

Hiring Crane & Hoisting Equipment Operators from Ireland

Ireland has a comprehensive system of vocational education, training and certification which operate uniformly throughout the country.

Comparable job title in Ireland

- Mobile Crane Operator

The Mobile Crane Operator is the best match for Alberta employers seeking to recruit tradespeople who have knowledge, skills and experience operating mobile cranes on construction sites.

Scope of occupation

Mobile Crane Operators work in all types of construction including the residential, industrial and commercial sectors.

Mobile Crane Operators in Ireland:

- Read and interpret engineering drawings
- Plan and control lifting and hoisting operations
- Use specialist lifting equipment
- Lift, move and position structural steel, plant and equipment on construction sites

Comparable qualifications in Ireland

Currently there is no structured and comprehensive apprenticeship training program for Mobile Crane Operators in Ireland. Mobile Crane Operators gain their knowledge, skill and competence primarily through on-the-job experience.

Alberta employers should hire Mobile Crane Operators from Ireland with one of the following competence certifications:

- Mobile Crane Operator (FETAC 9540/08/327)
- The Construction Plant Competency Scheme (CPCS)- Category A02 and A04

Foras Aiseanna Saothair (FÁS, pronounced 'force' in Gaelic), the national training and employment authority for Ireland, recognizes the following trade qualification:

- The Construction Plant Competency Scheme (CPCS)

The CPCS scheme recommends a Mobile Crane Operator must have at least 54 months on-the-job experience in the use of the specific equipment, and complete 70 hours of training before they are assessed.

The operator is assessed on practical operation and theoretical knowledge by an appropriately qualified and experienced Mobile Crane Operator.

The CPCS scheme is administered by Construction Skills, the U.K. Sector Skills Council. A qualified Mobile Crane Operator will possess a personal CPCS card which contains:

1. Name
2. Photograph
3. Dates of issue and expiry
4. Type and category of equipment (A02 and/or A04)

Skill gaps

The main area where skill gaps can occur is in the knowledge and experience of using lifting equipment that is specific to the trade in Alberta. Employers are advised to require Mobile Crane Operators from Ireland to possess valid Construction Skills CPCS certification which provides a description of the category of equipment the operator is competent to use. The category definitions are available at www.cskills.org/supportbusiness/cardschemes/availablecardschemes/cpcs.aspx.

Employers should know that a Mobile Crane Operator in Alberta includes hydraulic and conventional mobile cranes. Alberta employers should also consider whether a Mobile Crane Operator has experience working in landscapes and climates similar to Alberta.

Alberta industry standards

Mobile Crane Operators from Ireland must apply to the Alberta Qualification Certificate Program in order to meet Alberta's industry standards. Applicants are responsible for ensuring they have the documentation to support their application. For more information about the program, see Alberta Apprenticeship and Industry Training's website at www.tradesecrets.alberta.ca.

Minimum work experience requirements

Employers must ensure potential recruits meet the minimum work experience requirement of the Alberta Qualification Certificate Program. The general requirement for the Mobile Crane Operator trade is 6,750 hours and 54 months of verifiable hands-on work experience.