

HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR

Occupation Description

“Heavy Equipment Operator” means a person who operates heavy machinery universally for all manner of heavy construction, earth moving, road building, mining, and forestry projects. Certified operators may also be responsible for basic maintenance of equipment, safety around equipment and the compliance of (following protecting) markers, grades and stakes.

For detailed information on the scope of knowledge and skills taught and assessed in this program refer to the Program Outline, available on the SkilledTradesBC website.

Pathways to Certification

In BC, an individual can become certified as a Heavy Equipment Operator by completing the Heavy Equipment Operator program or by challenging the certification. Apprenticeship programs are for individuals who have an employer to sponsor them and challenge programs are for individuals who have extensive experience working in the occupation and wish to challenge the certification.

Youth can begin an apprenticeship in high school through the Youth Train in Trades or Youth Work in Trades programs. The Youth Work in Trades program is available for any trade if an employer is willing to sponsor the student. Trades offered through the Youth Train in Trades vary by region; contact your local school district to find out which technical training programs are being offered through the Youth Train in Trades program in your region.

Foundation programs, where available, provide adults and youth who do not have work experience or employer sponsorship with an opportunity to gain the knowledge and skills needed to enter the occupation. Individuals who wish to enroll in a Foundation program must register directly with the training provider.

Recommended Education

The following education is recommended for apprentices entering this occupation. These are not prerequisites, but rather a desired level of skill or knowledge that will contribute to success in the industry.

- Grade 10 or equivalent, including English 10 and Math 10

SkilledTradesBC Registration

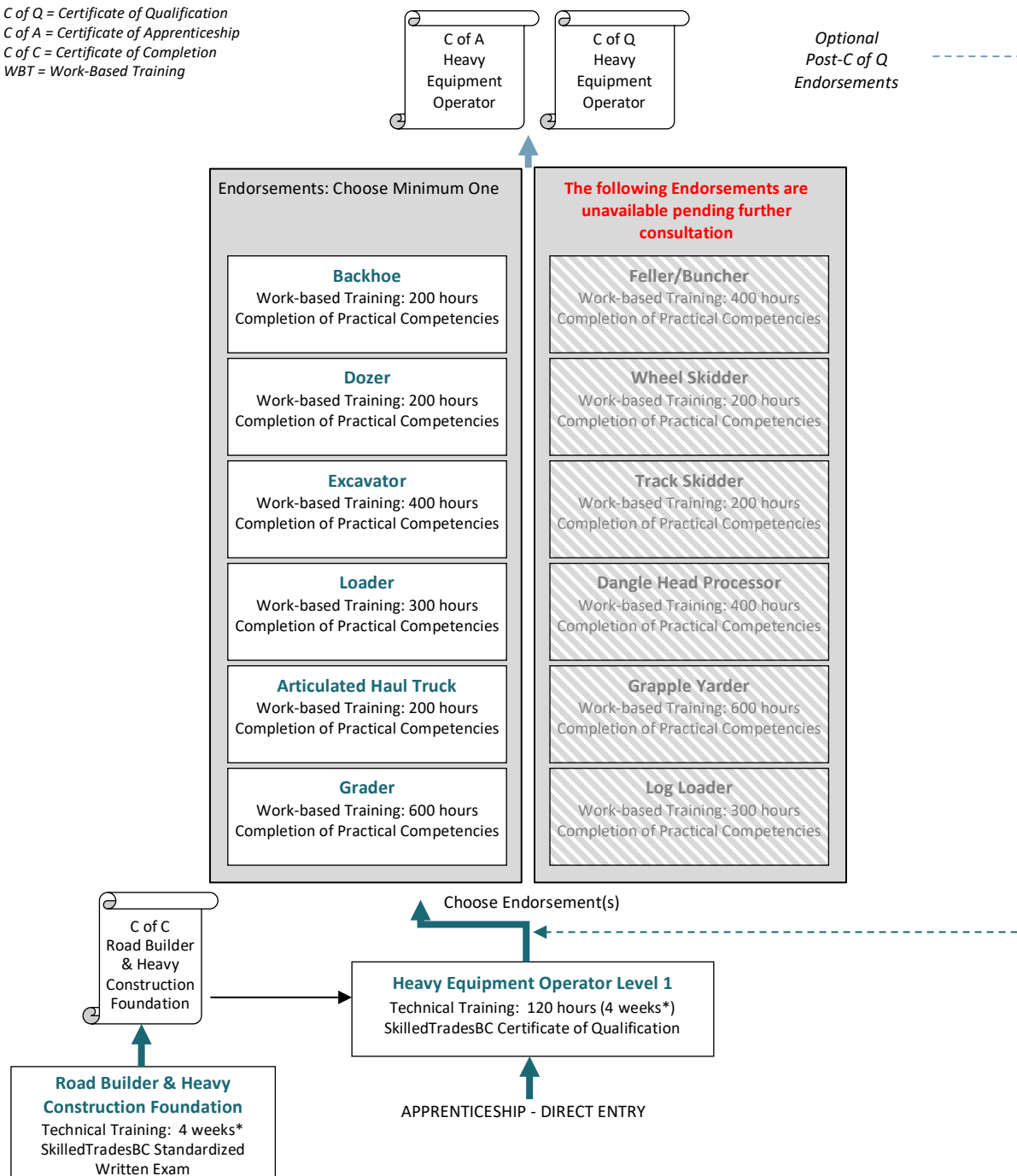
Individuals who wish to begin an apprenticeship in this program must register with SkilledTradesBC along with their sponsor. Application forms for all programs are available from the SkilledTradesBC website. Online registration is also available for most programs through the SkilledTradesBC website.

