RIGGER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

Candidate Handbook

July 2020
Purposes of the Program

The goals of the NCCER Rigger Certification Program are as follows:
- Enhance the practice and profession of rigging through validated and reliable certification instruments.
- To directly promote rigger competency and a safer work environment.
- Organize and implement a comprehensive program for the certification of riggers.
- Promote the development of knowledge and skills of those interested in the rigging profession.
- Provide technical assistance to agencies having regulatory authority applicable to testing and certification of riggers.

Development of the Program

NCCER developed the Rigger Certification Program to meet or exceed current ASME standards and state and OSHA regulations. Assessments were developed following strict professional testing guidelines endorsed by the American Psychological Association. All development phases involved subject matter experts (SMEs) who represented their respective technical areas. Prov, NCCER’s test-development partner, provides psychometricians who monitor test development and performance on an ongoing basis, in conjunction with NCCER.

Objectives of Rigger Certification

The Rigger Certification Program was developed to identify those individuals with the professional knowledge and skills worthy of being designated as a Certified Rigger. Therefore, the Rigger Certification Program is intended to accomplish the following objectives:
- Identify riggers who meet the minimum criteria for certification.
- Stimulate the improvement of rigging and establish it as a certifiable profession.

Rigger/Signal Person Endorsed Accredited Assessment Center

The NCCER Rigger Certification program can only be administered through an NCCER Rigger/Signal Person Endorsed Accredited Assessment Center (AAC). Each AAC determines the schedule and cost of services to be provided. Visit www.nccer.org or call NCCER customer service at 888-622-3720 to locate a Rigger/Signal Person Endorsed AAC.
Certification Policies

Through continuing and careful study of rigger qualifications, NCCER has developed the following basic policies:

- For a candidate to be certified, all parts of the certification process must be successfully completed.
- The candidate shall acknowledge, by affidavit, that he/she has passed a substance abuse test, pursuant to the employer’s drug and alcohol-free workplace and substance abuse policy.
- To certify riggers within the specified level(s) as outlined in federal, state, and local requirements.
- To deny certification to candidates who lack understanding in any subject area in which riggers are expected to have competence.
- To ensure NCCER’s Rigger Certification Program keeps pace with the constantly changing rigging and lifting environments.
- To assess qualitative as well as quantitative factors in making the certification decision.
- To securely maintain a registry of certified riggers’ assessment and practical exam records.

Confidentiality of Information

Records of all examiners and candidates in the program will be confidentially maintained.

- Information supplied by a candidate, and not by the individual’s employer, is for the confidential use of the AAC and NCCER, and it will not be disclosed without the specific written permission of the individual candidate concerned.
- Information supplied by the employer company is for the confidential use of the AAC and NCCER and it will not be disclosed without the specific written permission of the employer concerned.

All candidates are required to sign an NCCER Registration & Release form allowing NCCER to verify a candidate’s status with the AAC, if requested.

Methods of Evaluation

Because qualitative factors can be more important than the number of hours a rigger has spent on the job, the general principles outlined in the Rigger Certification criteria will be checked closely by analyzing each candidate.

The prime considerations in evaluating a candidate for certification as a rigger are as follows:

1. That the results of examination of his/her knowledge and skills are considered satisfactory as a rigger in general, in addition to whatever specific requirements of the level of rigger for which certification is sought, and,
2. That the depth of his/her understanding in these same areas merits the designation “Certified Rigger.”
Rigger Certification Criteria

NCCER's primary objective is to assure that the specific competencies identified in the ASME standards have been achieved. The decision to certify or re-certify will be based on an evaluation of the degree to which the rigger has achieved these competencies. The rigger must provide, through assessment and practical examination, clear and convincing evidence to NCCER that such competencies have been achieved.

The candidate must fulfill all the following prior to issuance of certification:

1. Pass a rigger assessment.
2. Pass an applicable rigger practical examination.
3. Complete and submit the Application for Rigger Practical Examination in the Registry System, which includes an affidavit that that he/she has successfully passed a substance abuse test, pursuant to the employer’s drug and alcohol-free workplace and substance abuse policy, and will continue to comply.
4. Have photo submitted and approved by the AAC and NCCER. Upon satisfaction of the above requirements, results will be posted in the Registry System. Credentials will be forwarded to the AAC for distribution.

Candidates meeting the above requirements will be granted certified status for a period of five years from issuance of certification.

Assessment

There are three assessments for rigger certification:

1. Basic Rigger
2. Intermediate Rigger
3. Advanced Rigger

The following topics are included in the rigger assessments:

- Communications
- Crane Operations
- Rigging equipment
- Rigging practices
- Safety
- Load lifting criteria (where applicable)
- Lift planning (where applicable)
- Personnel lifting (where applicable)

The assessment must be delivered through a Rigger/Signal Person Endorsed AAC by a certified assessment proctor or assessment administrator.
Practical Examination

There are three assessments for rigger certification:
1. Basic Rigger
2. Intermediate Rigger
3. Advanced Rigger

The following topics are included in the rigger practical examinations:
- Communication
- Rigging equipment
- Rigging practices
- Safety
- Load lifting (where applicable)
- Lift planning (where applicable)

Candidate must have site-appropriate Personal Protective Equipment (including gloves) before they will be permitted to perform any practical examination tasks.

