

Three-Year Plan: 2021 - 2023

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BC Crane Safety's Three-year Operational Plan





Three-Year Operational Plan 2021-2023

Introduction

BC Crane Safety is the certification and licensing authority for crane operations in British Columbia. We are primarily funded by WorkSafeBC. BC Crane Safety:

- Provides leadership for health and safety development within the crane hoisting industry,
- Serves as an advisory body on regulatory and safety matters,
- Works closely with industry, labour and government to develop and implement new standards of assessment and certification and
- Provides leadership in the establishment, maintenance and support of industry specific assessment tools (theory and practical) which result in a BC Crane Operator designation.

Since our foundation in 2005, we have worked tirelessly to achieve consensus across 70 diverse industry classification units to develop regulations and a certification regime that protects workers, contractors, employers and the general public from health and safety- related incidents. Our number one goal is and has always been, to ensure the safest workplaces possible.

We serve all of our stakeholders – including crane owners, contractors and operators – as a forum for effectively addressing occupational health and safety issues and as an industry advisory body regarding standards, regulations and qualifications.

Our internationally recognized certification program ensures reliable, accessible and fair assessments including documented proof of competency as well as theoretical and practical tests. Our certification scheme stands out in Canada as a unique made-in-BC competency-based system that assesses and recognizes what applicants know and can do, whether they learned through formal training, on the job, or a combination of both. To date, we have overseen the certification of more than 15,000 crane operators working in industries that range from construction to fish farming, sawmills to film and TV.

We are committed to the ongoing development of better practice resources as well as the continued monitoring, improvement and expansion of our certification scheme.

This three-year plan outlines our goals moving forward.





Our Guiding Principles

Vision

Safe and effective crane, hoisting and rigging operations throughout British Columbia.

Mission

To engage with our stakeholders concerned with cranes, hoists and rigging, including employers and workers, across multiple sectors to support safe crane and hoisting operations in British Columbia.

Mandate

- Maintain the integrity, validity and reliability of crane operator certification and licensing within British Columbia.
- Collaborate with industry and other stakeholders to identify and promote industry practices that support safe and effective crane & hoisting operations in BC.
- Advocate for standards, policies and regulations that support safe and effective crane operations in BC through stakeholder engagement and advisory groups.

Organizational Objectives

- Promoting accident-free crane operations throughout British Columbia.
- The establishment in British Columbia of a cost-effective crane operator qualification regime that:
 - Involves documented proof of competency.
 - Includes theoretical and practical assessments.
 - Is accessible and available at all levels and types of industry.
- Promoting the attractiveness of the trade to prospective entry-level crane operators and the timely achievement of their qualifications.
- Serving as an industry advisory body to agencies in a position to oversee qualifications and standards.
- Serving as an advisory body to the Workers' Compensation Board of British Columbia (WorkSafeBC) regarding occupational health and safety matters and regulations as they impact crane operations.

