

# Carpenters International Certification Council

## Overhead Crane Certified Operator (OCCO)

### Program

## Candidate Information Brochure

UNITED BROTHERHOOD OF CARPENTERS  
INTERNATIONAL TRAINING CENTER



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## Carpenters International Certification Council

The CICC is a strategic partner with the Carpenters International Training Fund (CITF) designated by the CITF to develop and manage certification programs targeted to United Brotherhood of Carpenter (UBC) members.

The mission of the CICC is to improve performance, reduce workplace risk, and safeguard personnel by overseeing that only trained, skilled and qualified individuals complete the work. As part of this mission, the CICC has developed the Overhead Crane Certified Operator (OCCO) credential. The purpose of credentialing overhead crane operators is to provide the public, contractors, and coworkers with confidence in the quality of the deliverables and the safety of the practices being employed.

You can contact the CICC by emailing [CICC@carpenters.org](mailto:CICC@carpenters.org). You can learn more about the certification program by visiting the following website: [www.UBCCertifications.org](http://www.UBCCertifications.org).

The objectives of the CICC are to:

1. Establish certification programs designed to improve and enhance the skills of UBC members to meet the needs of the construction industry in Canada and the United States.
2. Maintain a systematic review of certification programs.
3. Modify or revise certification programs as warranted.
4. Review and act on issues that may result in disciplinary action.
5. Review and act on all candidate complaints and appeals.

Revised 06/15/26

## Overhead Crane Certified Operator Program

The CICC offers a certification and the OCCO designation to those candidates who meet the standards set forth by OSHA 1926 Subpart CC – Cranes and Derricks in Construction and OSHA 1910.179 Overhead and Gantry Cranes.

The eligibility requirements and test materials for the OCCO certification program were developed based on a thorough practice analysis validation study of the scope of practice and current state of knowledge and skills required in the overhead crane trade. A practice analysis survey of UBC member overhead crane operators from across the United States and Canada was conducted in 2019 to define the scope of practice and determine the appropriate content areas for the OCCO tests. The questionnaire was designed to identify the knowledge and skills necessary to complete the day-to-day tasks of overhead crane operator trade professionals.

A representative group of overhead crane operator experts reviewed the data derived from the questionnaire. They identified the scope of practice for overhead crane operators based on data, thus ensuring that the content of the OCCO exams reflects the day-to-day practice of overhead crane operators in the United States and Canada. The results of the validation study were organized into a comprehensive examination plan for the OCCO written and practical exams, both of which can be found in this document.

The OCCO written examinations are created by test development psychometricians in close concert with a panel of overhead crane operator experts who write and review all

examination questions. Every question is also reviewed by a psychometrician, a trained expert in examination writing, prior to being selected for a written examination. Questions are selected for examinations on the basis of the content areas defined by the validated examination plan mentioned above.

After the written test has been administered to a sufficient number of candidates, the examination questions are analyzed statistically to identify any hidden flaws. Questions that appear to be flawed are discussed by CICC overhead crane operator experts to determine if credit should be given for more than one answer. After these issues are resolved, the test is scored.

The test question pool for the OCCO certification program is updated on a regular basis to reflect current practices in operating overhead cranes. Individual questions that have been shown by statistical analysis to be unclear or unfair are modified or deleted from the pool of examination questions.

The OCCO certification written examinations have been designed to meet testing industry standards for validity and reliability. Validity is the degree to which the content of the test reflects the knowledge required to perform the duties of an overhead crane operator in a competent manner. Reliability is the consistency of the test results, i.e., the degree to which the test results are free from error.

The OCCO practical examinations are developed as fair and objective assessments of the essential skills a OCCO needs to safely work in overhead crane operations. The examinations are developed with overhead crane operator experts from across the United States and Canada.

The CICC worked closely with test development psychometricians to guide all OCCO program activities. Test development psychometricians guided the CICC in establishing key elements of the program, including identifying essential knowledge and skills and linking those to overhead crane operator tasks, standardizing test conditions for the written and practical exam administrations, developing the scoring process, establishing consistency across test forms, and creating secure test administration procedures.

