

Wisconsin Forestry Career Profile

Log Truck Operator



Photo courtesy of Great Lakes Timber Professionals Association



High School Courses

- Forestry
- Physics
- Mechanics/Small Engines
- Woodworking



Education/Training

- High school diploma or equivalent
- Class A CDL



Responsibilities

- Load and unload logs or lumber goods
- Plan delivery routes and drive to locations
- Coordinate delivery and timing
- Track weather conditions
- Possess a current CDL and maintain a good driving record
- Follow basic load securement and weight laws
- Keep accurate records with either timesheets or logbooks
- Inspect truck, trailers, and loading equipment daily



Skills

- Drive safely
- Make decisions quick and effectively
- Pay attention to detail
- Maintain accurate records
- Focus for long periods of time
- Perform basic maintenance
- Communicate clearly
- Manage time effectively for on-time load deliveries
- Identify wood species to get load to proper mill



Abilities/Personality

- Able to climb ladders
- Alert and not easily distracted
- Enjoy being on the move
- Dependable and report for work consistently



Work Environment

Log truck operators must learn to navigate all types of off-road driving including snow, ice, and wet soil conditions. Most log truck operators work year-round, however, there are some who experience short periods of down time because of spring thaw weight restrictions.

Job Description

Log truck operators load and deliver all types of raw forest products from the harvest site to consuming mills. Products hauled include pulpwood, chips, logs, biomass, and treelength wood such as telephone poles and sometimes logging equipment. Standard equipment used includes various multi-axle truck configurations such as tractor trailers and straight truck and pup configurations with and without self-loaders. Log truck operators frequently drive in off-road conditions and are key workers in forestry operations. Log truck operators may be employees or self-employed owner/operators.

Salary Range

