

Minutes

ECOL

Expert Committee meeting No. 3



Date:	May 13 th , 2020
Location:	Microsoft Teams
Present:	Fraser Cocks BCACS – Canada, Kim Hvolbøl DKF, Giovanni Pauwels VDAB, Paul Zepf VDMA, Kim Poulsen EUC - Lillebælt, Ton Klijn ECO-ESTA
Not Present:	Erik Kroes Mammoet, Pia Metsola INFRA, Lion Verhagen VVT, Norbert van Schaik Siemens-Gamesa
Time table:	10:00 – 12:00
Minutes:	Caroline van Geest

1. Opening by Mr. Ton Klijn and approval agenda

1.1 Introduction of new attendees, observers | all present

Mr. Ton Klijn opens this third ECOL Expert Committee meeting using Microsoft Teams and welcomes all present representatives.

We have received the following apologies: Erik Kroes|Mammoet, Pia Metsola|INFRA, Lion Verhagen|VVT, Norbert van Schaik|Siemens-Gamesa. As some committee decisions have to be made Mr. Ton Klijn has informed them through e-mail with the 200504 Memo ECOL EC-3 meeting document and an instruction for an electronic ballot paper which will be distributed after this meeting.

1.2 Minutes of Expert Committee meeting 2 – October 4th, 2020, Piacenza

The Minutes of the Expert Committee meeting 2 – October 4th, 2019, Piacenza were approved by all representatives without amendments.

2 Developments in recent months regarding the ECOL system – update on validation requests / status EQF classification

2.1 Status report T. Klijn

- VVT The Netherlands / TUR Denmark / BCACS Canada

The ECOL foundation has signed a Mutual Recognition Agreement with the Dutch TCVT-RA organisation in November 2019 who is responsible for the issuing of Crane operators' licences in the Netherlands. The agreement has come into effect per January 1st, 2020.

This means an ECOL licence holder will receive a Dutch TCVT registration upon his request if his ECOL licence is "in good standing" (meaning it is valid and not revoked by the ECOL foundation). Conversely it is also possible for a TCVT licence holder to apply for an ECOL licence; provided it has originally been issued after training by an ECOL qualified institute. The necessary forms for the applications are on the ECOL website.

We will now start work on expanding this recognition to Belgium and Denmark as a first step.

- New and adapted documentation review

Please refer to the attached 200504 Memo ECOL EC-3 meeting + E-Ballot preparation document for content. After the meeting the participants will fill in the ballot paper and the results will be circulated through e-mail by Mr. Ton Klijn.

2.2 New participants [Liebherr – C&LP]

On March 15th 2020, Liebherr has completed the process of becoming an approved European Crane Operator Licence training centre and has already carried out its first three German language ECOL examinations on March 27th in Ehingen at the Liebherr Schulungszentrum.

The company received its ECOL Certificate last month following final approval from Lloyds Register, the body tasked with overseeing standards. The current certificate is valid until March 2023. Liebherr has long been a strong supporter of ESTA's ECOL project and agreed to align its training systems with ECOL's approach last year.

Also in March we have seen the certification of Crane & Logistic Partners in Emsbüren (DE) as the first German based examination institute. They achieved a successful certification on March 25th and subsequently the first three examinations in the German language at the Liebherr factory in Ehingen were performed by examiner Mr. Marcus Wübbelmann.

2.3 Status EQF registration with NLQF [and subsequent ISO 9001 certification]

We succeeded in certifying the ECOL foundation under ISO 9001-2015 on August 7th, 2019.

On December 6th 2019, the European Crane Operators Licence project received another boost with the news that ECOL has been approved by the European Qualifications Framework. Earlier in 2019, we applied to have the ECOL operator certificate registered and recognised by the Dutch NLQF qualifications framework. Through the NLQF it would be aligned with the EQF across Europe. Beginning of December the NLQF agency confirmed that the EQF Assessment Committee has approved the EQF qualification of the ECOL standard for the level of EQF 3.

This means that ECOL is now an officially recognised European training standard for mobile crane operators and ECOL will have the right to add the EQF logo to its certificates. We regard this as very good news indeed for all ECOL supporters. Official EQF backing is further evidence of the professionalism and high standards underpinning the ECOL project.

2.4 Editing of ECOL Glossary

As a result of the various translation projects we have been through, and the experiences gained during the pilot training sessions, we have had to revisit the ECOL glossary. The latest version (vs 17) is now available in English / Dutch – we will approach those of you that assisted in the original translations in the coming days for a review of the work you have already done in your national language to align it with the latest Glossary version.

This next step is important in order to complete the language examinations in the various languages with the new terms from the glossary.

3 Multitest Examination System

3.1 Update Multitest

The first Multitest trial held on September 9th, 2019 Hoogvliet was successful. By now all examination item bank questions in the English language are imported in Multitest.

The Dutch version has been finalized and will also be incorporated into Multitest in the coming weeks.

We now have been working on completing the ECOL examinations question “Item Bank” in the Danish Language.

