



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

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Steel Erectors Unite Behind CCO Program

Fairfax, Virginia, December 12, 2001--The steel erection industry's leading membership associations have thrown their support behind the CCO national crane operator certification program.

In separate initiatives, the Boards of Directors of NEA: The Association of Union Constructors (previously the National Erectors Association) and the Steel Erectors Association of America (SEAA) have voted to recognize and endorse the CCO program.

NEA Executive Vice President, Noel Borck, stated that the NEA Board recognized the contribution of CCO to improve safety on the construction jobsite. "NEA endorses the CCO program's efforts to improve the professionalism of crane operators and eliminate accidents, injuries and fatalities in the construction industry," Borck said.

In announcing the decision of the Board of Directors of SEAA to endorse the CCO program, Doug Williams, Chairman of SEAA's Crane & Rigging Committee noted that CCO certification was "a fair and effective means" of ensuring that crane operators possess essential knowledge and skills. "This provides employers with a valuable tool to determine the competency of crane operators and to comply with OSHA and ASME (ANSI) standards, enhancing construction site safety by assuring that crane operators have recognized skills," Williams added.

"Since CCO was first founded, the desire to improve safety on the jobsite has been paramount," said CCO President, Davis J. Lauve. "And from the very beginning, the hundreds of volunteers who contributed their expertise to this program have stood united, regardless of membership or affiliation, to maintain this focus for the betterment of all industry," Lauve said. "This endorsement by NEA and SEAA is a fitting tribute to their vision."

In the coming months, CCO will be working with the local member organizations of the two organizations to establish regional testing centers to provide access to both written and practical CCO examinations, as well as the recently implemented Recertification Program.

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.