



# Heavy Duty Equipment Technician

*Heavy Duty Equipment Technicians examine, test, repair and maintain heavy mobile equipment such as cranes, paving equipment, off-road haulers, and earthmovers. This equipment is used in the following industries: construction, logging, mining, forestry, material handling, landscaping, land clearing, farming and transportation. Heavy Duty Equipment Technicians service spark ignition and diesel engines on highway transport vehicles, construction and earth-moving equipment, tractors and mobile industrial equipment. They clean, lubricate and maintain equipment, repair or replace defective parts, components or systems using hand and power tools and test repaired equipment.*

*This trade is divided into four craft areas:*

- ❖ Truck-Trailer Repairer*
- ❖ Truck and Transport Mechanic*
- ❖ Heavy Equipment Mechanic (Off-Road)*
- ❖ Heavy Duty Equipment Technician*

## THE JOB

### WORKING CONDITIONS

The working environment for Heavy Duty Equipment Technician varies considerably from one job to another. Some Heavy Duty Equipment Technicians work in modern laboratories overhauling fuel injection pumps and delivery systems. Others work in construction fields, sometimes in an oily or greasy environment or in inclement weather. Lifting equipment weighing over 25 kilograms may be required. There is some risk of injury involved in working with heavy equipment and power tools.

### WAGES

Apprentices earn at least 50% of the prevailing journeyperson wage in the first period, 60% in the second, 70% in the third and 80% in the fourth. The average wage for a qualified Heavy Duty Equipment Technician is \$23-\$30 per hour.

## EMPLOYMENT AND ADVANCEMENT

Heavy Duty Equipment Technicians are employed by firms that own or lease heavy equipment used in the construction, mining, forestry, material handling, landscaping, land clearing, agriculture and transportation industries. In industries that are sensitive to economic changes, Heavy Duty Equipment Technicians may experience periods of unemployment.

Experienced Heavy Duty Equipment Technicians may advance to shop supervisor or service manager positions. With additional training they can transfer their skills and knowledge to positions in sales, purchasing, planning or preventative maintenance, or related occupations such as Aircraft Maintenance Engineer, Agricultural Mechanic, Millwright or Automotive Service Technician.

## THE APPRENTICESHIP

### EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND AND SKILLS

To enter the Heavy Duty Equipment Technician trade, an applicant must score at least 70% on the Trade Entrance Exam. The applicant must also find an appropriate employer who is willing to hire and train the apprentice.

Students enrolled in Schools North Apprenticeship Program (SNAP) are given special exemption, and are required to write the trades entrance examination prior to signing the apprenticeship contract. They must obtain 50% on the examination to be eligible for the program.

Desirable qualities include: mechanical ability, motor coordination and manual dexterity. Technicians should also enjoy using tools and equipment to perform tasks requiring precision.

### APPRENTICESHIP TERM

The apprenticeship term for a Truck-Trailer Repairer is one year. This includes one employment period of 1,800 hours and one classroom-training period of eight weeks.

The apprenticeship term for a Truck and Transport Mechanic is three years and includes three employment periods of not less than 1,800 hours each, and three classroom-training periods of eight weeks each.

The apprenticeship term for a Heavy Equipment Mechanic (Off-Road) is three years and includes three employment periods of not less than 1,800 hours each, and three classroom-training periods of eight weeks each.

The apprenticeship term for a Heavy Duty Equipment Technician is four years. This includes: four employment periods of not less than 1,800 hours each and four classroom-training periods of eight weeks each.



### **DESIGNATION**

Upon successful completion of the apprenticeship, graduate apprentices receive a Northwest Territories Completion of Apprenticeship Certificate and a Certificate of Qualification.

### **TRADES QUALIFICATION**

Available for the 1 year Heavy Duty Equipment Technician - Truck-Trailer Repairer with 3600 hours of verified trade experience and written examination.

Available for the 3 year Heavy Duty Equipment Technician - Truck and Transport Mechanic with 7200 hours of verified trade experience and written examination.

Available for the 3 year Heavy Duty Equipment Technician - Heavy Equipment Mechanic (Off-Road) with 7200 hours of verified trade experience and written examination.

Available for the 4 year Heavy Duty Equipment Technician with 9,000 hours of verified trade experience and written examination.

### **INTERPROVINCIAL RED SEAL**

An Interprovincial Red Seal is available for the Heavy Duty Equipment Technician - Truck and Transport Mechanic. An Interprovincial Red Seal is also available for the Heavy Duty Equipment Mechanic (Off-Road) Apprenticeship.

