



**What does it  
take to become a  
Mining Truck  
Operator?**



Mining Truck Operators safely operate heavy equipment in mostly open pit or strip mining environments, which includes haul trucks, support equipment and loading units, to recover minerals from near the earth's surface. Typically, they operate equipment such as backhoes, large tractor and rubber-tired dozers and scrapers, electrical or mechanical drive haul trucks, graders and front-end loaders.

### Skills and Knowledge

To excel in this career path, operators need good hand-eye co-ordination to effectively and safely operate large equipment. Other skills include good hearing and eyesight; good health with reasonable strength, agility and stamina; ability to judge distances and visualise three-dimensional layouts; and an ability to remain alert while performing repetitive tasks. They should enjoy operating heavy equipment and have strong organisational and problem solving skills.

### Training

Training programmes at registered training institutions typically cover both theoretical and practical components. You will be assessed to show that you have achieved the skills and knowledge required. Assessment may include written, oral or practical assessment methods. Many companies provide on-the-job training that includes an orientation to mine operations and information about health and safety practices, hazardous waste handling, environmental reporting procedures and standard practices and procedures.

### Working Conditions

Operators generally work shifts and must be able to sit for long periods of time with exposure to vibration and jarring. At mines in remote locations, operators may be away from home for two to three weeks at a time, living and working closely with their work colleagues. Safety precautions and personal protective equipment, such as safety boots, gloves, hard hats, glasses and hearing protection are required to reduce the risk of injury associated with working near or with machinery. The work also requires climbing, stooping, crouching and bending. Lifting heavy loads routinely may be required.

### Job Prospects

Namibia has a robust and growing mining sector. Operators usually start as helpers, labourers or truck drivers. With experience and on-the-job training they may advance to larger or more complicated equipment and possibly to supervisory positions. Operators can also venture into the construction sector.



- OPEN PIT / STRIP MINING
- VARIETY OF MACHINES
- HEALTH + SAFETY
- MULTI-SKILLED

- THEORY + PRACTICE
- ON-THE-JOB TRAINING
- MINING OPERATIONS ORIENTATION
- HEALTH + SAFETY

- HAND-EYE COORDINATION
- STRENGTH + STAMINA
- VISUALISATION SKILLS
- ORGANISED

I am the first female and only Caterpillar 992 Wheel Loader Operator at Navachab. I feel strong and powerful behind the controls. I just love the feeling.

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- SHIFTS
- VIBRATION EXPOSURE
- SAFETY PRECAUTIONS
- LIFTING HEAVY LOADS

- GROWING DEMAND
- CAREER GROWTH
- DIVERSE WORKPLACES
- RELATED SECTORS