

Road Freight Subsector

CAREER GUIDE

volume 9



Transport Education Training Authority



Transport SETA





Transport Education Training Authority

Driven by Vision

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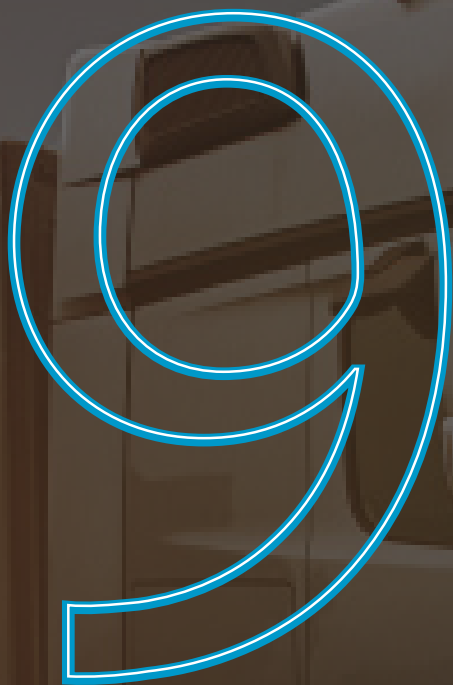
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ROAD FREIGHT SUBSECTOR

SUBSECTOR OVERVIEW

The road freight industry involves the movement of freight:

- Into and out of airports
- Into and out of rail yards
- Into and out of ports
- Into and out of warehouses and distribution centres and
- From pipeline depots to petrol stations.

Road freight links all modes of transport and completes the integration of the freight logistics supply chain. Road freight subsector handles on average, 80% of the total freight moved around South Africa each year.



Occupations in the ROAD FREIGHT SUBSECTOR

The key players in the sector are:

- Dry bulk transport carriers,
- Hazardous chemicals carriers
- Retail fleets [Fast Moving Consumer Goods (FMCG)]
- Furniture removal companies
- Courier companies
- Waste management companies

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- Train the Trainer Qualification and Assessor training
- Mentor and coaching training
- At least 5 years of experience

Required Qualities for Success

- Good assessment skills – for driving and non-driving habits
- Arithmetic ability
- Good mentoring and coaching skills

1. OPERATIONS

DRIVER TRAINER

Other name variations: Training Officers;
Training and Development Professional
Occupational code: 242401

Brief Job Description

- Conduct required in-house driver training requirements to improve driver performance
- Assessment of new drivers
- Liaise with external training providers to arrange delivery of specific training and development programme

Entry Requirements

- Minimum of 3 years driving experience
- Grade 12 or Driving/Road Transport related qualification

TRUCK DISPATCHER

Other name variations: Transport Clerk,
Transport Coordinator
Occupational code: 432301

Brief Job Description

- Schedule drivers to pick up and deliver loads to customers or vendors
- Keeping records, monitoring driver daily logs for errors or violations and monitoring drivers' working hours and equipment availability
- Knowing the weather of all your drivers' locations to flag potential issues

Entry Requirements

- Grade 12

- A Degree or Diploma in Transportation or Logistics

Required Qualities for Success

- Good communication skills
- Good planning skills to effectively manage the cost of delivery
- Computer literate
- Knowledge of driver habits and company fleet

Factors to Consider

- Require a lot of time and high concentration
- Need to adapt to pressure of work as a lot of energy is used when analysing incoming information

FLEET CONTROLLER/MANAGER

Occupational code: 132405

Brief Job Description

- Responsible for selecting vehicles to keep deliveries and distributions on schedule
- Manage operating costs and ensures the efficient use of resources
- Set up maintenance schedules to ensure each vehicle is kept in good condition
- Monitor drivers' habits and vehicle location using fleet management software
- Overseeing the selection, training and performance of staff

Entry Requirements

- Grade 12
- A Degree or Diploma in Transport and

Logistics

- Several years of experience in the transportation industry

Required Qualities for Success

- Computer literacy in fleet management software
- Excellent interpersonal and communication skills
- Excellent analytical skills
- Excellent planning skills to utilise fleet efficiently
- Knowledge of the fleet condition of the organisation

Factors to Consider

- Must be able to handle pressure as it peaks during high demand periods.

