

Mersey Gateway Project

THINKING ABOUT BEING A CONSTRUCTION PLANT OPERATOR?

WHAT DOES A CONSTRUCTION PLANT OPERATOR DO?

Construction plant operators work with machinery and equipment used on building sites. You could also work on construction sites. If you enjoy using large machinery and you like being outdoors, this could be a great job for you.

To do this job you will need to have a basic knowledge of the vehicles. You will need to be able to follow detailed instructions. You will also need good teamwork skills.

Your duties may include:

- Safety checks on the machine you are using
- Changing buckets and other attachments
- Using forklifts to unload and move materials around the site
- Operating a crane, you would work with a slinger signaler who would attach the loads and direct you by signals or radio
- Operating machinery such as:
 - 180 and 360 degree excavators
 - Earth moving bulldozers and dump trucks
 - Loading shovels
 - Mobile and crawler cranes
 - Tower cranes
 - Compactors used for levelling out work areas
 - Piling rigs
 - Concrete pumps

WHAT ARE THE WORKING CONDITIONS?

You would usually work around 40 hours a week, but your working hours may vary depending on deadlines. Most of your work will be outdoors, and conditions could be noisy and dirty. You may work at heights, for example when operating a tower crane or a larger excavator. You would travel between jobs, and some contracts may involve overnight stays away from home.

WHAT SALARY COULD I EXPECT TO RECEIVE?

Trainee construction plant operators can earn around £13,000 a year. With qualifications, this can rise to between £15,000 and £19,000 a year. Experienced plant operators can earn between £20,000 and £26,000 a year. Operators can increase their salary with overtime and bonus payments.

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WHAT SKILLS AND KNOWLEDGE WILL I NEED?

- A basic knowledge of vehicle mechanics
- Good concentration
- Practical skills
- The ability to follow detailed instructions
- Fitness for climbing in and out of cabs
- Good communication skills
- An awareness of safe working practices
- Good teamwork skills and the ability to work alone
- The ability to work at heights for some jobs

WHAT QUALIFICATIONS AND EXPERIENCE WILL I NEED?

- **You do not always need qualifications to work as a construction plant operator. Some employers may ask for GCSEs in subjects like Maths, English and Design and Technology, or equivalent vocational qualifications such as:**
 - **The Diploma in Construction and the Built Environment**
 - **Plant-related technical certificates**
- **Apprenticeship**

FOR FURTHER INFO:

www.apprenticeships.org.uk
www.cskills.org
www.cskills.org/cpcs