



"We bring it all together"
STEEL ERECTORS ASSOCIATION OF AMERICA

SEAA Represented at Cranes Stakeholder Meeting in Washington, DC

On Wednesday, April 3, 2013, Bob Beckner represented SEAA at a Cranes Stakeholder Meeting in Washington, DC. OSHA schedule this meeting to gather additional information and opinions of individuals and organizations before finalizing the new Crane Standard, a standard that will affect each and every contractor involved in the utilization of cranes. Back in 2004, SEAA was involved with input in the new standard through the Cranes & Derricks Advisory Committee (C-DAC). The final proposed OSHA document is not in agreement with several recommendations made by C-DAC. SEAA solicited members' feedback in March so that Bob could speak on the association's behalf. *(See Bob's recap in a separate article in this issue.)*

Although the topics listed below are not everything discussed, they are the major items of the proposed standard that we as an organization needed to address.

1) Certifying By Type and Capacity:

Although C-DAC suggested the wording to OSHA, OSHA added emphasis on certifying by capacity, an interpretation that C-DAC never intended. C-DAC focused on crane type (i.e. fixed cab controls, swing cab controls). OSHA is now interpreting that to mean an operator certified on a crane of capacity X can only operate that crane and one of lower capacity, not one of higher capacity. This will result in many more certifications being required by operators and a much increased cost to the employer.

2) Certification versus Qualification:

The new rule states that an employee who is certified is deemed "qualified" thus equating certification to qualification; however, the NCCCO has always maintained that certification is only one component of qualification.

3) Disenfranchisement of Existing Certifications:

OSHA is now stating that all operators must be certified under the new rule by November 14, 2014, otherwise they will not be considered certified. This will mean that all those certified under the current regulation will have their certifications voided and be subject to additional costs to be in compliance.