



**NATIONAL COMMISSION
FOR THE CERTIFICATION
OF CRANE OPERATORS (NCCCO)**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CCO Certification Recognized by National Skill Standards Board

Fairfax, Virginia, December 12, 2001--In an historic move to build a strong partnership with industry certifiers, Board Members of the National Skill Standards Board (NSSB) have voted to recognize the certification process of the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators. CCO is the first organization to receive recognition for its industry certification process under the NSSB's innovative Certification Recognition program.

Over the past two decades, the number of industry certifications has grown dramatically to more than 3,000, making the task of choosing suitable certifications challenging. The NSSB's Certification Recognition program is designed to recognize quality certifications developed by specialized organizations in a host of industries. The NSSB developed rigorous criteria to identify those certifications whose development processes meet expert professional and technical standards for quality assurance. NSSB Certification Recognition gives users a benchmark to choose the best certifications based on nationally recognized, industry-based skill standards.

"The NSSB is pleased to recognize the certification process developed by the NCCCO," stated NSSB Executive Director Edie West. "With the large number of certifications currently on the market, it is crucial for users to be able to identify those that were developed to a high standard of quality."

Davis J. Lauve, NCCCO President and President of Nichols Construction Corporation, commented on the Board's vote. "We are delighted that the National Skill Standards Board has approved the CCO crane operator certification program," he stated. "Employers across the nation can be assured that crane operators certified through the CCO program have had their knowledge and skills assessed through a system that has been judged fair and reliable and that meets the very highest professional certification standards."

The National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (CCO)

was formed in January 1995 to develop effective performance standards for safe crane operation to assist all segments of general industry and construction. Since CCO began testing in April 1996, more than 15,000 crane operators have been tested through over 700 separate test administrations conducted in 46 states.

The CCO crane operator certification program is the only program to be recognized by federal OSHA as meeting OSHA and ASME (ANSI) requirements for crane operator competency. The program is unique in that it is: third-party; independent of training; developed and supported by industry; a joint labor/management initiative; psychometrically sound; validated through peer review; and administered on a standardized, secure, nationwide basis.