

PA Crane Operator Licensure FAQ's

Revised 2025-1

- 1) **When did the Commonwealth of PA pass the Crane Operator Licensure act?** Oct 2008
- 2) **When do crane operators need to be licensed?** Since Dec. 9, 2010. All crane operators operating a mobile crane of 15-ton maximum capacity or a tower crane of 10-meter ton capacity will need to be licensed after Dec. 9, 2010.
- 3) **How does a crane operator qualify to be licensed?** The PA Crane Operator Act 100 states a crane operator is qualified to be licensed if they are certified by the NCCCO (National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators) or another recognized certifying agency, has a current physical exam (DOT physical qualifies), is of good moral character, and has not had a felony conviction for a drug offense.
 - a) **Physical Exam Requirements (click the link):** [PHYSICAL EXAMINATION REQUIREMENT](#)
- 4) **Is there a provision for a crane operator to be “Grandfathered”?** Yes, although the “Grandfathering Option” has expired. All crane operators desiring to be licensed in PA must now first be certified by a recognized certifying agency.
- 5) **If a crane operator is currently certified, is there another exam they will need to take to be licensed?** No
- 6) **Will the PA Crane Operator license list the types of crane(s) that the operator is licensed to Operate?** Yes.
- 7) **What types of cranes require a licensed operator?** Any ASME B30.5 mobile crane with a maximum rated capacity of 15 tons or more, and all ASME B30.3 and/or B30.29 tower cranes of 10-meter tons or more.
- 8) **What machines are exempt (click the link and review the definition of a crane, intermodal operations or intermodal services, longshoring operations, and manufacturing application or manufacturing or manufacture)?** [49 Pa. Code § 6.2. Definitions.](#)
- 9) **How much does a PA Crane Operator License cost (click the link)?** [49 Pa. Code § 6.4. Fees.](#)
- 10) **What crane operator certifications does PA accept (click the link)?** [CRANE BOARD APPROVED CERTIFYING ORGANIZATIONS.pdf](#)
- 11) **Is the Commonwealth of PA going to be involved in giving the certification exams (written or practical)?** No.
- 12) **If a crane operator is currently certified, will they also have to apply and possess a PA Crane Operators license?** Yes.
- 13) **What documents will I need when applying for a PA Crane Operators license:**
 - a) Certification information: CCO Candidate ID # if CCO Certified, list of cranes certified in, expiration date
 - b) A picture of your physical exam document. You will be required to upload the picture into the application system.
 - c) Background check documentation (see below):
 - i) List all of the states you have lived or worked in during the last 10 years.

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- ii) Provide a recent Criminal History Records Check (CHRC) from the state police or other state agency for every state in which you have lived, worked, or completed professional training/studies for the past ten (10) years. The report(s) must be dated within 180 days of the date the application is submitted.
- iii) To obtain a Pennsylvania record check, please visit <https://epatch.pa.gov/> **A volunteer record check will not be accepted.**
- iv) For a list of other state identification agency websites, please visit <https://www.dos.pa.gov/ProfessionalLicensing/BoardsCommissions/Documents/State%20Police%20Criminal%20Record%20History%20-%20Out%20of%20State%20List.pdf>
- v) **For individuals living, working, or completing training/studies outside of Pennsylvania during the past ten (10) years, in lieu of obtaining individual state background checks,** you may elect to provide BOTH a state CHRC from the state in which you currently reside, AND your FBI Identity History Summary Check, available at <https://www.fbi.gov/services/cjis/identity-history-summary-checks>
- vi) Please note: For applicants currently living, working, or completing training/studies in California, Arizona, or Ohio: Due to the laws of these states, the Board is not an eligible recipient of CHRC's or your CHRC will not be issued to you for upload to the Board. Please obtain your Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Identity History Summary Check, available at the link noted above.

14) How do I apply for a PA Crane License (click the link)? [BPOA - Pennsylvania Licensing System](#)

- a) Click "Register for a new account". Fill out the information.
- b) Click "Login to your account"
- c) Click "Apply for a New License" answer all the questions. Pay the fee.