This work is now almost completed and we expect to have the Danish examination incorporated in the Multitest examination system in the coming weeks. The ECOL foundation would like to express her appreciation for the support we received from the Danish Crane association and their industry experts in completing the translation work. The next step will be the completion of the ECOL Item Bank in German, so this language can also be used in the Multitest examination system.

- 3.2 *Item bank development [status report]*
[Translation issue to be solved for DK-NL GE -FR-SP]
- 3.3 *Language examination development*
[Translation issue to be solved for DK-NL GE -FR-SP]

As mentioned earlier in the minutes the NL and DK version are finalized and we await the completion of the GE version.

Translation activities around the SP and FR versions are in progress but as it is still an elaborate process it will take some time.

Hopefully ECOL will be able to make examinations in: NL-DE-DK before August 2020.

4. SkillRecord – status and latest developments.

4.1 Revised registration process in ECOL for training institutes [demo]

Mr. Ton Klijn reports. Obtaining the correct and readable information on the registration forms can be difficult to gather. In order to avoid this a web-based version has been designed with the possibility to be electronically signed; it must be filled in by the training institutes directly upon registering the applicant.

4.2 Report on changes to the SkillRecord registration [Teachers | Examiners]

As an extension to the training centre app that has been developed in order to register the ECOL trainees, there is also a new section where teachers and examiners are registered and are enabled to register their credentials themselves. All registrations must be validated through ECOL Office and a unique ECOL user ID number will be assigned.

The addition of a high resolution picture (headshot) is mandatory now.

After overcoming some technical difficulties ECOL office management was able to demonstrate the new features in the training centre app and SkillRecord.

4.3 Use of SkillRecord for communication with ECOL operators

At the previous Supervisory board Mr. Klaus Meissner stated that the ECOL foundation should use the opportunity to contact all ECOL licensed operators on a regular basis to disseminate the latest technical information, such as the BPG on Wind farm construction that ESTRAs has recently published. Mr. Ton Klijn has welcomed the suggestion but adds that he would also like to include the ECOL trainers and examiners that are presently in the same (SkillRecord) system. The Supervisory board decided to extend this type of communication to teachers and examiners as well.

4.6 Adaption of ECOL Website for future use.

ECOL Office management informs the committee that adaption will take place to optimise the website.

5. Outstanding topics

5.1 ECOL tutorial to be developed

[suggestions for the production of this tutorial are welcome]

Currently Mr. Gerke Kleinsmit [VVT] is working on the ECOL tutorial and showed Mr. Ton Klijn some promising progress.

7.2 Decisions to be made on: [see memo 4th May]

- # recognition of BCACS training and examination scheme;
- # RPL procedure for the ECOL system;
- # Medical fitness issue
- # Acceptance of edited documentation

Please refer to the attached 200504 Memo ECOL EC-3 meeting + E-Ballot preparation document for content. During the meeting the chair offered a more detailed explanation of the last outstanding anomalies between the ECOL and BCACS training schemes in addition to the text in the memo. An exchange of viewpoints takes place between delegates to enlighten the various positions. Upon request by the chair all participants confirm they feel sufficiently informed to make a decision in the E-ballot. After the meeting the participants will fill in the ballot paper and the results will be circulated through e-mail by Mr. Ton Klijn.

Post meeting note: BCACS supplied a additional clarification of the last outstanding points of the comparison. A copy of the email is attached with these minutes.

6 ECOL project continuation

6.1 Main activities for the near future.

Mr. Ton Klijn suggests to focus on establishing more MRA's starting with Belgium, Denmark and Germany. Mr. Kim Hvolbøl assures the meeting he will bring up the topic of mutual recognition at the next TUR meeting in Denmark. Also the chair informs the meeting that Belgium is arranging an audit by Lloyds in order to accredit the Belgian training centre. Unfortunately the COVID-19 virus has delayed this process.

6.2 Planning of the future expert group activities/meetings

The ECOL experts board will assemble three [3] times per year. The first [1] meeting took place in Amsterdam, the second [2] in Italy.

The third [3] meeting was planned on April 24th, 2020 coinciding with the ESTA Spring meeting, but also postponed by the COVID-19 virus and replaced by this TelCon Meeting

As we scheduled a fourth [4] Expert Committee meeting and the first [1] Participants meeting on September 10th, 2020 at the Sheraton Hotel Schiphol airport we have to keep a close eye on the developments in order to decide if these meetings are feasible to organize. If not we will schedule for a TelCon meeting again.

7 Any other business and closure

Mr. Kim Hvolbøl suggests creating a checklist for the examinations presented at the examination committee as well. Currently there are a lot of documents to be approved and not always presented in a logical order. Mr. Ton Klijn confirms he has recognised the issue and will develop a more concise document for the examination committee to base their approval upon.

Mr. Giovanni Pauwels prefers having these Expert Committee meetings through TelCon in the future as physical meetings are now more or less banned by VDAB.

As there are no more topics for any other business Mr. Ton Klijn closes the meeting and thanks all the participants for their contribution.