

Crane Operator (Conventional/Hydraulic)

Conventional Mobile Crane

Crane and hoisting equipment operators service and operate the hoist and swing equipment used to move machinery, materials and other large objects. Conventional mobile crane operators service and operate booms that are mounted on crawlers or wheeled frames as well as travelling, fixed or climbing type hoisting equipment with a vertical mast or tower and a jib.

Operators manipulate a number of pedals and levers to rotate the crane, and raise and lower its boom and one or more load lines. Some or all of these operations may be performed simultaneously.

Certification is required when operating mobile cranes with a lifting capacity of fifteen tons (13.6 tonnes) and over. Mobile crane operator also may drive the crane to the job site, rig the machine up (pin the boom and pendant cables and pull the hoist cable in preparation for operation), and set up the machine for the lift (i.e., make it level and stable) using blocking and levelling materials.

Working Conditions

Crane and hoisting equipment operator – conventional mobile crane (conventional mobile crane operator) work outdoors, often in noisy, dusty conditions. A 40-hour, five-day week is normal, but overtime may be required to meet construction deadlines.

Occupational hazards include injuries resulting from power line contact, crane overload, falls, weather conditions or manual lifting.

Heavy Boom Truck

Crane and hoisting equipment operators service and operate the hoist and swing equipment used to move machinery, materials and other large objects. Heavy boom truck operators set up, service and operate hydraulic booms that are mounted on a turret that is affixed to a truck or a fifth wheel and are capable of moving heavy loads.

Operators manipulate a number of pedals and levers to rotate the crane and raise and lower loads. They often perform all or some of these operations simultaneously.

Certification is required when operating boom trucks with a lifting capacity of 20 tons (18 tonnes) or greater.



Working Conditions

Crane and hoisting equipment operator – heavy boom truck (heavy boom truck operator) work outdoors, often in noisy, dusty conditions. A 40-hour, five-day week is normal, but overtime may be required to meet construction deadlines.

Occupational hazards include injuries resulting from power line contact, crane overload, falls, weather conditions or manual lifting.

Working in Alberta

To work as a Conventional Mobile Crane Operator in Alberta, a person must be a registered apprentice or a certified journeyperson or hold a recognized trade certificate.

A conventional mobile crane operator who holds a certificate that was issued by another recognized apprenticeship authority in Canada (province, territory or federal jurisdiction) may apply for an Alberta Equivalency document under the Equivalency Program.

Conventional mobile crane operators who:

- Hold a non-recognized Canadian credential in an Alberta-designated trade, OR
- Can demonstrate skills and experience in an Alberta-designated trade that meets standards set for journeypersons in Alberta may be eligible to apply for trade certification under the Qualification Certificate Program.

Individuals possessing a valid Alberta Journeyman Certificate, an Alberta Occupational Certificate, or a credential that is recognized as equivalent to an Alberta trade or occupational certificate are eligible to receive a Blue Seal business credential after completing the necessary requirements.

Apprenticeship Training

There is no apprenticeship program for the Conventional Mobile Crane Operator trade at this time. There is only an apprenticeship program for the full Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator – Mobile Crane trade.



Interprovincial Standards (Red Seal) Program

The Conventional Mobile Crane Operator trade does not participate in the Interprovincial Standards (Red Seal) Program.

Equivalency Program

To qualify for an Equivalency document *based on a recognized credential*, a person must:

- Have a valid trade credential issued by another Canadian province or territory or by the Department of National Defence
 - completion of apprenticeship certificate, OR
 - other recognized trade credential
- Complete the Equivalency Application and deliver it in person to an Apprenticeship and Industry Training Office. Government issued photo identification is required.
- Pay the non-refundable application fee as identified on the application noted above

A person who has a recognized certificate, as described above, does not require an Alberta Equivalency document to work in the trade in Alberta. However, some employers may require an Alberta Equivalency document as proof that the certificate is equivalent to the requirements of the trade in Alberta.

Qualification Certificate Program

To qualify for a Qualification Certificate *based on Canadian credentials*, a person must:

- Have a valid trade credential issued by another Canadian province or territory or by the Department of National Defence, and the credential is NOT recognized as being equivalent to a trade certificate issued by Alberta
- Complete the Qualification Certificate – Canadian Credentials Application and submit it to an Apprenticeship and Industry Training Office.
- Pay the non-refundable application fee as identified on the application noted above
- Prepare for the exam(s) (see Exam Counselling Sheets)



- review the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Policy on Cheating
- review available resource materials (see Resource Materials - Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator - Conventional Mobile Crane)
- Successfully complete the required exam(s)

To qualify for an Alberta Qualification Certificate *based on work experience*, a person must:

- Have at least 6,750 hours and 54 months of 'hands-on' work experience as a conventional mobile crane operator
- There are exceptions if the applicant has a recognized journeyperson certificate in a related trade
 - a certified heavy boom truck operator (or old boom truck) must have at least 3,750 hours and 29 months of 'hands-on' work experience as a conventional mobile crane operator
 - a certified medium boom truck operator must have at least 5,250 hours and 44 months of 'hands-on' work experience as a conventional mobile crane operator
 - a certified wellhead boom truck operator must have at least 6,600 hours and 53 months of 'hands-on' work experience as a conventional mobile crane operator
 - a certified tower crane operator must have at least 4,500 hours and 38 months of 'hands-on' work experience as a conventional mobile crane operator

Time spent on supervisory or foreman duties, counter work, heading the tool crib, or on a training course is NOT counted as 'hands-on' work experience.

- Complete the Qualification Certificate - Work Experience Application and submit it to an Apprenticeship and Industry Training Office
- Pay the non-refundable fees as identified on the application noted above

This application fee covers the verification and assessment of the applicant's work experience hours/months as well as one attempt at the Qualification Certificate theory examination. The Qualification Certificate practical examination requires a separate fee as identified on the application noted above.



- Prepare for the exam(s)
 - review the Apprenticeship and Industry Training Policy on Cheating
 - review available resource materials (see Resource Materials - Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator - Conventional Mobile Crane)
- Successfully complete the required exam(s)

