

# 7371 Crane Operators

Crane operators operate cranes or draglines to lift, move, position or place machinery, equipment and other large objects at construction or industrial sites, ports, railway yards, surface mines and other similar locations. They are employed by construction, industrial, mining, cargo handling and railway companies.

## Example Titles

- apprentice mobile crane operator
- apprentice operator, mobile crane
- boat crane operator
- boom crane operator
- boom truck crane operator
- boom truck hoist operator
- bridge crane operator
- cantilever crane operator
- cinder crane operator
- climbing crane operator
- climbing tower crane operator
- construction crane operator
- crane and hoisting equipment operator
- crane hoist operator
- crane operator
- crane operator apprentice
- crane operator, drilling rig
- crawler crane operator
- demolition crane operator
- dragline crane operator
- dragline operator – crane
- drilling rig crane operator
- electric crane operator
- electric dragline operator
- electric gantry crane operator
- electric monorail crane operator
- electrical equipment operator – Derrick
- floating crane operator
- gantry crane operator
- hoist operator – foundry
- hoist operator (except underground mining)
- hoist operator, boom truck
- hoist operator, crane
- hot metal crane operator
- jib crane operator
- ladle crane operator
- locomotive crane operator

- locomotive craneman/woman
- mechanical hoist operator
- mobile crane operator
- monorail crane operator
- operator, boom truck hoist
- overhead crane operator
- pile driving crane operator
- power crane operator
- rail crane operator
- railway car puller – crane
- rigger (except shipbuilding and aircraft assembly)
- ship crane operator
- skip operator
- tower crane operator
- tractor crane operator
- truck crane operator
- walking bridge crane operator
- wrecking crane operator

## **Main duties**

Crane operators perform some or all of the following duties:

- Operate mobile and tower cranes to lift, move, position or place equipment and materials
- Perform pre-operational inspection, and calculate crane capacities and weight to prepare for rigging and hoisting
- Operate pile driving cranes to drive pilings into earth to provide support for buildings and other structures
- Operate cranes equipped with dredging attachments to dredge waterways and other areas
- Operate gantry cranes to load and unload ship cargo at port side
- Operate locomotive cranes to move objects and materials at railway yards
- Operate bridge or overhead cranes to lift, move and place plant machinery and materials
- Operate offshore oil rig cranes to unload and reload supply vessels
- Operate cranes mounted on boats or barges to lift, move and place equipment and materials
- Operate dragline cranes to expose coal seams and ore deposits at open pit mines
- May assemble tower cranes on site
- Perform routine maintenance work such as cleaning and lubricating cranes.

## **Employment requirements**

- Completion of secondary school is usually required.

- Completion of a one- to three-year apprenticeship program  
*or*  
High school, college or industry courses in crane operating are usually required.
- Trade certification as a hoist operator is compulsory in Quebec and available, but voluntary, in Saskatchewan.
- Boom truck crane operator trade certification is compulsory in Manitoba and Alberta and available, but voluntary, in Saskatchewan, British Columbia, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.
- Mobile crane operator (8-15 tons) trade certification is compulsory in Ontario and available, but voluntary, in New Brunswick.
- Tower crane operator trade certification is compulsory in Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta, and is available, but voluntary, in Newfoundland and Labrador, Saskatchewan and British Columbia.
- Trade certification as a hoist operator (hydraulic crane) is available, but voluntary, in Saskatchewan and British Columbia.
- Mobile crane operator trade certification is compulsory in Quebec, Ontario, Manitoba and Alberta and available, but voluntary, in all other provinces, Nunavut and the Northwest Territories.
- Mobile crane operators may require a provincial licence to drive mobile cranes on public roads.
- Internal company certification as a crane operator may be required by some employers.
- Interprovincial trade certification (Red Seal) is also available to mobile crane operators.

### **Additional information**

- Progression to supervisory positions is possible with experience.
- Red Seal trade certification for mobile crane operators allows for interprovincial mobility.

### **Classified elsewhere**

- *Heavy Equipment Operators (Except Crane)* ([7421](#))
- Hoist operators – underground mining (in [8231](#) *Underground Production and Development Miners* )

- Supervisors of crane operators (in [7217](#) *Contractors and Supervisors, Heavy Construction Equipment Crews* )