

# OSHA Rule Requires Crane Operator Certification for Concrete Tank Delivery

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Beginning Nov. 17, anyone operating a crane delivering concrete septic tanks to a job site must be certified to do so under a coming rule from the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration. In 2014, OSHA extended the deadline for certification to this year. The rule was originally published in 2010, and the agency estimated then that crane operations result in 89 fatalities annually in construction work.

As the rule was being formed by OSHA, the National Precast Concrete Association said their members' work consists of delivering materials and suggested truck operators need not go through certification. The rule said any crane hoisting and placing items, as opposed to lifting materials and placing them on the ground, was engaged in construction and should have a certified operator.

When it became clear that the certification requirement would remain, NPCA worked to develop a certification program specific for the precast industry. This certification is for boom trucks of less than 21 tons, which is a large fraction of the cranes in use. Certification requires the completion of three exams. Two are written exams, one on general knowledge and the other specific to the precast industry. There is also a practical exam that must be taken on a boom truck less than 21 tons and with a boom of between 31 and 41 feet in length.