

7421 Heavy Equipment Operators

Heavy equipment operators operate heavy equipment used in 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 work. They are employed by construction companies, heavy equipment contractors, public works departments and pipeline, logging, cargo-handling and other companies.

Example Titles

Backhoe Operator
Bulldozer Operator
Excavator Operator
Gradall Operator
Grader Operator
Heavy Equipment Operator
Heavy Equipment Operator Apprentice
Loader Operator – Construction
Side Boom Tractor Operator
Surface Mining Equipment Operator

Main Duties

Heavy equipment operators 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 heavy paving and surfacing equipment to lay, spread or compact concrete, asphalt and other surface materials during highway and road construction;
- 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.

Employment Requirements

- Some secondary school education is required.
- 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 are required.
- Trade certification is compulsory in Quebec and available, but voluntary, in Newfoundland and the Northwest Territories.
- Internal company certification may be required by some employers.

Additional Information

- Progression to supervisory positions is possible with experience.

Classified Elsewhere

Contractors and Supervisors, Heavy Construction Equipment Crews (7217)

Crane Operators (7371)

Forklift and Industrial Truck Operators (in 7452 Material Handlers)

Logging Machinery Operators (8241)

Underground Production and Development Miners (8231)

Other Titles

aerial tram operator
apprentice heavy equipment operator
asphalt batch plant operator
asphalt plant operator
asphalt roller operator
asphalt spreader operator
asphalt street paver operator
asphalt-grooving machine operator
asphalt-paving machine operator
asphalt-paving screed operator
backhoe operator
bituminous paver operator - heavy equipment
bobcat operator
boom-conveyor operator
bucketwheel operator
bucketwheel-excavator operator
buggy-operator skinner
buggy-scraper operator
bulldozer driver
bulldozer operator
cat operator
cat skinner
caterpillar car operator
caterpillar operator

horizontal earth-boring machine operator
hydraulic excavator operator
industrial backhoe operator
loader operator - construction
marine railway operator
mining shovel operator (except underground)
mobile support equipment operator (heavy equipment) - military
mole operator
mucker operator - construction
mucking machine operator - construction
operating engineer, heavy equipment operator, asphalt plant operator, heavy construction-equipment operator, pile-driving hammer operator, side boom tractor
paver operator
payloader operator
peat-moss-cutting machine operator
peat-moss-gathering machine operator
pile driver winch operator
pile-driving hammer operator
pipelayer operator
power grader operator

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concrete spreader operator - heavy equipment
concrete-grooving machine operator
concrete-paving machine operator
construction equipment operator
continuous bucket excavator operator
crawler tractor operator
ditcher operator - construction
ditching machine operator
dozer operator
dredge operator
dredge runner
earth-moving equipment operator
electrical equipment operator - shovel
elevating grader operator
elevating scraper operator
equipment operator, heavy-duty
excavating machine operator
excavator operator
field engineer equipment operator - military
front end loader operator
gradall operator
grader operator
groove-cutting machine operator
grooving machine operator - heavy equipment
hammer operator, pile driving
heater-planer operator
heavy construction-equipment operator
heavy equipment operator
heavy equipment operator apprentice
heavy-duty equipment operator
heavy-duty equipment operator apprentice
ho-ram operator
power shovel operator
pulvimixer operator
ripper operator - heavy equipment
road grader operator
road mixer operator
road planer operator
road roller operator
roller operator
rotary trencher operator
scarifier operator
scraper operator
screed operator, asphalt paving
shield operator
shovel operator - heavy equipment
side boom operator - pipeline construction
side boom tractor operator
snow-grooming machine operator
spreader operator - heavy equipment
stacker operator - heavy equipment
street paver operator
street paver, asphalt operator
stripping shovel operator
structural hydraulic jack erector
surface mining equipment operator
track-loader operator
tractor operator - construction
tractor-excavator operator
trench-digging machine operator
trenching machine operator
tunnelling machine operator
vibratory road roller operator
vibratory roller operator

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