
CITY OF CHICAGO

RULES



REGARDING CRANE OPERATOR LICENSES

Updated August 5, 2019



 Mayor Lori Lightfoot

Commissioner Judith Frydland 

Rules Regarding Crane Operator Licenses

BY AUTHORITY VESTED IN THE COMMISSIONER OF BUILDINGS PURSUANT TO SECTION 14A-1-104.4 AND CHAPTER 4-288 AND THE GENERAL PROVISIONS OF THE MUNICIPAL CODE OF CHICAGO, THE FOLLOWING RULES REGARDING CRANE OPERATOR LICENSES ARE ADOPTED HEREIN.

By Order of the Commissioner:

Signed: 
Commissioner Judith Frydland

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RULES FOR CRANE OPERATOR LICENSES

ARTICLE I - DEFINITIONS

Rule No. 1. As used in these rules, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise:

“Apprentice” or “Apprentice Crane Operator” has the meaning ascribed to the term in Section 4-288-020 of the Code.

“Board” or “Board of Crane Operators Examiners” means the Board of Crane Operators examiners established pursuant to Section 2-116-250 of the Code.

“Chicago Building Code” or “building code” has the meaning ascribed to the term in Section 1-4-090 of the Code.

“Classification” or “class” means the classification or class level assigned to a particular crane in Rule No. 2 of these Rules.

“Code” means the Municipal Code of Chicago.

“Commissioner” means the Commissioner of Buildings or the Commissioner’s designee.

“Crane” has the meaning ascribed to the term in Section 4-288-020 of the Code.

“Department” means the Department of Buildings.

“False Statement(s)” has the meaning ascribed to the term in Chapter 1-21 of the Code.

“Licensee” has the meaning ascribed to the term in Section 4-288-020 of the Code.

“License Type” means the license designation assigned to a particular crane in Rule No. 2 of these Rules.

“Practical examination” has the meaning ascribed to the term in Section 4-288-020 of the Code.

“Written examination” has the meaning ascribed to the term in Section 4-288-020 of the Code.

ARTICLE II – LICENSING AND TESTING

Rule No. 2. The following classifications, written examination requirements, practical examination requirements and license types for cranes are hereby established:

Rules Regarding Crane Operator Licenses

Crane	Class	Written Test Required	Practical Test Required	License Type
Tower Crane - Hammerhead	I	Yes	Yes	A-1
Tower Crane - Luffing Boom	I	Yes	Yes	A-2
Tower Crane - Self-Erecting	I	Yes	Yes	A-3
Friction Crawler Crane or Friction Truck Crane	I	Yes	Yes	B-1, B-2, B-3 and B-4
Hydraulic Crawler Crane or Hydraulic Truck Crane with a lattice boom	I	Yes	Yes	C-1, C-2, C3 and C-4
Hydraulic Mobile Crane: rough-terrain or all-terrain	I	Yes	Yes	D-1, D-2, D3 and D4
Mobile Crane: boom truck	I	Yes	Yes	E-1, E-2, E-3 and E-4
Industrial Crane or Carry Deck Crane	I	Yes	Yes	F
Spider Crane	I	Yes	Yes	G
Chicago Boom, Drumhoist or Derrick	I	Yes	Yes	H
Rack & Pinion Skips	I	Yes	Yes	I
Other Class I Cranes	I	Yes	Yes	J
Articulating Crane, Knuckle-Boom Crane or Mobile Crane: knuckle-boom truck	II	Yes	Yes	AA
Multi-Purpose Machine with a hoisting device	II	Yes	Yes	BB
All-Terrain Forklift with a hook or winch	II	Yes	Yes	CC
Power Operated Floor or Deck-Type Crane	II	Yes	Yes	DD
Overhead Crane	II	Yes	Yes	EE
Gantry Crane or Crane on a Monorail	II	Yes	No	FF
Boom attached to Mast-Climbing Work Platform	II	Yes	No	GG
Power Window Washing Unit when used to erect	II	Yes	No	HH
Track Backhoe used for erecting	II	Yes	Yes	II
Service/Mechanic Truck with a hoisting device	II	Yes	Yes	JJ
Bucket Truck with Hook, Winch or Hoisting Device	II	Yes	Yes	KK
Other Class II Cranes	II	Yes	case by case	LL

Any crane set on a floatation device, locomotive rail device, wheel mounted device, pedestal device, or portal device shall meet the appropriate class, license and testing requirements for the underlying crane type identified above.