PROFESSIONAL DRIVER

Occupational code: 733201

Brief Job Description

- Transports goods from one destination to another
- Can transport to other countries as well.
- It Requires a specially endorsed class of driving licence

Areas you can specialise in

- General goods
- Perishables and frozen goods
- Hazardous chemicals
- Abnormal freight
- Recovery (tow trucks)
- Waste collection

Types of Vehicle to Drive

- Light delivery vans
- Heavy duty rigid trucks under 16 tonnes with or without a trailer
- Extra heavy rigid trucks over 16 tonnes
- Extra heavy combination truck with single or multi-trailers

Qualifications Required

- Driving licences with codes B, C1 (for rigid trucks under 16 tonnes) or EC (for trucks with trailers)
- Professional Driving Permit Category or GD. Issued by a local Driving Licence Testing Station
- National Certificate in Professional Driving
- Dangerous goods training for hazardous chemicals transportation
- A minimum number of years of working experience required

Required Qualities for Success

- Basic literacy skills
- Good people and communication skills
- Medically fit
- Commitment to service excellence

Factors to Consider

- Spend long hours on the road
- May e away from home for many days
- Clear criminal record is a prerequisite

- Must be at least 25 years old to drive a hazardous chemical vehicle

ROAD TRANSPORT MANAGER

Other name variations: Transport Company Manager; Depot/Branch Manager

Occupational code: 132403

Brief Job Description

- Coordinate and implements transport operations for the movement of passengers or fleet to their respective destinations
- Plan, prepare and maintain vehicle management systems and transport infrastructure
- Vehicle costing and budgeting

Areas you can specialise in

- Fast Moving Consumer Goods sector
- Hazardous chemicals sector
- Mining sector
- Building and construction sector
- Abnormal loads sector
- Passenger industry

Qualifications Required

- Grade 12
- A Diploma or Degree in Transport and Logistics

Required Qualities for Success

- Knowledge of the road traffic regulations
- Good interpersonal and leadership

Factors to Consider

- High pressure environment depending on the size of the company

- Knowledge of the cross-border operations

The following careers have been covered in the Freight Forwarding and Clearing OR Freight Handling subsector chapters:

- Crane Operators
- Forklift Drivers
- Freight Handlers
- Logistics Manager
- Operations Manager
- Purchasing Officer
- Supply and Distribution Manager
- Warehouse Manager

2. TECHNICAL

DIESEL MECHANIC

Other name variations: Heavy vehicle Mechanic

Occupational code: 653306

Brief Job Description

- Perform preventative and scheduled maintenance on diesel vehicles
- Including engines, mechanical parts, transmissions, suspension, steering and brakes.
- Locating problems by using diagnostic equipment

Entry Requirements

- General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) or a Grade 9 certificate
- Apprenticeship
- Diesel Mechanic Trade Certificate

Required Qualities for Success

- A good level of fitness
- Excellent mechanical and electrical skills
- Good problem-solving skills
- Good communication skills

Factors to Consider

- The occupation may be dirty
- You need to be willing to work longer hours than scheduled

TRANSPORTATION ELECTRICIAN

Other name variations: Automotive Electrician; Auto Electrician

Occupational code: 671208

Brief Job Description

- Inspecting and testing manufactured electrical parts of vehicles
- Inspecting and testing electrical systems and equipment to locate and diagnose malfunctions in vehicles
- Repairing or rebuilding equipment such as starters, generators, distributors, or door controls, using electrician's tools

Entry Requirements

- General Education and Training Certificate (GETC) or a Grade 9 certificate
- Apprenticeship or learnership
- Further Education and Training Certificate in Motor Vehicle Systems
- Electrician Trade Certificate

Required Qualities for Success

- Good communication skills
- A good level of fitness
- Excellent mechanical and electrical skills
- Problem-solving capabilities

Factors to Consider

- Knowledge of the use of diagnostic testing equipment
- Developing solutions Requires patience
- Need to keep up-to-date with the latest developments and advance skills accordingly

3. SUPPORT SERVICES

Every organisation within the road freight subsector has also support service found in any organisation in South Africa.

Within the support services you will find careers in

- IT
- Contact centre management
- Sales and marketing
- Finance
- HR management
- Legal services
- Research and development

These careers are adapted to the subsector to support operations.

HARD TO FILL VACANCIES THE ROAD FREIGHT SUBSECTOR

- Truck Driver (General)
- Delivery Driver
- Diesel Mechanic
- Dispatching and Receiving Clerk / Officer
- Logistics Manager
- Mechanical Engineering Technician
- Supply and Distribution Manager
- Sales Representative (Business Services)

CONTACTS

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Road Transport Management Corporation (RTMC)
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South African Transport and Allied Workers' Union (SATAWU)
web address: www.satawu.org.za

South African Express Parcel's Association (SAEPA)





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