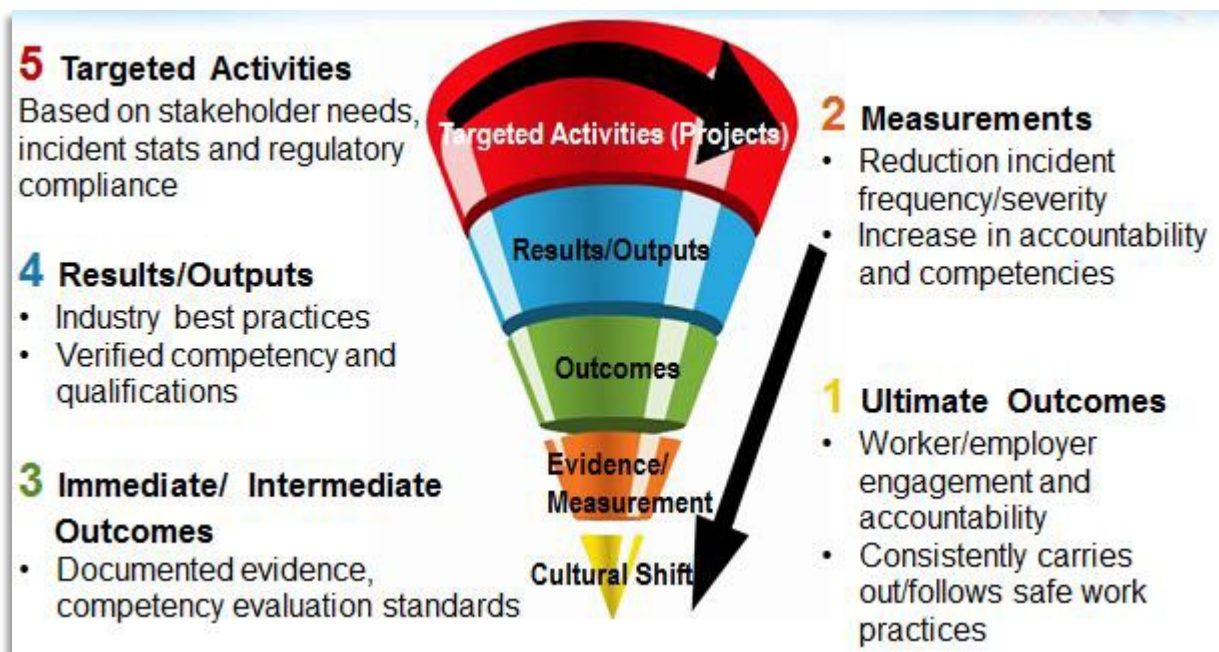
Our Values

- Innovation
 - Evidence-based
 - Accountability
 - Fairness
 - Service
 - Collaboration
 - Stewardship
 - Effectiveness
 - Sustainability
 - Leadership
 - Transparency
 - Integrity
 - Expertise
 - Partnership
 - Professionalism
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BC Crane Safety Logic Model

Using this 3-D rotating logic model, BC Crane Safety has achieved key objectives since 2005 including:

- The development and implementation of basic, agreed-upon safety standards for all crane types affected by Occupational Health and Safety Regulations.
- The development of apprenticeship programs for applicable crane types, sharing a common core to support clear career paths for new entrants.
- Ensuring the availability and accessibility of the program to all levels and types of industry.
- Completion and delivery of educational and training resources.
- Accommodation of third-party provision of technical theory and practical assessments as well as the delivery of practical training at the employer level.
- Up-to-date examination materials and exam banks.





Promoting accident-free crane operations throughout British Columbia

Our most important priority is and continues to be, the maintenance of the crane operator qualification system to address the needs of all operators and employers in the province.


Oversight of this system is the number one key to achieving safe and effective crane, hoisting and rigging operations throughout BC.

Many of our activities are therefore routine and ongoing, including:

- Delivering administrative services for the crane industry, including operator logbooks.
- Maintaining a load chart information database and question bank for the assessment process.
- Ongoing quality assurance of the assessment process.
- Updating and maintaining the standards and theory exam questions.
- Accommodating operators from other jurisdictions and facilitating the Out Of Jurisdiction (OOJ) process in compliance with the Agreement on Internal Trade (AIT).
- Maintaining a crane operator database and operator/employer registry.
- Ongoing assessment delivery, development and evaluation.

WorkSafeBC's Occupational Health and Safety Regulation (OHSR 14.34. 1)

Operator Certification) requires all crane operators to have a valid operator's certificate. Crane operators must be qualified and competent on the specific equipment they use. Being qualified means an operator knows the work, the hazards involved and how to control the hazards.

- This knowledge can come through education, training, experience, or a combination.
 - Being qualified also means an operator has been instructed in how to use the specific equipment. Being competent means an operator has demonstrated how to safely operate, inspect and maintain a specific machine.
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Maintaining BC's world-class crane operator certification regime

We collaborate with industry and other stakeholders to identify and promote industry practices that support safe and effective crane and hoisting operations in BC through ongoing communication and consultations. In addition to ongoing collaboration with all our stakeholders, we provide important opportunities for larger-scale stakeholder engagement.