Overhead Crane Certified Operator (OCCO) designees are skilled in multiple areas including:

1. Properly identify potential hazards when operating the crane
2. Properly inspect all components of an overhead crane (e.g., load lines, drums, control functions)
3. Properly operate the crane through all functions without excessive swinging or shock loading
4. Properly identify and follow all OSHA/ANSI voice and hand signals
5. Know where to locate load capacity information in or on the crane
6. Identify conditions that creates a critical lift
7. Properly identify and understands the function of all crane components
8. Properly locates and identifies the main crane disconnect
9. Properly conducts emergency shutdown procedures when required.
10. Understands and applies all the applicable standards, rules, and regulations related to crane operations

Certification holders may state that they are Overhead Crane Certified Operators and may use the OCCO designation to market credentials on business cards, resumes, etc.

Additionally, each OCCO receives a certificate and their credentials are posted on a wallet-sized verification card. The verification card has a Quick Response (QR) code that links to an electronic database of certification and qualification records. The certificates and electronic records contain the name, date of expiration, and the unique membership identification number of every individual who has successfully completed the OCCO assessments.

## Certification Eligibility and Approval

To become an OCCO, a candidate must be a UBC member and must successfully complete a knowledge-based written examination and a hands-on practical skills assessment. By passing these examinations, a candidate demonstrates competency in the knowledge and skills required to perform safely and effectively as a OCCO.

All candidates must be at least 18 years old.

## Prerequisites

In order to qualify to sit for the OCCO assessments, a candidate must possess their Certified Rigger and Signaler (CRS) designation, and have a current medical verification as specified by ASME B30.5-3.1.2 (a).

## Certification Application and Exam Registration Instructions

### If you are a member

Contact your local center to schedule a session for the next certification administration date.

All candidates must accept the terms and conditions and adhere to all policies and procedures outlined in the Candidate Agreement before taking the certification exam.

### If you are not a member

Only UBC members are eligible for the OCCO program. Contact the nearest UBC local union to join.

### ID Requirements

When checking in at a Pearson VUE Testing Center for the written exam, candidates must present two (2) forms of original (no photo copies or digital IDs), valid (unexpired) IDs in order to sit for the exam; one form as a **Primary ID** (government issued with name, recent recognizable photo, **and** signature) and one form as a **Secondary ID** (with at least a name and signature, or name and recent recognizable photo). The first and last name that the candidate uses to register must match exactly the first and last name on both IDs that are presented on test day.

When reporting for the practical exam, candidates must present one (1) form of government-issued photo identification (e.g., Driver's License, State ID, Canadian ID, Military ID, or Passport) in order to sit for the exam. The government-issued photo identification must contain the candidate's date of birth and must be current. Candidates without proper ID are not allowed to test.

## Materials to Bring/ Not to Bring

For the written test, candidates are permitted to use their own calculators provided they do not have a QWERTY keyboard, camera, access to the internet, or notes capability. If a candidate does not bring their own calculator on the day of the exam, they may use the scientific and standard 10-key calculators that are built into the online exam.

**NO** other items are allowed in the testing room. Restricted items must be left in the candidate's vehicle, or placed in the locker assigned to the candidate at check in.

For the practical test, candidates must wear the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE): hard hat, safety glasses, long pants, and work boots.

Candidates who do not abide by these policies will be dismissed and their test will be voided.

## Certification Renewal & Continuing Education

The OCCO certification is valid for four years from the last day of the month that the certification was granted. Within one year prior to the certification expiration date, a OCCO must pass a written test and either (a) provide verification of documented overhead crane operator hours or (b) pass a practical test to renew their certification.

If renewal is not completed prior to the certification expiration date, candidates are not eligible to renew and must start the program from the beginning.