Those who wish to challenge the Heavy Equipment Operator certification must complete the Heavy Equipment Operator Challenge Application and submit it to SkilledTradesBC. Challenge applications are assessed for proof of workplace hours and scope of experience prior to acceptance of the individual into the Challenge pathway.

Apprenticeship Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Heavy Equipment Operator apprenticeship pathway.

C of Q = Certificate of Qualification
C of A = Certificate of Apprenticeship
C of C = Certificate of Completion
WBT = Work-Based Training



*Suggested duration based on 30 hour week

CROSS-PROGRAM CREDITS

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program

None

Apprenticeship Program Standards

Credentials Awarded

- Heavy Equipment Operator – Certificate of Qualification
- Heavy Equipment Operator – Certificate of Apprenticeship

SkilledTradesBC

Registration Prerequisites

- Agreement signed by the employer to sponsor the apprentice
- Successful completion of the Road Builder and Heavy Construction Foundation Program or minimum 1,800 hours directly-related work experience
- **Note:** Apprentices with work experience in this trade who wish to be exempted from the Road Builder and Heavy Construction Foundation course must submit a *Foundation Exemption Request for Heavy Equipment Operator* form completed by their employer/sponsor.

Completion Requirements Certification as a Heavy Equipment Operator is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement

Level of Achievement Required

Technical Training

- Minimum 70% in technical training (120 hours)

SkilledTradesBC Certificate of Qualification Exam

- Minimum 70%

Completion of minimum one of the following endorsement(s):

Logbook OR Declaration of Work Experience signed-off by employer/sponsor showing achievement of 100% of competencies and completion of work-based training hours for at least one endorsement. Please submit to SkilledTradesBC for assessment and verification.

- Articulated Haul/Rock Truck
- Backhoe
- Dozer
- Excavator
- Loader
- Grader

- Work-based Training: 200 hours
- Work-based Training: 200 hours
- Work-based Training: 200 hours
- Work-based Training: 400 hours
- Work-based Training: 300 hours
- Work-based Training: 600 hours

The following Endorsements are unavailable pending further consultation

- Feller/Buncher
- Wheel Skidder
- Track Skidder
- Dangle Head
- Grapple Yarder
- Log Loader
- Work-based Training: 400 hours
- Work-based Training: 200 hours
- Work-based Training: 200 hours
- Work-based Training: 400 hours
- Work-based Training: 600 hours
- Work-based Training: 300 hours

(Additional endorsements may be earned after certification has been awarded, and added to the original Certificate of Qualification.

