third party. Employers may choose to use a third party entity to assess the qualifications of the rigger candidate, but they are not required to do so.

### Does a certified operator also meet the requirements of a *qualified rigger*?

A certified operator does not necessarily meet the requirements of a *qualified rigger*. Determining whether a person is a *qualified rigger* is based on the nature of the load, lift, and equipment used to hoist that load plus that person's knowledge and experience. A certified/qualified operator may meet the requirements of a *qualified rigger*, depending on the operator's knowledge and experience with rigging.

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