The CRS designation must remain current throughout the duration of the OCCO certification timeframe. If the CRS designation

expires at any time during the period of OCCO certification, the candidate must obtain the CRS certification to reinstate the OCCO certification.

## OCCO Examination Content

### Written Examination

Candidates are allotted three hours to complete the written exam. The exam plan was derived from an in-depth practice analysis completed in 2019. The written exam has a total of 80 questions, which includes 15 experimental items. The experimental items do not count against a candidate's exam score and are included to collect information on questions that may be incorporated into future test forms. The table below provides a detailed overview of the number of questions included on the exam for each test domain.

Dimension & Sub-Dimension	Number of Items
<b>Pre-Job Inspections</b>	17
Daily Inspection	15
Periodic Inspection	2
<b>Crane Operations</b>	17
Lift	14
Post-Lift	3
<b>Crane Components</b>	19
Crane Types	3
Parts of Crane	12
Hoist Assembly	4
<b>General Safety &amp; Operating Practices</b>	12
Communication	4
Site Conditions	2
Emergency Stop & Shutdown	2
Rules & Regulations	4
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>65</b>

## Practical Assessment

The assessment involves hands-on job simulation activities and is divided into the following two parts:

1. Make a 1-point rollover hoist of the prop.
2. Move load through a diagonal course.

This practical skills assessment simulates real-life situations in operating overhead cranes. The rationales for including each assessment are provided below.

**One-Point Rollover Hoist** - This exercise requires a candidate to hoist the prop from a horizontal plane to a vertical plane, and then return it from a vertical to a horizontal plane.

**Load Control: Diagonal Travel** - This exercise assesses how a candidate lifts and moves an object with an overhead crane. To successfully complete this exercise, the candidate must lift and relocate the prop to a specified location while maintaining the proper control, level, and elevation of the prop during the hoist.

If, at any time, a candidate creates an unsafe situation (e.g., being under a hoisted load, creating a pinch point, not wearing proper PPE, lifting the load above the specified maximum height) the exam will be terminated and the candidate will not be allowed to complete the exam.

## Written and Practical Test Development

The design and administration of the examination meets the most rigorous test validation and development standards for certification programs. Activities and meetings were conducted to provide an examination

and scoring process that meets the requirements set forth by the National Commission for Certifying Agencies (NCCA) Standards for the Accreditation of Certification Programs (ICE, 2021).

Examination questions for the OCCO tests were developed to target the required information listed in the OSHA 29 CFR 1926 Section CC and OSHA 1910.179 Standards to ensure that assessments are consistent with the published purpose of the certification. The examinations were designed based on the input and evaluations of expert overhead crane operators regarding the most important parts of the profession. There are specific links from the approved references and the job analytic data to the written and practical examinations.

## Preparing for the Examination

The following reference list provides suggested materials that could assist you in preparing for the examination. This is not an open book examination; candidates are not allowed to bring reference materials into the test administration site.

1. OSHA 1910.179 – Overhead and Gantry Cranes
2. OSHA 1926, Subpart CC – Cranes and Derricks in Construction
3. OSHA 1910.184 – Slings
4. ASME B30.2 (2011) – Overhead and Gantry Crane
5. ASME B30.10 (2014) - Hooks
6. ASME B30.16 (2017) Overhead Underhung and Stationary Hoists
7. ASME B30.17 (2015) – Cranes and Monorails (With Underhung Trolley and Bridge)
8. Bob's Overhead Crane and Rigging Handbook
9. IPT Crane and Rigging Manual

## Alternate Test Forms

To maintain a high-quality, defensible certification program, new examination questions are continuously created such that each alternate form of the examination contains a subset of new items. Not only is this volume necessary to ensure the examinations contain high-caliber, updated items, but it also ensures a sufficient number of new items to avoid them being overexposed or compromised over time.

Because this type of test maintenance occurs, efforts are made to statistically ensure that each examination is equally as difficult as any other examination form. Thus, the likelihood of passing any form of the OCCO test is statistically identical, even though the questions on the examination are updated.

