

# OSHA confirms industry opposition to capacity testing

If further evidence were needed of industry's objections to OSHA's position on certifying crane operators by capacity, OSHA has itself provided it in its official record of the Stakeholders Meetings it held in April and which the Agency has now published on its website (<http://www.osha.gov/cranes-derricks/stakeholders.html>)

Of the slightly more than 100 comments made by industry representatives recorded by OSHA, a mere handful support OSHA's position. Also, almost no-one agreed with OSHA's stance on the related question of whether certification is equivalent to qualification (OSHA says it is) and many, including another federal agency, provided ample evidence why this could, as a practical matter, be the case. None of the certification bodies agrees with OSHA on this aspect.

What industry support there was for OSHA's position came mainly from the electrical industry which has requested further exemptions from the rule and which is still engaged in litigation with OSHA on the matter.

"With 98 percent of the industry that responded to OSHA's invitation to share their views on these two issues declaring their opposition to OSHA's position, it's easy to see why NCCCO has taken no further action to modify its CCO

certification programs," said NCCCO Executive Director Graham Brent. "We urge OSHA to listen to the stakeholders who will be affected by this rule and take all appropriate and necessary action."

Jim Maddux, director of OSHA's Directorate of Construction, stated at the April meetings that among the action available to the Agency was issuing a Letter of Interpretation or a Directive, or conducting additional rulemaking. ■

## 34th biannual NCCCO Commissioners Meeting largest ever

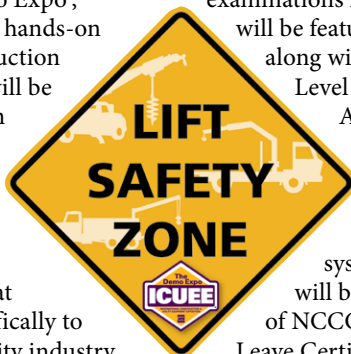
Nearly 60 Commissioners and guests traveled from across the country to the Baltimore area to attend the largest ever spring Commissioners Meeting, May 3. Held at the Maritime Institute in Linthicum Heights, MD, the Commissioners meeting capped a week of hectic program review and development among six of NCCCO's Exam Management Committees including both Mobile Crane Committees (Written and Practical), Signalperson, Articulating Crane, Tower Crane, and Overhead Crane. Also meeting was NCCCO's Recognition Programs Committee which oversees the Committed to Crane Safety employer recognition program, and the two- and three- star recertification programs. The entire crane industry was well-represented, with delegates and guests from contractors, labor, government, manufacturers, users, insurance, associations, and manufacturers.



## Lift Safety Zone returns at ICUEE 2013

NCCCO will reprise its popular Lift Safety Zone (LSZ) as part of its largest presence ever at this year's International Construction and Utility Equipment Exposition (ICUEE). ICUEE – also known as "The Demo Expo", reflecting its emphasis on hands-on demonstrations of construction and utility equipment – will be held October 1-3, 2013, in Louisville, KY.

The LSZ, positioned prominently in Area N, Booth N1053, will spotlight the CCO certification programs that have been designed specifically to meet the needs of the utility industry.



These include Digger Derrick Operator (DDO), Articulating Crane Operator (ACO), and the brand new Service Truck Operator (STC) certification programs. Live demonstrations of CCO practical examinations for all these certifications will be featured throughout the show, along with the Rigger Level I and Level II practical exams.

Additionally, both written and practical exams will be offered at ICUEE which, along with NCCCO's onsite scoring system, means that attendees will be able to take advantage of NCCCO's special "Visit ICUEE, Leave Certified" program that proved

so popular at CONEXPO in 2011. Recertification written exams for all CCO programs will also be offered.

"Over the last several years, demand for CCO certification has broadened significantly, and NCCCO has responded to industry requests by developing certification programs for cranes used specifically by the utility industry," said Joel Oliva, NCCCO Manager for Test Development and Administration. "ICUEE provides an outstanding opportunity for the industry to see these certification programs up close and even try out the test courses for themselves."

Documentation on programs being readied for launch, such as Certified Lift Director, will also be available. ■