

Truck Drivers

Truck drivers provide services to the energy industry as well as to many other industries. This job offers an entry point that has built-in career growth in the energy industry. The job offers opportunities to drive different types of equipment. Truck drivers learn to haul and offload various types of cargo. As a truck driver, you can expect to get training. You can also expect exposure to cutting-edge equipment and vehicles that make the job easier and safer and makes the trucks more environmentally responsible. This includes emissions-reduction equipment, advanced safety systems, and driver assistance technologies.

You might like this career if you enjoy a balance of working independently and as part of a team. Do you like to see new places? Truck drivers drive in all regions of Canada. Do you like to have hands-on opportunities to learn and be trained on specialized equipment? This career offers these opportunities. As a truck driver you would be part of an industry that is focused on efficiency, safety, and training.

The work truck drivers do is part of the reason Canada is a responsible and sustainable supplier of global energy.

Established Energy Sectors:

[Oil and Gas](#)[Offshore Oil and Gas](#)[Oil Sands](#)[Energy Services](#)[Pipelines](#)[Refining](#)

Emerging Energy Sectors:

[Biofuels](#)[Hydrogen](#)[Liquefied Natural Gas \(LNG\)](#)[Carbon Capture and Storage \(CCS\)](#)

For energy sector definitions, go to [CareersinEnergy.ca](https://careersinenergy.ca)



What Truck Drivers Do



Inspect, Drive, and Offload

Truck drivers must inspect vehicle systems, equipment, and accessories. Before they drive, the vehicles must be ready for use in all types of weather. Routes include city and rural roads, major highways, and rough-cut access roads, including mountain passes. Vehicles include trucks, tractor-trailers, and transport freight trucks. The vehicle type is important for meeting operational requirements (capable of doing the job that needs to be done). Truck drivers may also need to offload their cargo.



Secure, Inspect, and Transport Cargo

Truck drivers are responsible for the safe transportation of cargo. This includes hazardous or dangerous goods. When transporting all cargo, truck drivers must follow safe handling requirements.



Plan Trips, Including Routes and Times

Truck drivers are responsible for the logistics of their trips. They must also obtain documentation such as necessary permits to transport goods.



Create Records (Logbooks) of Trips

Truck drivers keep track of cargo information, hours of work, distance travelled, and fuel consumption. They must keep this data in a logbook.



Provide Trip Information to Others

Truck drivers communicate with many people as they do their work. They provide important information about their trip to dispatchers, other drivers, company representatives, and customers. This information includes details about pick-ups, deliveries, loads, routes, and timings. Truck drivers provide this data by using mobile phones, e-mail, text messages, and on-board computers.



Key Skills and Abilities Truck Drivers Need

This chart shows the knowledge, skills, certifications, and attributes needed as truck drivers enter and advance their careers in the energy industry. Each occupation, job level, and responsibility will require a different mix of these skills and abilities.

Core Knowledge

Perform physical and manual work	Understand related regulatory requirements including hours of service regulations
Awareness of safe operating practices in industrial settings	Safe handling of different kinds of cargo, including dangerous goods
Work with materials, equipment, and tools	Maintain awareness of surroundings and changing conditions

Technical Skills

Manoeuvre and control:

- operations of equipment
- machines
- vehicles
- systems

Plan and manage work trips and transportation of products and materials

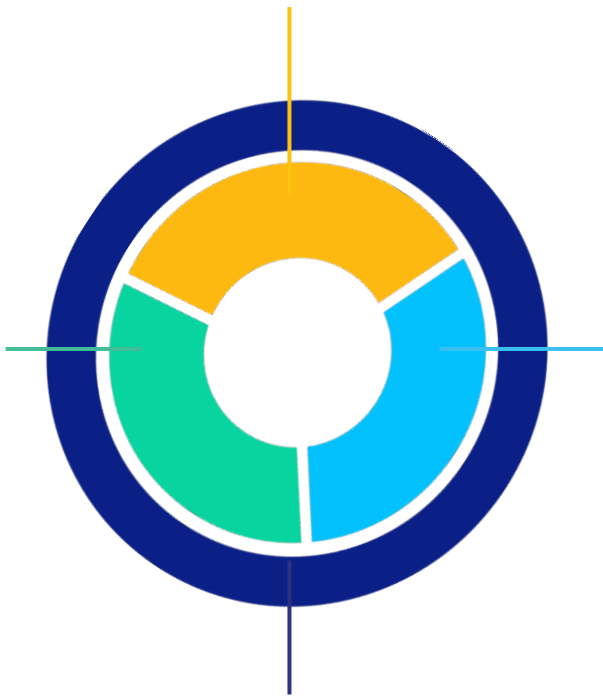
Watch gauges, dials, and digital displays to make sure equipment is working according to specifications

Perform maintenance on equipment to:

- keep it functional
- prevent damage or failures
- replace or fix defective components

Conduct equipment inspections to:

- ensure operational quality
- determine the causes of any operating errors
- decide how to resolve issues



Personal Attributes

- Attention to detail
- Independence
- Adaptability
- Collaboration
- Stress tolerance

Beneficial Certifications

- Commercial Driver's Licence plus a clean abstract
- Specific endorsements for certain types of commercial vehicles and operations
- Standard and Emergency First Aid
- H2S Alive
- Transportation of Dangerous Goods
- Oilfield Driver Awareness
- Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS)
- Pre-employment tests for fitness, drugs, and alcohol

*Required licence classes and their vision, hearing, and physical fitness requirements vary between Canadian jurisdictions

Truck Driver Careers in the Energy Industry

Many truck driver positions in the energy industry do not require any previous experience or specialized training. You can often secure a position if you have the relevant driver's licence and a clean driving abstract. Most employers provide on-the-job training for specialized trucks, equipment, cargo, and work environments. The roles described below are generally consistent across all energy sectors requiring truck drivers.

Career Level	Entry	Mid	Senior
Types of Jobs <hr/> Minimum education and/or experience typically required	<p>Heavy-haul Truck Driver</p> <p>Long-haul Truck Driver (out of town)</p> <p>Short-haul (in town) Driver</p> <hr/> <p>Minimum Grade 10 with high school graduation preferred</p> <p>Employers often provide specialized on-the-job learning</p> <p>Six months of experience as a driver/operator can lead to advancement</p>	<p>Specialized Freight Transport:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bulk Goods Truck Driver • Flatbed Truck Driver • Tanker Truck Driver <p>Compliance Officer</p> <p>Additional training needed to advance to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Driver/Operator • Heavy Equipment Operator (operates one or more types of heavy equipment) • Driver Trainer • Supervisor <hr/> <p>Minimum Grade 10 with high school graduation preferred</p> <p>Variety of equipment training certifications</p>	<p>Dispatcher</p> <p>Safety/Compliance Officer</p> <p>Owner-Operators</p> <hr/> <p>Minimum Grade 10 with high school graduation preferred</p> <p>Additional specialized training and certifications may be required</p>

Transferring Truck Driver Skills from One Energy Sector to Another

There are core skills and knowledge that all truck drivers need for their careers. These building blocks apply across all energy sectors and for all specializations.

Some sectors typically contract services from Energy Services companies for truck drivers. These include: oil and gas, offshore oil and gas, pipelines, carbon capture and storage and liquefied natural gas. Other sectors have more specialized requirements and generally hire experienced drivers or provide training for new hires. These include: oil sands, energy services, hydrogen, refining and biofuels.

The following flow charts present the core skills and knowledge truck drivers need as building blocks. It will also identify evolving skills needed to address the needs in each energy sector. Each energy sector uses the building blocks in similar ways.

New entrants to a truck driver career can use the diagrams to understand the building block skills needed to work in sectors across the energy industry. Experienced truck drivers can use the diagrams to explore how each building block is applied across the energy sectors.

