

EDUCATION & EXPERIENCE

- ▶ Some companies require completion of Grade 12; some do not.
- ▶ Completion of a one- to two-year apprenticeship program; or
- ▶ Some high school, college or industry courses in heavy equipment operating combined with on-the-job training.

TRAINING

The Industry Training Authority (www.itabc.ca) has some good information about becoming a Heavy Equipment Operator. A number of public and private institutions offer heavy equipment operator courses, including Coast Mountain College. If you are interested in completing Grade 12 or upgrading your skills, you have a number of options. Check out adult basic education programs at:

- ▶ The College of New Caledonia (CNC).
- ▶ Coast Mountain College.

If you have your Grade 12 and are interested in exploring your career options in exploration and mining, contact:

- ▶ General educational advisors or First Nations Access coordinators at Coast Mountain College.
- ▶ School of Exploration & Mining advisors at Coast Mountain College.
- ▶ Academic advisors at the College of New Caledonia.

CAREER ADVANCEMENT POTENTIAL

- ▶ Progression to supervisory positions is possible with experience.

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATORS

Heavy equipment operators work with machinery such as heavy articulating rock trucks, loaders, excavators, backhoes, bulldozers and graders. They work on the construction and maintenance of roads, bridges, airports, gas and oil pipelines, tunnels, buildings and other structures; in surface mining and quarrying activities; and in material handling. They are employed by construction companies, heavy equipment contractors, public works departments and pipeline, logging, cargo-handling and other companies.

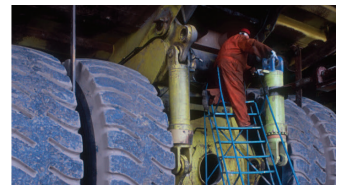


Image source: MiHR Council and iStock

JOB DESCRIPTION

If you're a heavy equipment operator, you'll perform some or all of the following duties.

- ▶ Operate heavy equipment such as backhoes, bulldozers, loaders and graders to excavate, move, load and grade earth, rock, gravel or other materials during construction and related activities.
- ▶ Operate bulldozers or other heavy equipment to clear brush and stumps prior to logging activities and to build roads at logging and surface mining sites.
- ▶ Operate heavy equipment with pile driver head to drive piling into earth to provide support for buildings, bridges or other structures.
- ▶ Operate heavy dredging equipment to deepen waterways or reclaim earth fill.
- ▶ Operate power shovels to excavate rock, ore or other materials from open-pit mines, strip mines, quarries or construction pits.
- ▶ Operate heavy equipment to move, load and unload cargo.
- ▶ Conduct pre-operational checks on equipment and clean, lubricate and refill equipment.