

WAC 296-155-56420 Operator certification—Written examination—Technical knowledge criteria. This appendix contains information for employers, accredited testing organizations, auditors and government entities developing criteria for a written examination to test an individual's technical knowledge relating to the operation of cranes.

- (1) General technical information.
 - (a) The functions and limitations of the crane and attachments.
 - (b) Wire rope:
 - (i) Background information necessary to understand the inspection and removal from service criteria in WAC 296-155-53404.
 - (ii) Capacity and when multiple-part rope is needed.
 - (iii) Relationship between line pull and safe working load.
 - (iv) How to determine the manufacturer's recommended rope for the crane.
 - (c) Rigging devices and their use, such as:
 - (i) Slings;
 - (ii) Spreaders;
 - (iii) Lifting beams;
 - (iv) Wire rope fittings, such as clips, shackles and wedge sockets;
 - (v) Saddles (softeners); and
 - (vi) Clamps (beams).
 - (d) The technical limitations of protective measures against electrical hazards:
 - (i) Grounding;
 - (ii) Proximity warning devices;
 - (iii) Insulated links;
 - (iv) Boom cages; and
 - (v) Proximity to electric power lines, radii, and microwave structures.
 - (e) The effects of load share and load transfer in multicrane lifts.
 - (f) Basic crane terms.
 - (g) The basics of machine power flow systems.
 - (i) Mechanical;
 - (ii) Electrical;
 - (iii) Pneumatic;
 - (iv) Hydraulic; and
 - (v) Combination.
 - (h) The significance of the instruments and gauge readings.
 - (i) The effects of thermal expansion and contraction in hydraulic cylinders.
 - (j) Background information necessary to understand the requirements of preoperation and inspection.
 - (k) How to use the safety devices and operational aids required under WAC 296-155-53410 and 296-155-53412.
 - (l) The difference between duty-cycle and lifting operations.
 - (m) How to calculate net capacity for every possible configuration of the equipment using the manufacturer's load chart.
 - (n) How to use manufacturer-approved attachments and their effect on the equipment.
 - (o) How to obtain dimensions, weight, and center of gravity of the load.
 - (p) The effects of dynamic loading from:
 - (i) Wind.
 - (ii) Stopping and starting.

- (iii) Impact loading.
- (iv) Moving with the load.
- (q) The effect of side loading.
- (r) The principles of backward stability.
- (2) Site information.
 - (a) How to identify the suitability of the supporting ground/surface to support the expected loads of the operation. Elements include:
 - (i) Weaknesses below the surface (such as voids, tanks, loose fill).
 - (ii) Weaknesses on the surface (such as retaining walls, slopes, excavations, depressions).
 - (b) Proper use of mats, blocking/cribbing, outriggers, stabilizers, or crawlers.
 - (c) Identification of site hazards such as power lines, piping, and traffic.
 - (d) How to review operation plans with supervisors and other workers (such as the signal person), including how to determine working height, boom length, load radius, and travel clearance.
 - (e) How to determine if there is adequate room for extension of crawlers or outriggers/stabilizers and counterweights.
- (3) Operations.
 - (a) How to pick, carry, swing and place the load smoothly and safely on rubber tires and on outriggers/stabilizers or crawlers (where applicable).
 - (b) How to communicate at the site with supervisors, the crew and the signal person.
 - (c) Proper procedures and methods of reeving wire ropes and methods of reeving multiple-part lines and selecting the proper load block and/or ball.
 - (d) How to react to changes in conditions that affect the safe operation of the equipment.
 - (e) How to shut down and secure the equipment properly when leaving it unattended.
 - (f) Know how to apply the manufacturer's specifications for operating in various weather conditions, and understand how environmental conditions affect the safe operation of the equipment.
 - (g) How to properly level the equipment.
 - (h) How to verify the weight of the load and rigging prior to initiating the lift.
 - (i) How to determine where the load is to be picked up and placed and how to verify the radii.
 - (j) Know basic rigging procedures.
 - (k) How to carry out the shift inspection required in this subsection.
 - (l) Know that the following operations require specific procedures and skill levels:
 - (i) Multicrane lifts;
 - (ii) Hoisting personnel;
 - (iii) Clamshell/dragline operations;
 - (iv) Pile driving and extracting;
 - (v) Concrete operations, including poured-in-place and tilt-up;
 - (vi) Demolition operations;
 - (vii) Operations on water;
 - (viii) Magnet operations; and
 - (ix) Multidrum operations.

(m) Know the proper procedures for operating safely under the following conditions:

- (i) Traveling with suspended loads;
- (ii) Approaching a two-block condition;
- (iii) Operating near power lines;
- (iv) Hoisting personnel;
- (v) Using other than full outrigger/crawler or stabilizer extensions;
- (vi) Lifting loads from beneath the surface of the water;
- (vii) Using various approved counterweight configurations;
- (viii) Handling loads out of the operator's vision (operating in the blind); and
- (ix) Using electronic communication systems for signal communication.

(n) Know the proper procedures for load control and the use of hand-held tag lines.

(o) Know the emergency response procedure for:

- (i) Fires;
- (ii) Power line contact;
- (iii) Loss of stability;
- (iv) Control malfunction;
- (v) Two-blocking;
- (vi) Overload; and
- (vii) Carrier or travel malfunction.

(p) Know how to properly use outriggers and stabilizers in accordance with manufacturer specifications.

(4) Use of load charts.

(a) Know the terminology necessary to use load charts.

(b) Know how to ensure that the load chart is the appropriate chart for the equipment in its particular configuration and application.

(c) Know how to use load charts. This includes knowing:

- (i) The operational limitations of load charts and footnotes;
- (ii) How to relate the chart to the configuration of the crane, crawlers, or outriggers/stabilizers extended or retracted, jib erected or offset, and various counterweight configurations;
- (iii) The difference between structural capacity and capacity limited by stability;
- (iv) What is included in capacity ratings;
- (v) The range diagram and its relationship to the load chart;
- (vi) The work area chart and its relationship to the load chart;

and

- (vii) Where to find and how to use the "parts-of-line" information.

(d) Know how to use the load chart together with the load indicators and/or load moment devices.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060, and chapter 49.17 RCW. WSR 25-16-089, s 296-155-56420, filed 8/5/25, effective 9/5/25. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.440, 49.17.060, and 29 C.F.R. 1926, Subpart CC. WSR 12-01-086, § 296-155-56420, filed 12/20/11, effective 2/1/12.]