

<b>JOB TITLE: EARTHWORKS OPERATOR</b>	
<b>ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITY</b>	<b>DAILY ACTIVITIES</b>
<p>Plant operators on civil construction project sites operate large, powerful earthmoving equipment. By way of example, plant operators may dig trenches and excavate bulk earthworks in an excavator, place and trim earthworks and gravels in a grader, or rip rock and push dirt in a dozer.</p> <p>Some operators over a period of years will acquire the skills to operate many and varied types of equipment, while some may specialise in a particular class or type.</p> <p>As the work is mainly outdoors, working conditions are governed by the weather to some extent. Civil construction plant operators work on a variety of sites with modern earthmoving equipment having soundproofed and air-conditioned cabs and using computer technology.</p>	<p>The following are a range of tasks performed in the occupation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Plant operators are responsible for the safe and efficient operation of their machine;</li> <li>• Preparing machines for operation;</li> <li>• Operating the machines and all attachments;</li> <li>• Driving machines to and from work sites;</li> <li>• Cleaning, lubricating and re-fuelling machines and performing minor repairs and adjustments when necessary; and</li> <li>• Mixing and processing different types of materials.</li> </ul> 

<b>QUALIFICATION PRE-REQUISITE</b>	<b>CAREER DEVELOPMENT</b>
<p>At this stage there is no educational pre-requisite required to enter into this career, but usually you will have completed a minimum of Grade 10 or equivalent.</p> <p>Formal training will be provided once your are employed.</p>	<p>There are job opportunities for Plant Operators on projects of varying sizes around the country - in cities, rural and sometimes remote areas. Major employers include civil contracting firms, mining companies and state and local government authorities.</p> <p>With more training and experience, you could be in line for promotion into a supervisory position such as leading hand or foreman.</p>

<p><b>PERSONAL REQUIREMENTS</b></p> <p>To be successful in this occupation you should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Enjoy practical and manual work;</li> <li>• Be physically fit;</li> <li>• Have good eyesight and coordination skills;</li> <li>• Enjoy working outdoors;</li> <li>• Have good communication skills;</li> <li>• Be able to work in a team environment;</li> <li>• Be alert and observant;</li> <li>• Be safety conscious;</li> <li>• Be self motivated;</li> <li>• Knowledge and persistence;</li> <li>• Experience in the operation of specific plant;</li> <li>• Knowledge of service requirements for plant operated;</li> <li>• Knowledge of, and experience in roadworks, earthworks and drainage construction and maintenance methods;</li> </ul>		<p><b>CHALLENGES</b></p> <p>The following are some of the daily challenges associated to this job:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Safety is very important and the public and employees sometimes disobey the rules and take shortcuts over the site or road you are constructing;</li> <li>• When we behind schedule due to rain or broken down equipment and the pressure to complete the work is mounting;</li> <li>• When you have to work at dangerous levels or slopes.</li> </ul>
<p><b>JOB SATISFACTION</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• I enjoy my work everyday and especially once I have finished the product;</li> <li>• When you completed the day and you can see the amount of earth you have moved - this has made me proud;</li> <li>• Working with people;</li> <li>• If you have no equipment failure due to proper maintenance.</li> </ul>	<p><b>ADVICE FOR JOB SEEKERS</b></p> <p>People interested in this career should:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Have dedication;</li> <li>• think before you take on task;</li> <li>• don't play, work hard; and</li> <li>• Communicate well with your team.</li> <li>• Be prepared to learn</li> <li>• Enjoy machinery</li> </ul>	
	<p><b>WORKING ENVIRONMENT</b></p> <p>A Plant Operator has to move from job site to job site, as they are needed. They often have to live away from home for long periods of time.</p> <p>Their work is conducted outside and is affected by weather conditions.</p>	
<p><b>EDUCATION AND TRAINING</b></p> <p>The path you select to become a skilled plant operator will depend on your individual circumstances and the outcome that is required. If you are employed you can get a plant operator qualification through on the job training and assessment in an individual item of plant.</p> <p>You can also become a plant operator with all of the underpinning civil construction skills through a Learnership in Construction Plant NQF Level 2 and Advance Plant NQF Level 3.</p>	<p><b>LENGTH OF STUDY</b></p> <p>The Learnership will range between 15 to 18 months based on the availability of all the</p> <p>Certificate of Competency that has a two year currency for the various types of equipment is required.</p> <p>The Learnership involves a combination of on and off the job training</p>	