Projected milestones:

Tower Crane Conference in 2022*

- Co-host with WorkSafeBC
- Information sessions
- Collaborative discussion and input through stakeholder engagement

Crane Rental Association of Canada (CRAC) Conference in 2022, 2023*

- Information sessions
- Consultation regarding the development of proposed Rigging and Telehandler Standards

Projected outcomes:

Greater stakeholder engagement including:

- Collaboration and development with stakeholders and regulators on development of safe work practices and materials.
- Continued communication and networking between stakeholder groups, including municipalities and regulators.
- Greater understanding of the value of certification and emerging OHS issues.
- Consultation on and validation of new standards.

Through our ongoing consultations with stakeholders on a smaller scale, we work diligently and continuously to maintain our certification standards and assessment processes and to respond quickly to emergent issues and technological change.

Activities include:

- Identification, development and implementation of safe work practices, industry standards and checklists.
- Consultation and evaluation of current industry practices.
- Engagement with stakeholders
 - Manufacturers
 - Owners/Employers
 - Operators
 - Regulator
 - Municipalities
- Identification or design of assessment, performance and competency standards.

**Due to ongoing pandemic, travel and gathering events will depend on Provincial Health Orders*






Projected outcomes:

- Anticipated certification of approximately (based on previous years' experience)
 - 500 crane operators in 2021
 - 500 crane operators in 2021
 - 500 crane operators in 2023
- Updated certification policies and procedures and implementation of an improved certification management system in alignment with ISO 17024 standards
- Development and implementation of an updated online registration, information and administration system and mobile logbook on the Association's new website
- Development and implementation of a certification renewal system
- Production of new industry practice guidelines
- Development and implementation of a crane operator competency assessment
- Engagement with the federal government to establish a national certification program for BC Crane Safety's Rigging Standard
- Advocating for enforceable safety standards and rules for telehandlers in the province of BC

Projected milestones:

Alignment of Association policies and practices with ISO 17024 Certification Standard foundation

- Includes the review, revision and promotion of current Association policies and systems documentation, including completion of internal audit.
 - Discussions with Standards Council of Canada in preparation for ISO 17024 external audit.
 - Implementation of certification renewal standards.
 - Preparation/implementation for/of ISO 17024 external audit.
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Attracting prospective entry-level operators

Our ongoing efforts to promote crane operations as an attractive profession include the development of promotional materials and tools to help new entrants navigate the certification system and support the timely achievement of their chosen credential. We continue to update and expand these supports.

Very few women are choosing to become crane operators even though employers are often quick to say that gender has nothing to do with a person's capacity for excellence in the crane operator profession.

So, what are we doing about it?

BC Crane Safety is participating in the federal Gender-based Analysis Plan (GBA+). This program was created by Status of Women Canada to analyze how government policy shapes the experiences of women, men and non-binary people and their access to initiatives that might promote their participation in types of work from which they may feel excluded.

This will generate the information we need to develop strategies to increase the attractiveness of crane operations to encourage more workforce diversity.

Projected outcomes

- Candidate Prep Handbook
- Development of online registration system
- Development of enhanced online logbook
- Development of enhanced online credential checking system
- Implementation of practice questions and quizzes
- Implementation of crane operator assessments and evaluations
- Implementation of diversity programs and measures to ensure inclusivity in registration and certification.

Growth

We continue to expand our reach to other jurisdictions, nationally and internationally, to compare and harmonize certification standards, support robust standards across jurisdictions and support labour mobility.

Supporting Labour Mobility

Through mutual recognition agreements, BC crane operators with credentials from other Canadian provinces and territories and some US states can work in British Columbia based on recognition of the credential they earned in their home jurisdiction. And it works both ways. There is an application process to recognize valid credentials from outside of BC.

BC Crane Safety's Crane Operator Certification program measures candidates' demonstrated knowledge, skills, abilities and attitudes against the foundational standards of competency and the practical assessment requires that operators demonstrate that they have achieved at least these essential competencies for safe crane operation.

The Certification program is also capable of recognizing competencies acquired through non-academic or informal channels, such as training in similar fields and/or work experience. This ability to assess and recognize the outcomes of prior learning is of growing importance across various sectors, especially in times of labour shortages.



Activities include

Engagement and industry representation with

- International Standards Organization (ISO)
- Standards Council of Canada (SCC)
- Canadian Standards Association (CSA)
- Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
- European Crane Operators License (Esta ECOL)
- Certifying bodies in individual EU member states



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