The practical examination must be delivered by a certified Rigger/Signal Person Practical Examiner (RSPE).

The Application for Rigger Practical Examination must be completed, electronically in the Registry System, by the candidate prior to taking the practical exam and be approved by the AAC.

Note: The assessment and practical examination (title) must match to ensure certification for that level of rigger.

Scoring

Both assessments and practical examinations are scored by computers. Scores are available immediately upon test submission.

Retest Policy

If the passing score is not attained on the initial rigger assessment or practical exam, a retest may be taken following a two-day waiting period. Subsequent retests (after two attempts) require a 30-day waiting period with no more than four attempts within 365 days.

Certification and Testing Time Frames

Rigger candidates have 12 months from passing either the assessment or practical examination to complete the other. Results expire if both the assessment and applicable practical exam are not successfully completed within 12 months.
Recertification

In order to obtain recertification, a candidate must repeat the initial certification requirements. Riggers must recertify every five years.

Certification Action

Certification is granted for a specific period of five years from the date of certificate issuance. The term of certification is subject to review for cause at any time during the period of certification. Certification is granted if current conditions are judged to be meeting or exceeding the minimum criteria requirements. If, for any reason, the future of a rigger’s abilities appears precarious or weak, certification may be revoked.

A “Not to Certify” action is effective immediately after exhausting the appeal procedures. The notification to the rigger, employer, or the Rigger/Signal Person Endorsed AAC when applicable, shall indicate the following:

- The termination supersedes the certification status of the rigger, and
- The Certifier expects the certified individual to notify his/her employer of the termination of the certified status.

The Rigger/Signal Person Endorsed AAC is restricted by NCCER policies and procedures in the granting of certification. The Rigger/Signal Person Endorsed AAC has no authority to impose any restrictions or standards upon riggers or their employers.

Changes During Period of Certification

It is the obligation of the Certified Rigger to notify the Certifier of any significant changes in the medical, physical, or other abilities of the rigger that would affect the certification status during the period of certification. Notification of changes in abilities must be made to NCCER within 48 hours of the change in ability; failure to do so constitutes immediate revocation of all certification types.

NCCER reserves the right to obtain and review feedback from Rigger/Signal Person Endorsed AACs on those riggers certified in the program (to monitor individuals that have completed the program).

Certified Riggers must report changes in medical, physical, or other abilities by emailing support@nccer.org.

Revocation of Certification

NCCER reserves the right to revoke certifications for the following reasons but not limited to:

- Any misrepresentation or fabrication of documents submitted to NCCER regarding the Rigger Certification Program.
- Failed substance abuse test as required in the Rigger Certification Program.
Reapplication

If a rigger’s credentials are revoked due to a failed substance abuse test, the candidate may reapply for certification 12 months after the date of the revocation. If a rigger’s credentials are revoked two or more times (for any reason) they may not apply for recertification. If a rigger’s credentials are revoked because of misrepresentation or fabrication of documentation, they may not apply for recertification.

All reapplications must go before and be considered by the Crane Operator Certification Board for review. Reapplication may require additional documentation/verification.

Reapplication means that a candidate must complete all requirements for certification.

Appeal

In the event a Certified Rigger wishes to appeal revocation of certification actions taken by NCCER, notice of intent to appeal must be received within 30 days of the date of revocation notification. NCCER will forward the appeal to the Crane Scheme Committee. Upon receipt of such notice, the Committee will review the appeal and make its decision in a timely manner. The findings of the Committee will be reported to the Certifier, who will report back to the rigger and Rigger/Signal Person Endorsed AAC (where applicable).

A “revocation” action is effective immediately after exhausting the appeal procedures. The notification to the rigger or the Rigger/Signal Person Endorsed AAC when applicable, shall indicate the following:

a. The termination supersedes the certification status of the rigger, and
b. The Certifier expects the certified individual to notify his/her employer of the termination of the certified rigger status.

Resources and Forms

The following resources/forms are included in this section for reference only. Updated copies and information can be found on NCCER’s website at www.nccer.org.

Assessment Specifications

Specifications list the topics, number of questions, time allowed, and passing scores of each assessment.

Application for Rigger Practical Examination

All candidates must submit this form, electronically, in the Registry System prior to taking the practical examination. This application must be approved by the AAC for credentials to be issued.

Registration & Release Form

This form releases and holds NCCER harmless for the disclosure of any information in connection with the verification process of the individual’s training and/or assessment records. The Registration & Release Form can be completed in paper form and kept on file by the AAC or completed electronically in the Registry System. All candidates must complete the Registration & Release form before any testing activity takes place.