

# Heavy Truck Driver

## KaitaraiwaTarakaTaumaha

Heavy truck drivers drive trucks with or without trailers. They transport materials, livestock, machinery, liquids, general freight, and sometimes hazardous substances.

### **ABOUT THE JOB:**

#### **Pay**

Heavy truck drivers usually earn between minimum wage and \$35 an hour. However, pay can vary greatly depending on the:

- Transport sector you work in
- Size and type of the vehicle you drive
- Region you work in
- Company you work for.

(This information is a guide only).

#### **What you will do**

Heavy truck drivers may do some or all of the following:

- Routinely check their truck
- Weigh their truck before and after it is loaded
- Supervise or help with loading their truck
- Check the condition of the load and that it is secure
- Follow correct safety procedures
- Keep records of, and check POD's for, goods they carry
- Plan the best delivery route
- Make deliveries or pick up goods
- Keep a logbook of the hours they work.

#### **Skills and knowledge**

Heavy truck drivers need to have:

- Excellent driving skills
- Basic knowledge of the mechanics of their truck and how to maintain it
- Knowledge of how to secure loads using load binders, chains and strops
- Knowledge of transport and related industry laws
- Knowledge of emergency procedures and how to handle hazardous conditions
- Ability to use satellite tracking equipment and on-board computers
- Basic literacy and numeracy skills for accurately completing logbooks and measuring and weighing loads.

## **Working conditions**

Heavy truck drivers:

- Work varying hours depending on what kind of truck driving they do. The number of hours they are allowed to work is governed by New Zealand Transport Agency regulations
- Work in conditions that may be stressful, including poor weather and heavy traffic
- May work locally or travel long distances, which can mean spending nights away from home.

## **HOW TO ENTER THE JOB:**

Entry requirements

To become a heavy truck driver you need to hold a licence for the size and type of truck you intend to drive. A New Zealand Certificate in Commercial Road Transport (Level 3) may also be useful.

No specific secondary education is required for this job, but English, maths, and construction and mechanical technologies to at least NCEA Level 2 are useful.

## **Personal requirements**

Heavy truck drivers need to be:

- Punctual
- Reliable and responsible
- Able to follow instructions
- Able to remain calm in emergencies
- Able to work well under pressure
- Courteous and law-abiding on the road.

## **Useful experience**

Useful experience for heavy truck drivers includes work:

- As a driver
- As a truck driver's assistant or pilot
- At loading and unloading facilities
- In goods handling and management
- In warehouses or stores
- In an industry related to the materials being transported – for example, farming experience before driving livestock.

## **Physical requirements**

Heavy truck drivers need to have good general health and good eyesight (with or without corrective lenses).