

ACT

The magazine for the crane, rigging and transport industry

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INTERVIEW:
Terex's
Dean Barley

Where self-erecting tower cranes fit in

Steady market for used cranes



Official domestic
magazine of
the SC&RA



**Radio telescopes
hitch a ride with Bigge**

Beam me up!

Pile Driver Program takes shape

The 18 members of NCCCO's Pile Driver Task Force have made significant progress working out the details of a new CCO certification for operators of dedicated pile driving rigs.

The task force is made up of industry experts from pile driver manufacturers, users, trainers, and distributors, as well as program development and psychometric experts from NCCCO. Numerous questions for the written exam have been prepared and pilot-tested by the task force members, and development of the practical exam is well underway. The main practical exam tasks have been identified, including lifting and manipulating piles, engagement of the hammer, and proper shutdown and securing of the equipment.

"Thanks to the dedication and enthusiasm of the task force members, program development is moving forward at an accelerated pace," noted NCCCO Program Manager Matt Shaw. "With several more in-person meetings scheduled before the end of the year – as well as teleconferences between those



CCO Pile Driver operator certification is slated for early 2016 launch

meetings – pilot testing is expected to begin around the first of the year."

The new certification – targeted for a first quarter 2016 launch – is being developed in partnership with the Pile Driving Contractors Association (PDCA), and the task force has already held five in-person meetings and two virtual meetings since the development kick-off in November 2014. ■

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International crane experts meet in Australia

The annual meeting of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) committee that oversees development and revision of the international crane standard TC 96 took place last month in Sydney, Australia.

Hosted by the national standards setting body, Standards Australia, and sponsored by The Crane Industry Council of Australia (CICA), the meeting attracted delegates from many parts of the world to review progress on standards covering all types of mobile, tower and overhead cranes, as well as wire rope, design principles and test methods. As usual, the U.S. had a strong representation



with 10 delegates from crane manufacturers and consultants present.

NCCCO has represented the American National Standards Institute (ANSI) as the official secretariat for the Jib

Cranes Subcommittee (SC 8) since its appointment in 2012.

Future meetings of TC 96 are scheduled for Changsa (Hunan Province), China (September 2016, hosted by the Standardization Administration of China – SAC) and Ota City (Tokyo), Japan (September 2017, hosted by the Japanese Industrial Standards Committee – JISC). ■

OPERATOR PROFILE: Blair Carlton

Originally a mechanic, at 6-foot 6-inches tall, Blair Carlton realized that he was better suited to be in the cab operating cranes than he was working in confined spaces.



An apprentice friend with IUOE Local 147 invited Blair to help him and his friend's father – a crane operator – on a job where they had to recover a flipped excavator with a crane. Blair was hooked: after that he knew he wanted to operate cranes, and joined the crane operator apprenticeship program at Local 147. He began operating cranes 16 years ago and, while still completing his IUOE apprenticeship, in 2001 he was hired by W.O. Grubb through the local union. Today he's W.O. Grubb's field operations coordinator – more commonly known as the "yard supervisor" – at the company's headquarters location in Richmond, Virginia, where the fleet consists of mobile, all-terrain, and rough-terrain cranes.

"The first time I took my CCO mobile crane operator certification exams I learned a lot of technical and safety information that I did not know prior to taking the exam," he says, and acknowledges that earning his certification has made him a safer operator. And he sees NCCCO's five-year recertification requirement as beneficial because it forces operators to keep up to date with the latest OSHA regulations and ANSI standards. Having his CCO certifications also makes him much more confident on the job. "I can explain to customers about safety rules and proper setup for the crane I am running and be sure that I have the correct information," he says.

As yard supervisor Blair does whatever needs to be done, and his current role requires him to operate a variety of cranes on a daily basis. His broad skill set and varied experience allows him to get involved with anything from crane setup to emergency situations. In the yard, one of Blair's main responsibilities is making sure all cranes are prepared for their next job. Blair also has many other duties such as traveling to job sites to ensure cranes are placed in the correct location and set up correctly, and he gets involved in projects that are "push jobs" where there is a fast approaching deadline.