## Cut Score or Passing Point

A cut score serves as a decision point in the certification process. In essence, a cut score (or passing point) makes a pass-fail decision. Cut scores for the OCCO exams are never determined in an arbitrary manner. Each item on the exam is analyzed through a rigorous process to determine the cut score for each exam. These predetermined cut scores screen out candidates who do not possess the required proficiency needed to perform effectively as a OCCO. A cut score can be thought of as the interpretation of the standard of competence for the certification program.

### Written Examination

With multiple test forms, it is not appropriate to set a specific pass point. For this reason, the pass point for each exam is adjusted

statistically based on the difficulty of the questions on a test.

Specifically, the differences in exam difficulty among different administrations are calculated and then the pass points of the new examination forms are adjusted, so the same benchmark standard can be used for each exam. By accounting for differences in difficulty across examination forms, all candidates have a comparable opportunity to pass the examination, regardless of when they take it.

For example, if the new examination is more difficult relative to previous examinations, the percent correct necessary to pass the exam will be lowered to equal the benchmark standard. On the other hand, if a new examination turns out to be easier, the percent correct necessary to pass will be increased to equal the benchmark standard. Candidates who do not meet the benchmark standard on the written examination will not achieve certification.

To allow for consistency and ease of interpretation, candidates' scores are changed from their raw score (i.e., number correct) to a scaled score. Specifically, the raw scores are changed to a scale that ranges from 200 to 800, where 500 is the pass point. Therefore, regardless of how the test difficulty changes over time, the way the scores are interpreted will always remain the same. That is, a score from 500 to 800 will always indicate a passing score and a score from 200 to 499 will always indicate a failing score.

### Practical Assessment

The hands-on practical skills assessment was developed to ensure objectivity of the criteria used to assess candidate performance and ensure consistency across evaluators. The materials used during administration of the

assessment help reduce differences between evaluators.

The practical assessment includes 7 tasks. The scores are combined across both exercises for the candidates total score.

Candidates who do not meet the standard for the practical assessment will not achieve certification.

### Security of Certification Records

All OCCO candidates are recorded in a password-protected database under the UBC member's unique eight-digit membership ID number. Access to the records system is controlled. Only staff members of the CICC can modify the records of OCCO recipients.

### Scheduling Procedures

The OCCO written examination is offered at Pearson VUE testing centers throughout the United States and Canada. Contact your local center for information on how to register for the next test administration date.

Local centers maintain schedules for all offerings of the practical exam, and each individual center has their own cancellation policy.

#### Special Testing Accommodations

The Carpenters International Certification Council (CICC) complies with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) of 1990 or other applicable disability discrimination laws. To ensure equal opportunities for all candidates, CICC will make reasonable testing accommodations for candidates when appropriate and consistent with such legal requirements. The CICC will consider requests

for special testing accommodations related to the OCCO exams from candidates who require such accommodations under applicable disability discrimination law ("accommodation").

A physician or other qualified medical care professional who has made an individualized assessment related to the candidate's request for an accommodation must provide the required information concerning the candidate's requested accommodation. A qualified medical care professional is a licensed or otherwise properly-credentialed individual who possesses medical expertise for evaluating any requested accommodation. The information and any documentation that the candidate provides regarding the need for accommodation(s) will be treated as confidential.

The CICC requires that each candidate requesting a special testing accommodation complete and submit the form available online at [www.ubccertifications.org](http://www.ubccertifications.org) by mail, fax, or email **at least 45 days** prior to testing. The Testing Accommodation Coordinator will send confirmation to the candidate that the request was received within five (5) business days of receipt. The confirmation will include the latest date when the candidate will receive notification of a decision. The Testing Accommodation Coordinator will respond with a final decision via email not more than 30 days after receipt of the request. For reasons of confidentiality, information regarding the granting or denial of testing accommodations will not be released by telephone. All approved testing accommodation requests will be communicated to the Single Point of Contact at the test center and are valid only for the written test date and/or practical test date indicated on the request form.