Program Duration

Duration varies depending on how the training is delivered, but the program generally takes one year to complete.

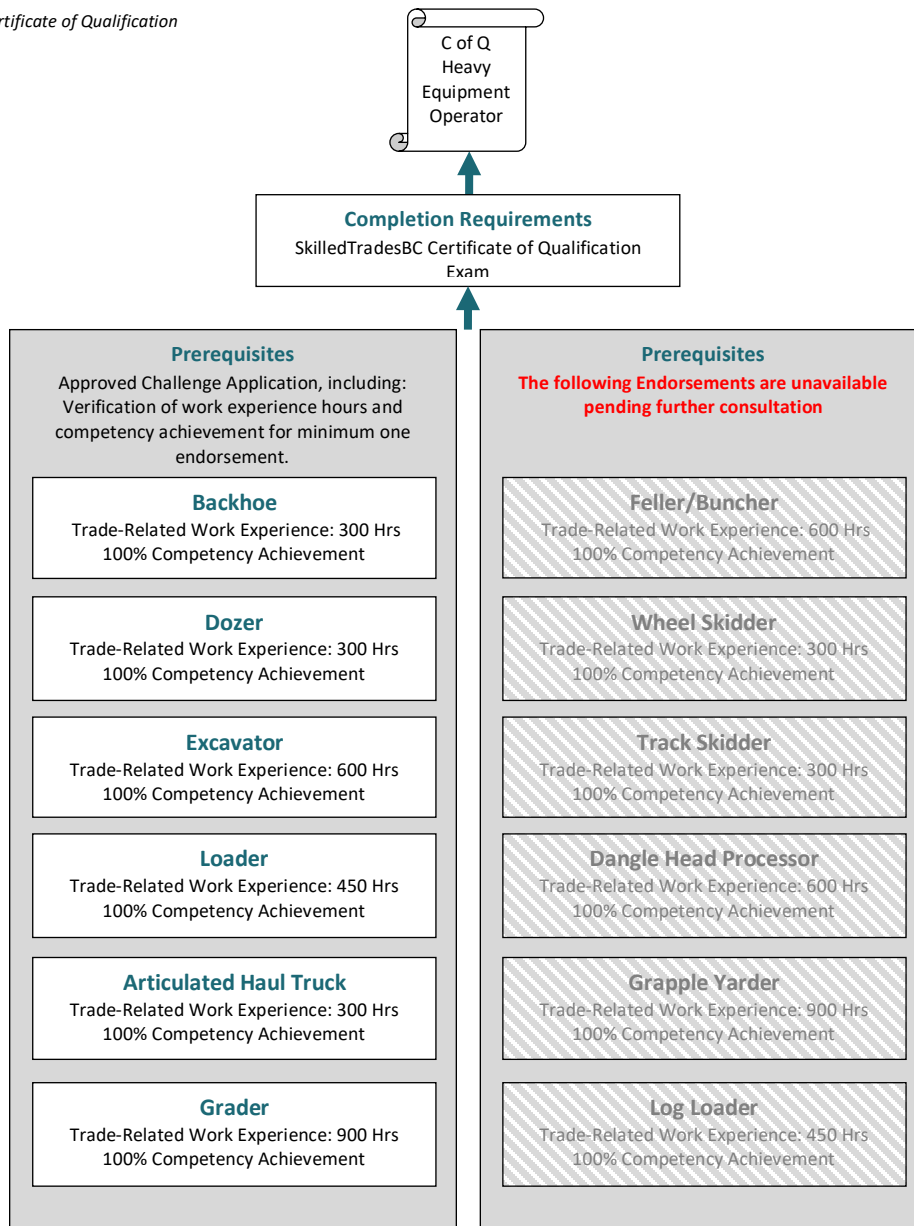
The technical training requirement is typically met through block-release training (full-time, at school) delivered by a SkilledTradesBC-approved training provider. It can also be met through approved alternative training models (e.g., distance education, online, part-time) and/or level challenge where these options are available.

