

State of Connecticut Board for Crane Operators
Minutes of the July 1, 2015, Meeting

Members Present: Edward St. John; Richard Cop; Nate Brown; Keith Murphy; Edward Shapiro

Also Attending: Elliot Henowitz, State Crane Inspector; David D'Ostilio, Local 478; Rick Barrett, Local 478; Chris Syrek, CT ABC; Linda Spring, OSFM

1. The meeting was called to order at 9:30 a.m.
2. Approval of Minutes of June 3, 2015, meeting – approved and seconded.
3. Old Business:

A. Agreements – None

B. Crane regulations – The discussion continued with respect to updating our regulations and/or adapting/developing new regulations. The Crane Board reviewed the handout which listed the various crane and hoisting categories developed and approved by the Crane Board.

The discussion continued on possibly limiting the hours of operation of a tower crane operator's shift. Chris Syrek of the ABC will reach out to his operators for their input on the matter.

Furthermore, the State Crane Inspector pointed out that he had a conversation with the department's legal advisor Kevin Kopetz. Kevin wanted to ensure that no other laws exist that may already be in place regarding control or restriction of the number of hours of a work shift by OSHA or the Department of Labor.

C. Old Colony Construction, LLC, contact with electrical line. Tabled waiting for additional information requested.

D. Hoisting of personnel by Middlesex Corporation. The Crane Board reviewed photos of the incident derived from a flash drive submitted and wind speed data from Tweed airport. The Crane Board decided to send a warning/reprimand letter with respect to the hoisting of personnel under the condition reviewed by the Board. In addition, it was pointed out that the State of CT is still currently under an older ANSI standard which uses a 15 mph wind speed as maximum permissible.

4. New Business:

A & B. Crane applications were reviewed by the Crane Board for compliance to the state regulations at this meeting.

C. The Crane Board reviewed a letter and attached medical information submitted by Antonio S. Queiroga whose hoisting license expired on 1/22/2015. The Board reviewed the information submitted and decided not to approve of the lapsed license.

5. The Crane Board began review of a report of a fraudulent crane operator license in the possession for use of an employee of O & G Industries. This was reported to the Office of State Fire Marshal. The inspector reported this incident to the State Police for further investigation and to handle any criminal charges. Trooper Michael Marino investigated the report of the fraudulent crane operator's license and presented his review of an Arrest Warrant of C.G.S. 29-224 to the State's Attorney in Waterbury's G.A. 4. The States's Attorney stated that it lacks the penalty for criminal prosecution and the matter should be handled as a civil matter by the Crane Board.

The Crane Board wants the department's attorney Kevin Kopetz to review the report from Trooper Marino and to advise the Board. The report from Trooper Marino is to be turned in to the Office of State Fire Marshal shortly.

The Board discussed having a meeting with DAS Commissioner to upgrade the licensing system for crane operators to include photo and signature of applicant, similar to the Department of Consumer Protection licenses. This would provide a higher degree of security.

6. Comments from the public: A letter will go out to existing crane operators notifying them on the required retest deadline and requirements. This letter will be emailed to the Crane Board members first for review and comment.

Meeting adjourned at 10:45 a.m.