

## Poyant Field Services Group First in New England

In 2011, the International Sign Association, (ISA) in conjunction with OSHA, informed the sign industry of a pending regulation that will go into effect in 2014 requiring all crane operators throughout the country to be nationally certified.

The regulation impacts everyone operating a crane with over 2,000lb capacity and covers all crane types. The regulation is being put forth by OSHA to reduce the number of accidents that occurs with crane operation around the country by increasing the knowledge and training required of potential crane operators. This regulation has a major impact on the sign industry due to the cost of training on a per person basis.

Poyant immediately went into action and organized an on-site training session in collaboration with ISA, in May of 2011. ISA had worked on developing a training program especially for the sign industry that is designed to handle the types of cranes used by the industry.

Sign companies from throughout New England were invited to participate and several joined the entire Poyant Field Services Department for the training here in New Bedford. Training included 3 - 8 hour days of classroom course work and hands on crane training in preparation for the written and practical exams. The practical exams are very structured and are essentially a timed course specially designed by the National Commission for the Certification of Crane Operators (NCCCO), for each particular type crane so as to measure the operator's skills and safe handling of the load in a prescribed time frame.

The May training was followed up with a second round of two days in Portland, Me. in August of 2011 including taking two Practical Exams, one for Swing Cab and one for Fixed Cab Crane Certification. The Poyant Team also took the Core Exam, a 90 question test and the Fixed Cab and the Swing Cab specialty exams.

Marco Vieira, Field Services Supervisor, said "The training proved to be pretty intense covering all aspects of crane operation including weight and lift capacity analysis, impact of wind conditions on side loading the crane, safe set up on various ground conditions, daily inspections of critical crane components to ensure equipment is properly maintained and safe to operate."

"Our guys were very focused on absorbing and learning as much as possible so that we can enhance our knowledge, safety and professionalism in the field", according to Vieira. I am very proud of the attention and participation our guys played in working on this certification. The national pass rate on the core exam is 52% which is a good indicator of how stringent this license really is for potential crane operators".

Ultimately five Poyant Associates have now earned NCCCO Certification including Field Services Supervisor Marco Vieira, Crew Chief Peter DaCosta, Kyle Baker, Service Technician Mike Costa and Richard Poyant, President of Poyant Signs.

“Poyant will provide on-going training to build on what we have done so far, so that more of our staff can achieve certification”, said Joe Pellerin, Human Resources Manager and Safety Officer. “

According to ISA, Poyant is the only company in New England with five Crane Operators that have achieved National Crane Certification and is a major accomplishment in being ahead of the regulation and upgrading the skills of its staff.