

# Hiring Crane & Hoisting Equipment Operators from the United Kingdom

The United Kingdom (U.K.) has a comprehensive system of vocational education, training and certification based on apprenticeship programs which operate throughout England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland.

## Comparable job title in the U.K.

- Mobile Crane Operator

Mobile Crane Operators are also known as:

- Crane Operators
- Hoisting Equipment/Plant Operators

Alberta employers should hire Mobile Crane Operators from the U.K. with training, qualifications and experience in the use of equipment identical or similar to that found in Alberta.

## Scope of occupation

Mobile Crane Operators in the U.K.:

- 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 the U.K.

Mobile Crane Operators undertake a structured and comprehensive training program by completing:

- The Advanced Modern Apprenticeship in Engineering Construction (Moving Loads)

The apprenticeship requires the successful completion of:

- Three (3) years (6,240 hours) on-the-job training and experience
- 10 months (900 hours) in school technical training
- On-the-job occupational competence in the occupational tasks
- Three (3) external trade theory exams
- Two (2) external exams in generic and transferable maths and communications

Qualified Mobile Crane Operators from the U.K. will have completed an appropriate apprenticeship and have a current Construction Plant Certification Scheme (CPCS) card for:

- Mobile Crane Operator (Category A02)

The apprenticeship is designed and administered by the Engineering and Construction Industry Training Board (ECITB) in collaboration with employers, technical training providers and awarding organizations via the apprenticeship approvals committee. The apprenticeship was last updated in September 2009.

## Skill gaps

Comparing the scope of trade together with the apprenticeship programs suggests Mobile Crane Operators from the U.K. will have sufficient knowledge and experience to work safely and productively in the Alberta trade without remedial training.

Skills gaps may occur in the knowledge and experience of using lifting equipment specific to the trade in Alberta. The Mobile Crane Operator trade in Alberta includes Hydraulic and Conventional Mobile cranes. Alberta employers should request a CPCS card from any Mobile Crane Operator from the U.K. This card provides detailed information on the type of equipment they have been competently trained and assessed to use.

Employers should also consider whether a Mobile Crane Operator from the U.K. has experience working in landscapes and climates similar to Alberta.

## Alberta industry standards

Mobile Crane Operators from the U.K. 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](http://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 Crane and Hoisting Equipment Operator (Mobile Crane) trade is 6,750 hours and 54 months of verifiable hands-on work experience.