

OFFICIAL PROGRAM STANDARDS NOTICE (OPSN)

Issued: June 20, 2025

Program: TOWER CRANE OPERATOR

To: SkilledTradesBC Training Providers
Articulation Chair
System Liaison Person
Youth Train in Trades School Districts
BC Association for Crane Safety

Subject: Tower Crane Operator Apprenticeship Level Challenge Eligibility Requirements Update

OPSN No.: OPSN 2025 010

Effective Date: July 1, 2025

Summary of Change: The eligibility requirements for Tower Crane Operator (TCO) apprentices wanting to challenge a Standardized Level Exam (SLE) have been updated to the following:

	Old Eligibility Requirements	New Eligibility Requirements
Level 1	1,800 Work-Based Training hours	900 Work-Based Training hours, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 500 hours operating tower crane equipment with a minimum mast height of 90 ft.
Level 2	Not available for apprentices to challenge	1,800 Work-Based Training hours, including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> A minimum of 1,000 hours operating tower crane equipment with a minimum mast height of 90 ft. A minimum of 500 hours of documented rigging time

The program profile has been revised and posted to the [SkilledTradesBC website](https://www.skilledtradesbc.ca).

A [Level Placement Exam Application Form](#) specific for the Tower Crane Operator program has been posted to the SkilledTradesBC website.

- Rationale:**
- The BC Crane Safety Assessment Review Panel (ARP) has requested these changes to allow TCO apprentices to satisfy the theory exam requirements of the program where the availability of technical training is limited. The purpose of these changes is to continue building a safer skilled workforce while not compromising existing safety standards.
 - Note: Technical Training, where available, is the recommended option to progress in the program. Refer to the attached certification pathway graphic below.
 - With these changes, a TCO with a provisional certification can remain sponsored as an apprentice throughout their pathway to full scope certification, and they can attempt the SLEs in a more progressive manner. The revised eligibility requirements are consistent with industry-expected outcomes, as per the BC Crane Safety ARP.
 - To ensure readiness to attempt the respective SLE, the apprentice must have the support of their sponsor/journeyperson through the signing of the Level Placement Exam Application Form.
- Attachments:** Tower Crane Operator apprentice certification journey graphic
- For more information contact:** Program Standards
email: programstandards@skilledtradesbc.ca
- cc:** All Staff

Tower Crane Operator Apprenticeship *Certification Journey*