Apprenticeship Program Standards		
Challenging a Level	The following levels of technical training can be challenged for advanced placement in this program	
	Level	Prerequisites
	▪ None	▪ N/A
Cross-Program Credits	Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program	
	Credential	Credit(s) Granted
	N/A	▪ N/A

Challenge Pathway

This graphic provides an overview of the Heavy Equipment Operator challenge pathway.

C of Q = Certificate of Qualification



CREDIT FOR PRIOR LEARNING

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are entitled to receive partial credit toward the completion requirements of this program

None

Challenge Program Standards

Credentials Awarded

Heavy Equipment Operator – Certificate of Qualification

SkilledTradesBC

Registration Prerequisites

An approved Challenge Application, which includes:

- Documented hours of directly related work experience and evidence of achievement of 100% competencies for at least one endorsement below:
 - Backhoe
 - Dozer
 - Excavator
 - Loader
 - Articulated Haul Truck
 - Grader
- Work-based Training: 300 hours
- Work-based Training: 300 hours
- Work-based Training: 600 hours
- Work-based Training: 450 hours
- Work-based Training: 300 hours
- Work-based Training: 900 hours

The following Endorsements are unavailable pending further consultation.

- Feller/Buncher
- Wheel Skidder
- Track Skidder
- Dangle Head Processor
- Grapple Yarder
- Log Loader
- Work-based Training: 600 hours
- Work-based Training: 300 hours
- Work-based Training: 300 hours
- Work-based Training: 600 hours
- Work-based Training: 900 hours
- Work-based Training: 450 hours

Credit for Prior Learning

Individuals who hold the credentials listed below are considered to have met, or partially met, the prerequisites for challenging this program:

Credential

Credit(s) Granted

N/A

- N/A

Completion Requirements

Certification as a Heavy Equipment Operator is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement

Level of Achievement Required

SkilledTradesBC Certificate of Qualification Exam

- Minimum 70%

Foundation Program

Refer to the Apprenticeship pathway diagram for this program to see how the Road Builders & Heavy Construction Foundation program leads to apprenticeship in this trade.

Foundation Program Standards

Credentials Awarded Road Builder and Heavy Construction Foundation – Certificate of Completion

Enrollment Prerequisites Contact training provider. Prerequisites vary between training institutions.

Completion Requirements A Certificate of Completion in this program is awarded upon successful completion of:

Requirement	Level of Achievement Required
Technical Training	▪ Minimum 70%
SkilledTradesBC Standardized Written Exam	▪ Minimum 70%

Program Duration Duration varies depending on how training is delivered, but program generally takes 4 weeks to complete, assuming 30 hours in school per week.

Credit toward Apprenticeship The Road Builder and Heavy Construction Foundation course is a pre-requisite for registering in the Heavy Equipment Operator Apprenticeship program. No credit is given towards the Heavy Equipment Operator program.

Supporting Documents

Heavy Equipment Operator Program Outline (2010) – Defines the full scope of knowledge and skills required to competently perform the occupation in BC. Available from the SkilledTradesBC website.

BC Heavy Equipment Operator Logbook – Used by apprentices and employer/sponsors to document work experience on equipment and verify competency achievement. Available through training providers.

Contacts

SkilledTradesBC manages B.C.'s industry training and apprenticeship programs. Contact SkilledTradesBC Customer service if you have any questions regarding registration, examinations or certification for this program.

Telephone:	778-328-8700	Fax:	778-328-8701
Toll Free (within BC):	1-866-660-6011	Email:	customerservice@skilledtradesbc.ca
Website:	www.skilledtradesbc.ca		

Revision History

The standards for this program were reviewed and/or updated on the dates below.

Program Standards Approved:	May 2006
Updated:	June 2008
Updated:	March 2010
Updated:	April 2016
Updated:	July 2017
Updated:	July 2026

Program Profiles are updated regularly. Visit www.skilledtradesbc.ca for the most current version.