15) Once I have the license, do I have to renew? Yes. The PA crane operator's license is a two-year license although, all PA Crane operator licenses expire 10/31 of all even years. All PA licensed professions can renew online at: [BPOA - Pennsylvania Licensing System](#) Login to your existing account, click renew license.

16) When I renew my license, do I need to keep my certification current? Yes. Your PA Crane Operators license will remain valid only if you keep your certification current. [49 Pa. Code § 6.12. Certification.](#)

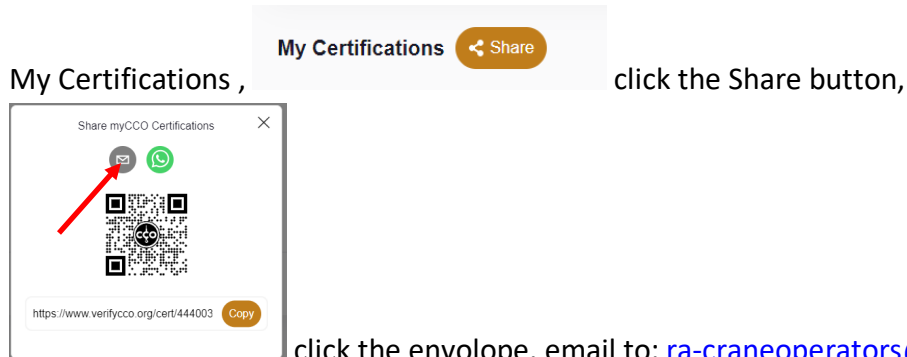
17) If my certification expires midway through the two-year PA License period of time, what do I need to do when I recertify my certification? [49 Pa. Code § 6.32. Renewal of license.](#)

- a) You are required to notify the PA State Board of Crane Operators that you have recertified prior to your current certification expiring.

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- i) If you are CCO Certified, login to your myCCO portal [Member Portal](#) scroll down to



- ii) If you are certified by one of the other approved agencies, you will have to contact your certification agency and have them email you certification info to ra-craneoperators@pa.gov.

18) If my physical exam expires midway through the two-year PA license period of time, what do I need to do when I renew my physical exam?

- a) You are required to notify the PA State Board of Crane Operators that you renewed your physical exam.
- i) How do I notify the PA State Board of Crane Operators that I renewed my physical exam?
- (1) Email a copy of your renewed physical exam documentation to ra-craneoperators@pa.gov. List your name, PA Crane Operator License number, and a statement saying you renewed your physical exam.

19) Does PA require operators of articulating (knuckle-boom) cranes to be licensed? No

20) If I use my 15-ton maximum capacity (or larger) crane for my own use, do I need to have a licensed operator operate it? Yes, except for the listed exceptions. [49 Pa. Code § 6.2. Definitions.](#)

21) Does PA require operators of overhead/gantry cranes to be licensed? No

22) If I am a licensed crane operator in another state and plan to work in PA, do I need to apply for PA Crane Operator license? Maybe. PA under Act 41, does have a process by which the PA State Board of Crane Operators can issue a PA Crane Operators license to an applicant who holds a crane operators license from another state. [Applying for a Professional License from Outside Pennsylvania | Department of State | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#) Contact the PA State Board of Crane Operators directly [Crane Operators | Department of State | Commonwealth of Pennsylvania](#)

23) Can I operate a covered crane without a PA Crane Operators license if a PA Licensed operator works with me? PA law requires any operator that is learning the trade (training) to apply and possess a PA Crane Operator Trainee license. You are not permitted to operate a crane under the direct supervision of a PA licensed crane operator if you do not possess a

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valid PA Crane Operator Trainee License. [49 Pa. Code § 6.13. Qualifications and supervision of trainees.](#)

To read the entire PA Crane Operator Licensure regulation, click here: [49 Pa. Code Chapter 6. State Board Of Crane Operators](#)

Disclaimer

The information provided in this document is intended to provide you with valid information pertaining to the PA Crane Operator License although it is not intended, and should not be interpreted as legal advice, either written or implied.

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