



Mobile Equipment Operator Training



Mobile equipment can cause serious work-related injuries and even death. To protect both operators and those working near mobile equipment, regulations made under Ontario's *Occupational Health and Safety Act* require workers who operate mobile equipment to be trained and competent.



To help meet this essential need, the Workers Health & Safety Centre (WHSC) has developed a comprehensive suite of mobile equipment training programs for worker operators. Participants for each session benefit from: engaging and relevant classroom sessions created with the adult learner in mind; pocket-sized manuals for easy reference on the work site; and wallet-sized records of training. Just as important, each participant must demonstrate the principles they have learned to safely operate the applicable mobile equipment. Requirements depend on the equipment. However, participants must exhibit safe operation to the instructor's satisfaction by performing maneuvers such as proper driving techniques, load pick-up and deposit and shut-down and start-up driving procedures. They must also demonstrate knowledge of gauges, instruments, signals and alarms. For novice operators, the practicum serves as a vital training tool. For experienced operators it provides the opportunity to reevaluate their ability and competency.



Skid Steer Operator Training

Program duration: 6 hours + Practicum

This training program will provide participants with an understanding of skid steer features along with associated hazards and appropriate control measures. Hazards include pinning and crushing hazards, rollovers, noise, vibration, heat and cold stress, overhead and underground electrical hazards, poor visibility, vehicle emissions, confined space, and mount and dismount hazards. Participants will also learn about various types of skid steer attachments, their application and potential hazards. As well, they will learn about factors affecting stability such as load capacity, rough terrain, speed and turning. Finally, this session covers the centre of gravity and load centre theories as well as the combined centre of gravity concept.



Mini Excavator Operator Training

Program Duration: 6 hours + Practicum

Program participants will first learn about how components of mini excavators work. They will also discuss legislation applicable to mini excavators including sections of the *Regulations for Construction Projects*, and the *Occupational Health and Safety Act*. The program addresses health and safety hazards associated with the operation of mini excavators and their control measures, including hazards associated with rollovers, power lines, noise and vibration and other conditions that if left unchecked can lead to musculoskeletal injuries.

Mobile Equipment Operator Training *cont'd*

Elevating Work Platform Operator Training

Program Duration: 6 hours + Practicum
Prerequisite: Fall Protection Training

Participants will learn about different types of elevating work platforms and discuss their functions, safety features, characteristics, components and stability. Participants will also discuss applicable legislation. Further, this program addresses fall protection systems and requirements of related CSA standards (B354.2-01, B354.4-02 and B354.1-04) including CSA standards regarding owner responsibilities, record keeping, operator instruction, operator requirements and operator training and retraining. Just as important, program participants will gain an understanding of health and safety hazards and their control, including hazards associated with elevating work platforms, including those associated with unstable ground or rough terrain, tip-overs and rollovers, noise, wind speed, and conditions leading to musculo-skeletal injuries. Also of note, for propane-powered platforms, the *Technical Standards and Safety Act* requires training participants to learn about potential hazards associated with propane and relevant controls. To help comply with this requirement, this program includes a section on safe propane cylinder exchange.

Forklift Operator Training*

Program duration: 6 hours + Practicum

This program is for workers who will operate powered lift trucks (Classes 1 to 5). In the classroom, participants will first explore the basics of forklift operation including selection criteria, stability, lift capacity and principles of counterbalance theory. Participants also gain an understanding of legislation, guidelines and standards governing the use of powered lift trucks. Also covered are the many hazards specific to powered lift truck use in the work environment, components of an effective powered lift truck pre-start inspection checklist and safe operating rules and practices.

Rough Terrain Forklift Operator Training*

Program duration: 6 hours + Practicum

This program is for workers required to operate rough terrain forklift trucks (RTFT) on outdoor job sites with "unimproved" natural terrain or disturbed terrain. Participants explore the proper selection, design and safe operation of these vehicles with special attention paid to capacity and stability. Specific safety measures including pre-start inspections, overhead guards, ergonomic design considerations, hydraulic safety, restricted view awareness and personal protective equipment are discussed. Legislation, regulations and standards related to the operation and maintenance of RTFTs are also discussed.

***Note:** *Both the Forklift Operator and Rough Terrain Forklift Operator programs were developed to meet standards outlined in the Ontario Ministry of Labour's Guideline for the Safe Operation and Maintenance of Powered Lift Trucks and the Canadian Standards Association (CSA) Safety Standard for Lift Trucks B335-04. The CSA standard recommends forklift operators be retrained at intervals not to exceed three years. Eighteen months after the training or retraining, operators shall undergo a mid-term skills evaluation (see next program descriptor).*

Forklift Operator and Rough Terrain Forklift Operator Mid-Term Evaluations

Program duration: 1 hour

This one-hour, mid-term evaluation helps to ensure operators retain the skills and knowledge obtained through the WHSC operator programs for forklifts and rough terrain forklifts. This evaluation meets that recommended in the *CSA Safety Standard for Lift Trucks B335-04*. WHSC-certified instructors observe operators as they execute a wide range of practical skills related to lift truck operation. The instructor also provides immediate corrective recommendations and help identifying future training needs.