For License Types B, C, D and E, the numerical designations of 1, 2, 3 and 4 shall mean:

1	Operation of a boom length of up to 100 feet in length.
2	Operation of a boom length of 101 feet to 150 feet in length.
3	Operation of a boom length of 151 feet to 189 feet in length.
4	Operation of a boom length of 190 feet or greater in length.

For License Types B, C, D and E, a person with a higher numerical designation need not obtain a separate license for a lower numerical designation within the respective License Type B, C, D or E.

For License Type KK the need for a practical exam shall be evaluated on a case-by-case basis for the equipment in question as determined by the Commissioner.

Rule No. 2-a. A crane, load-rating charts or amendments to load-rating charts may not be de-rated to circumvent the licensing provisions of the Code. This Rule No. 2-a is consistent with the United States Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration’s Letter of Interpretation of July 14, 2016 on the matter. This Rule No. 2-a shall apply to any crane de-rated on or after July 14, 2016.

Rule No. 3. The fee for each specific required written examination shall be One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00). The written examination shall be categorized by crane classification or class as identified in Rule No. 2. The fee to retake a failed written examination shall be One Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$150.00) per attempt. The receipt of a passing grade on a Class I written exam shall allow the applicant to apply to take the practical exam for any Class I or Class II license type. The receipt of a passing grade on a Class II written exam shall allow the applicant to apply to take the practical exam for any Class II license type.

Rule No. 4. The fee for each specific required practical examination shall be Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00). The practical examination shall be categorized by the individual license type as identified in Rule No. 2. A separate fee is required for each license type. The initial fee shall be valid for two attempts, on the same day, to pass the practical exam for the same license type. Said initial fee shall not include any subsequent attempt to pass the practical exam on a different day; nor shall the fee be transferable to a practical exam for another license type. The fee to retake a failed practical exam shall be Two Hundred and Fifty Dollars (\$250.00) per attempt.

ARTICLE III – POTENTIAL PENALITIES FOR FALSE STATEMENTS

Rule No. 5. The Commissioner may refuse to accept an application for a license or an application for a permit if such application is found to contain a false statement.

Rule No. 6. The Commissioner may void or revoke any permit that is issued in reliance on a false statement or which is forged or altered by an applicant.

Rule No. 7. Nothing in this Article III shall limit or prohibit the Department from voiding or revoking any permit or from pursuing any other sanctions or remedies under authority granted to the Department by law.

ARTICLE IV – LICENSE SUSPENSION OR REVOCATION

Rule No. 8. The Commissioner may, for cause, suspend the ability of any person licensed, registered or certified under Chapter 4-288 of the Code, or required to be licensed, registered or certified under Chapter 4-288, to submit new applications or to complete pending applications for any building permit or other permit issued by the Department in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 13-8-130 of the Code, as required under Section 4-288-065. The Commissioner may suspend or revoke the license, registration or certification of any person licensed, registered or certified under Chapter 4-288 in accordance with the procedures set forth in Section 13-8-140 of the Code, as required under Section 4-288-130.

Rule No. 9. *Reserved.*

Rule No. 10. *Reserved.*

ARTICLE V – GENERAL PROVISIONS

Rule No. 11. The penalty for violation of these Rules shall be as provided in the Code.

Rule No. 12. Nothing in these Rules is intended to limit the powers or authority of the City of Chicago or other City departments to regulate cranes or crane licenses, registrations or certifications. Nor are these Rules intended to relieve a person or entity from full compliance with all applicable provisions of the Code or any Rules promulgated thereunder by the Department or any other City department.

Rule No. 13. The Commissioner reserves the right to suspend, repeal or amend these Rules at any time in accordance with law.

Rule No. 14. The provisions of these Rules are severable. If any part of these Rules, in whole or in part, is declared invalid or unconstitutional, that declaration shall not affect the part or parts which remain.