



HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

shift supervisor, senior equipment operator, apprentice heavy equipment operator, heavy equipment operator, heavy-duty equipment operator

In the forest products industry, heavy equipment operators operate machines like articulated haul trucks, tractor-loader-backhoes, excavators, dozers, loaders and graders. Their duties may include assessing sites and terrain. You may also do material handling work – say, stacking lumber and getting it ready for shipping. Being a heavy equipment operator is a fast-paced, physically demanding job that requires attention to detail and good hand-eye co-ordination.

You could also find yourself driving heavy equipment to perform a combination of operations at logging areas, like harvesting sections of trees for processing in a sawmill. To do this, you would operate a \$300,000-feller-buncher machine on a caterpillar track. Manipulating a powerful, but precise, arm with a saw lets heavy equipment operators practise selective, sustainable harvesting.

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES



Heavy equipment operators perform a wide range of technical functions.

On any given day, you might:

- Harvest and debark trees
- Excavate, move, load and grade earth, rock, gravel or other materials
- Clear brush and stumps prior to logging
- Build roads at logging sites
- Move, load and unload cargo

EDUCATION AND TRAINING



Generally, you don't need formal credentials to be a heavy equipment operator. Instead, heavy equipment operators rely on accumulated experience to get and keep jobs. In Nova Scotia, operators must be certified, which involves passing a test. In Quebec, you have to pass four exams. In B.C., you need to complete a specific number of trainee hours to be certified. There are numerous training programs across the country.

Here is a complete list of Canadian Universities and Colleges:
thegreenestworkforce.ca/education

Notice

The requirements listed are generally required qualifications for this Career Type. The qualifications may vary based on the employer and/or the geographic location of that job.

THIS JOB IS RIGHT FOR YOU IF:



- You want to live an oversized life in one of Canada's beautiful forest communities
- A sense of community is important to you
- You want to make a difference working in a green job
- You like the outdoors
- You are a team player
- You like big machines
- You want to work in work boots, not dress shoes

DARE TO COMPARE

See how much time and money you would save by moving to a forest community.

thegreenestworkforce.ca/compare

If you want good pay, opportunities to learn on the job, a great lifestyle and the chance to work in Canada's Greenest Workforce, then the forest products industry is right for you.