

**WAC 296-155-585, Operator Qualifications and Certification  
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**WAC 296-155-58554 Operator qualifications and certification.**

(1) Prior to operating any crane/derrick covered under chapter 296-155 WAC, Part L, the employer must ensure that the crane/derrick operator:

- Has a valid crane operator certificate, for the type of crane/derrick to be operated, issued by a crane operator testing organization accredited by a nationally recognized accrediting agency
  - The operator certification must include a successful passing of a written and practical examination.
- Has crane/derrick hours of experience as shown in Table 1; and
- Pass a substance abuse test conducted by a recognized laboratory.

(2) The employer must ensure the crane/derrick operator re-certifies at least every five years.

**Crane Operator Experience  
Table 1**

<b>Crane Type</b>	<b>Number of Hours of Actual Crane Operating Experience</b>	<b>Plus Number of Hours of Crane Related Experience *</b>
<b>Mobile Cranes</b>		
Lattice Boom Crane	1,000	1,000
Large Telescopic Boom Crane (Swing Cab) Over 100 Ton Capacity	1,000	1,000
40 to 100 Ton Capacity	400	400
Less than 40 Ton Capacity	250	250
Small Telescopic Boom Crane (Fixed Cab)	40	40
Articulating Boom Cranes	40	40
<b>Tower Cranes</b>		
Hammerhead	300	100
Luffer	300	100
Self-Erecting	100	50
<b>Overhead Cranes</b>		
Cab Operated	40	40
Pendant/Remote	40	40

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\* “Crane related experience” means experience as a signalman, oiler, heavy equipment mechanic, crane inspector, and a combination of operating hours on other types of cranes.

(3) Pre-qualification/certification training period.

(a) An employee who is not a qualified crane/derrick operator as outlined in subsection (1) is permitted to operate the crane/derrick as part of his/her training providing the following requirements are met:

(i) The employee (“trainee/apprentice”) must be provided with sufficient training prior to operating the crane/derrick to enable the trainee to operate the crane/derrick safely under limitations established by this section (including continuous supervision) and any additional limitations established by the employer.

(ii) The tasks performed by the trainee/apprentice while operating the crane/derrick must be within the trainee’s ability.

(iii) Qualified crane/derrick operator. While operating the equipment, the trainee/apprentice must be continuously supervised by a qualified crane/derrick operator who meets the following requirements:

(A) The qualified crane/derrick operator is an employee or agent of the trainee’s/apprentice’s employer.

(B) The qualified crane/derrick operator under this section and is familiar with the proper use of the equipment’s controls.

(C) While supervising the trainee/apprentice, the qualified crane/derrick operator’s performs no tasks that detract from the qualified crane/derrick operator’s ability to supervise the trainee/apprentice.

(D) For cranes/derricks other than tower cranes: the qualified crane/derrick operator’s and the trainee/apprentice must be in direct line of sight of each other. In addition, they must communicate verbally or by hand signal.

(E) For tower cranes: the qualified crane operator and the trainee/apprentice must be in direct communication with each other.

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(iv) The trainee/apprentice must not operate the crane/derrick in any of the following circumstances:

(A) If any part of the crane, load line or load (including rigging and lifting accessories), if operated up to the crane's maximum working radius in the work zone (see WAC 296-155-58516(1)(a)), could get within 20 feet of a power line that is up to 350 kV, or within 50 feet of a power line that is over 350 kV.

(B) If the crane/derrick is used to hoist personnel.

(C) In multiple-crane lifts.

(D) For multiple-lift rigging, except where the qualified crane operator determines that the trainee's/apprentice's skills are sufficient for this high-skill work.