Certification Scheme Riggers

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1.0 INTRODUCTION

ABCON SAFETY CONSULTANCY is a globally oriented personnel certification body, providing accredited assessment and certification services to validate the competency of Heavy Equipment Operators. Our mission is to enhance workplace safety, operational reliability, and regulatory compliance by certifying that individuals possess the requisite knowledge, skills, and judgment to perform their duties safely and efficiently.

This Certification Scheme outlines the specific requirements and processes for the certification of **Overhead Crane Operators**. It is designed to comply with the principles of ISO/IEC 17024:2012 and aligns with international safety standards and industry best practices for overhead and gantry crane operation.

2.0 COMPANY POLICY

ABCON SAFETY CONSULTANCY is committed to the integrity, impartiality, and consistent operation of its certification activities. Top management ensures the implementation of a management system conforming to ISO/IEC 17024:2012 and upholds the following commitments:

- To deliver reliable and timely certification decisions.
- To ensure all operations are conducted objectively, free from commercial, financial, or other undue pressures.
- To maintain confidentiality and manage conflicts of interest.
- To ensure personnel involved in the certification process are competent.
- To uphold full authority and responsibility for all decisions relating to the granting, maintaining, extending, reducing, suspending, or withdrawing of certification.

3.0 COMMITMENT TO IMPARTIALITY

ABCON SAFETY CONSULTANCY structures its management and certification processes to safeguard impartiality. This includes:

- Ensuring certification requirements are applied fairly to all candidates.
- Requiring all personnel to declare any potential conflicts of interest.
- Separating training/consultancy functions from certification decision-making.
- Reviewing impartiality risks regularly.

4.0 DISCIPLINARY POLICY

The Certification Committee enforces this scheme. Certification may be suspended or withdrawn for, but not limited to, the following reasons:
a) Certification expiry without renewal.
b) Falsification of application or assessment documents.
c) Violation of the Substance Abuse Policy.
d) Involvement in a significant safety incident attributable to operator error during the certification

period.
e) Failure to maintain a valid Occupational Health Card or equivalent medical fitness.
f) Serious breach of the Code of Ethics.

5.0 ELIGIBILITY & OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH EVALUATION

5.1 Eligibility Criteria

Applicants must:

- Be a minimum of 18 years of age.
- Hold a valid government-issued photo ID.
- Possess a valid Occupational Health Card (or equivalent medical fitness certificate) for the intended duties.
- Provide proof of relevant formal training and/or operational experience (minimum of one year recommended).
- Agree to comply with the Code of Ethics and Substance Abuse Policy.

5.2 Health Evaluation

Candidates are responsible for maintaining their medical fitness. ABCON SAFETY CONSULTANCY verifies the validity of the Occupational Health Card at the point of assessment but does not conduct independent medical examinations.

6.0 CANDIDATE RIGHTS AND RESPONSIBILITIES

6.1 Rights

Candidates have the right to:

- Be assessed against published, objective criteria.
- Receive their results and certification credential promptly upon success.
- Request exam rescheduling with adequate notice (e.g., 48 hours).
- Confidential handling of personal information.
- Lodge a formal complaint or appeal.
- Request reasonable assessment accommodations for documented needs.

6.2 Responsibilities

Candidates are responsible for:

- Providing accurate, complete, and truthful information.
- Complying with all assessment instructions and safety rules.
- Informing the certification body of any changes affecting their eligibility.
- Using the certificate and ID card only within the certified scope.
- Not misrepresenting their certification status.
- Returning credentials upon suspension or withdrawal.
- Declaring any prior relationship with an examiner.

7.0 CERTIFICATION SCOPE

This scheme certifies individuals to safely plan and perform routine lifting operations using overhead cranes (including top-running and under-running bridge/gantry cranes) in industrial and construction settings, in compliance with manufacturer instructions and applicable regulations.

8.0 JOB AND TASK DESCRIPTION

A certified Overhead Crane Operator is competent to:

- Perform pre-operational inspections and function tests.
- Interpret load charts and determine crane capabilities.
- Plan the lift considering load weight, rigging, travel path, and potential hazards.
- Operate all crane controls smoothly and precisely.
- Respond correctly to standard hand and radio signals.
- Shut down and secure the crane correctly.

9.0 REQUIRED COMPETENCE

Competence is defined as the combination of knowledge, skills, and attitude. Operators must demonstrate understanding of:

- Crane components, controls, and safety devices.
- Principles of leverage, center of gravity, and load dynamics.
- Relevant regulations (OSHA, local codes).
- Safe operating procedures and hazard recognition.
- Emergency response protocols.

10.0 PREREQUISITES

Candidates must present valid photo ID and proof of meeting eligibility criteria (training/experience, health card) prior to the assessment.

11.0 CODE OF CONDUCT

11.1 Code of Ethics

Certified operators must act with integrity, prioritize safety, comply with laws and site rules, report hazards, and never misrepresent their qualifications or certification.

11.2 Substance Abuse Policy

Operators must not be under the influence of any substance (alcohol, drugs, or medication) that could impair judgment or physical ability while operating equipment. Prescription medication use must be reported if it could affect safe operation.

12.0 CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

12.1 Initial Certification & Recertification

- **Application:** Submit a completed form with required documents (ID, health card, experience proof).
- **Recertification:** Required before expiry. Includes a reassessment of knowledge and skills, verification of continued medical fitness, and confirmation of ongoing safe work history.

12.2 Assessment Methods

A two-stage objective assessment:

1. **Written Examination:** Multiple-choice and/or short-answer questions covering theory, regulations, and procedures. **Pass Mark: 80%.**
2. **Practical Examination:** Hands-on evaluation of pre-operation checks, a series of planned lifts (including precision maneuvers), and shutdown procedures. **Pass Mark: 100%** on critical safety items and an overall score of **75%**.

12.3 Examination Administration

- Written exam duration: 60 minutes.
- Practical exam duration: Approximately 45-60 minutes per candidate.
- Exams are proctored under controlled conditions.

12.4 Certification Decision

Results from both examinations are compiled. The final certification decision is made by an authorized Certification Manager upon verifying all scheme requirements are met.

12.5 Issuance of Certificate & ID Card

The certificate includes the operator's name, photo, unique ID number, equipment type (Overhead Crane), level (if applicable), issue date, and expiry date. The ID card is portable and includes the disclaimer: "**This is not a license to operate.**"

12.6 Validity Period

Certification is valid for **one (1) year** from the date of issue, promoting regular renewal and update of skills.

12.7 Re-examination Policy

- Candidates failing one component may retake that component.
- A re-examination fee applies.
- Two consecutive failures in the same component may require additional documented training before a third attempt.

12.8 Unsafe Acts During Assessment

Any act that endangers people, equipment, or property will result in immediate termination of the assessment and a failure. This includes, but is not limited to: ignoring stop signals, operating recklessly, or bypassing safety devices.

12.9 Assessment Interruptions

If an assessment is interrupted (e.g., by equipment failure or severe weather), it may be resumed from the point of stoppage at the discretion of the Chief Examiner, or a full re-assessment may be required.

12.10 Suspension & Withdrawal

Procedures exist for the fair suspension or withdrawal of certification due to non-compliance with this scheme. Certified persons must immediately cease using the credential if suspended or withdrawn.