Skill: Operate a Range of Equipment and Vehicles

Skill attributes

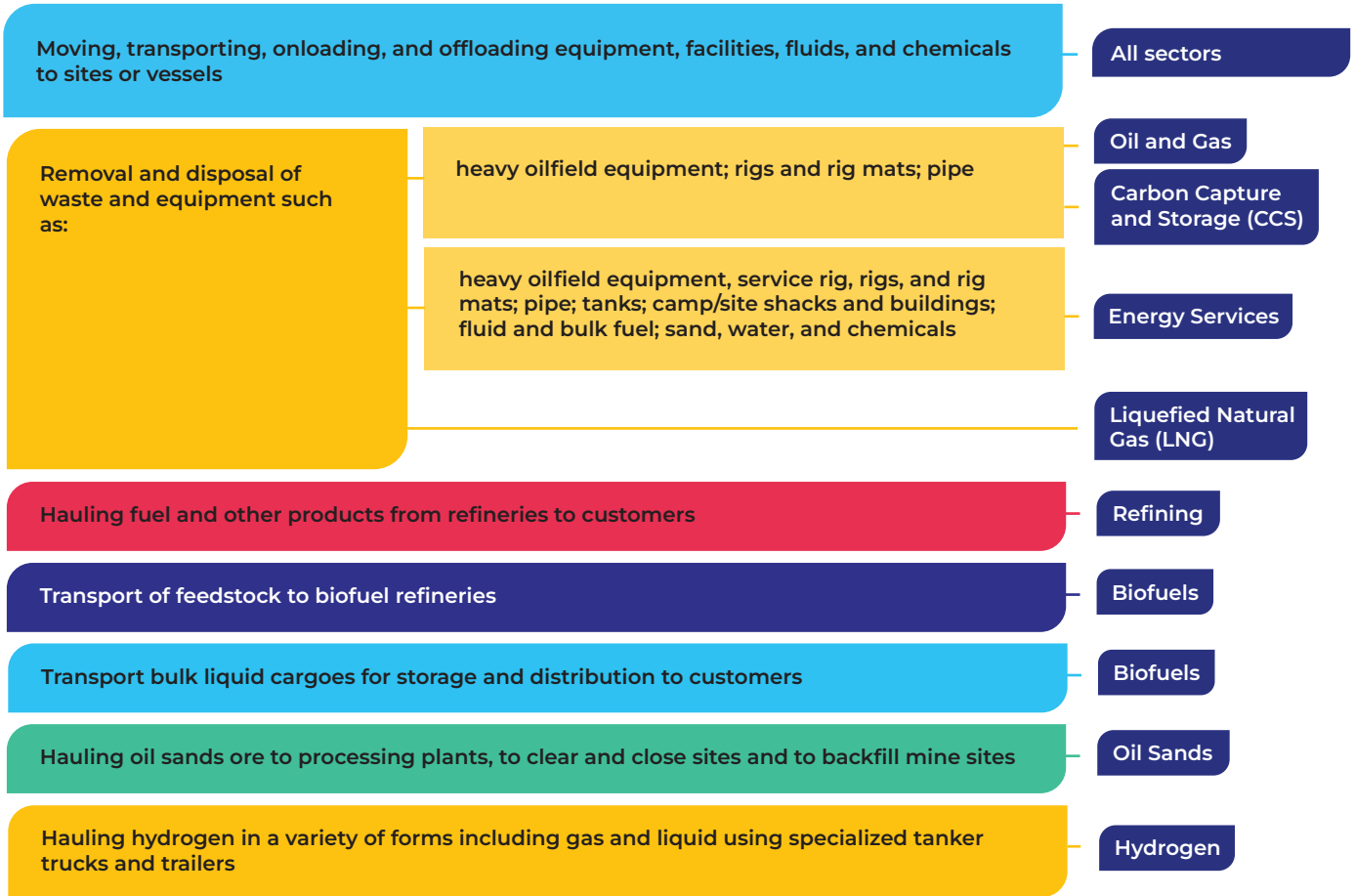
Sector



Skill: Haul and Offload Diverse Cargo

Skill attributes

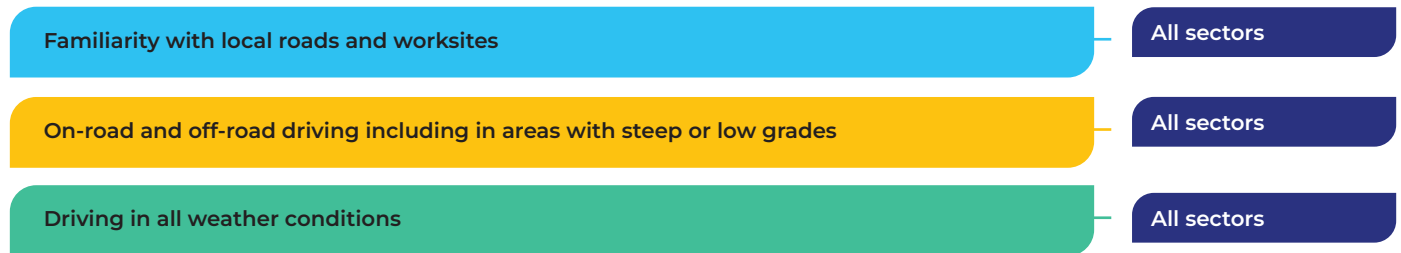
Sector



Skill: Drive Various Routes, Terrains, and Conditions

Skill attributes

Sector



Skill: Identify Risk and Safety Issues, Determine Ways to Avoid Risk, Improve Safety

Skill attributes

Sector

Operate trucks and equipment in compliance with health, safety, and environmental practices and regulations	All sectors
Identify, prevent, and report potential hazards	All sectors
Industrial safety training for worksites	All sectors
Emergency response training	All sectors
Transporting and handling hydrogen safely	Hydrogen
Working near the water may require training with self-rescue equipment	Offshore Oil and Gas Oil Sands

Career Outlook for Truck Drivers



Projected to have a large number of job openings

Projected to have 1,500 or more job openings over the period 2022-2035 nationwide.

Source: Careers in Energy, National Labour Market Outlook to 2035



Top 10 in-demand

Top 10 in-demand occupation: Projected to have the greatest number of job openings over the period 2022 - 2035 nationwide.

Source: Careers in Energy, National Labour Market Outlook to 2035



Projected labour shortages

The demand for workers is projected to be greater than the supply of available workers.

Source: Careers in Energy, National Labour Market Outlook to 2035



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