**Forty-five (45) days advance notice is required for all testing accommodation requests.**

**Re-taking the Certification Tests**

When a candidate does not pass the written test, he/she may retake the test after 30 days from the date of the failed test. There is no waiting period to re-take the practical test.

**Complaints and Appeals**

**Complaints and Appeals**

A Complaint form is available for complaints regarding the following situations:

- 1) Eligibility status
- 2) Scoring verification within fifty (50) points
- 3) Certification status

If a candidate believes he or she has been falsely denied eligibility to sit for an exam, failed an exam within fifty (50) points and would like his or her exam rescored, or believes his or her credentialing status has been falsely terminated, the candidate may submit a Complaint form. Complaint forms must be received by the CICC within 30 days of the date the candidate was notified of his/her denied eligibility, exam results, or certification termination.

The CICC will review the complaint, take appropriate action, and respond to the candidate in writing in a decision letter within 90 days of the date the candidate's complaint form was received. Complaints deemed frivolous will not be accepted or acted upon.

The outcome of a complaint or disciplinary action may be appealed by submitting the appropriate appeal form within 90 days of the date of the decision letter. The CICC Appeals Panel will review all related documentation, take appropriate action, and report its finding to the candidate in writing in a final decision

letter within 90 days of the date the candidate's appeal form was received. Appeals deemed frivolous will not be accepted or acted upon.

Complaint and Appeal forms and procedures are available at [www.UBCCertifications.org](http://www.UBCCertifications.org) or by contacting the CICC at [CICC@carpenters.org](mailto:CICC@carpenters.org) or 212 Carpenters Union Way, Las Vegas, NV 89119.

**Disciplinary Policies**

**When an accident occurs**

Accidents and incidents perceived to be a result of negligence on the part of a certified individual should be reported to the Carpenters International Certification Council (CICC), 212 Carpenters Union Way, Las Vegas, NV 89119. In the event that a certificant is found to be at fault, the Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee (PEDC) has the authority to take disciplinary action.

The CICC Professional Ethics and Disciplinary Committee will review accident and incident reports to determine the appropriate action.

**Policy/Ethical Violations**

In the event that a certified individual, or an individual attempting to obtain certification, violates CICC policy or ethics by engaging in dishonest activities or demonstrating a lack of integrity, misrepresents his/her identity or eligibility status, gives or receives unauthorized assistance on the exam, or engages in other violations of established policies, the PEDC has the authority to take disciplinary action.

**Disciplinary Procedures**

All accidents, incidents, and policy/ethical violations will be documented thoroughly and succinctly for CICC review, with all identifying

information, including first and last name, removed from the summary of information provided to the PEDC. The PEDC will then review all materials and determine the necessary/appropriate action. In the event disciplinary action is necessary, the PEDC is authorized to take disciplinary action including, but are not limited to, the following:

- No action required
- Require partial re-evaluation to maintain certification
- Require full re-evaluation to maintain certification
- Void certification or prevent future attempts at certification
- Bar individual from CICC certifications for a certain period of time
- Bar individual from CICC certifications indefinitely

Once a decision has been made, a written decision letter will be provided to the alleged violator outlining the PEDC disciplinary action(s).

### **Disciplinary Appeals**

The action of the PEDC may be appealed by the designee or the appellant by submitting the appropriate appeal forms to the CICC. The appeal should contain the PEDC's original disciplinary action decision letter and any supplemental documentation or information that may influence or change the initial decision.

The appeal letter can be sent via ground mail or email to [CICC@carpenters.org](mailto:CICC@carpenters.org) or 212 Carpenters Union Way, Las Vegas, NV 89119. The Appeals Panel will review all available information and determine whether the PEDC's action(s) should be overturned or changed in any manner. The Appeals Panel will report its finding to the candidate in writing in a final decision letter within 90 days of the

date the candidate's appeal is received by the Appeals Panel.