

Vehicle Inspectors

A guide for newcomers to British Columbia



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Vehicle Inspectors

[NOC 2021: 22231 / NOC 2016: 2262]

Vehicle Inspectors may also be called:

- motor transportation inspector
- motor transportation regulations officer
- motor vehicle defects investigator
- motor vehicle inspector

1. What Would I Do?

Vehicle Inspectors inspect transportation vehicles such as automobiles and trucks in order to enforce safety regulations for the vehicles and their cargo. They ensure vehicles, weighing and measuring devices such as scales and meters, as well as industrial instruments, processes and equipment conform to government and industry standards and regulations.

Duties may include:

- carry out motor vehicle and motor vehicle component defect investigations, examinations, tests and defect-related accident investigations
- provide expert advice and testimony on specific motor vehicle performance problems or defects and recommend improvements in vehicle inspection and licensing procedures, and vehicle safety standards

More information:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Vehicle Inspectors** (in the occupation group, Engineering inspectors and regulatory officers)
<https://www.workbc.ca/career-profiles/engineering-inspectors-and-regulatory-officers>
- **Career Cruising** database (Profiles for 'Transportation Inspector')
<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/career-cruising/>

2. Am I Suited For This Job?

Vehicle Inspectors should be:

- *detail-oriented*
- *good with people*
- *mechanically skilled*

You should have:

- *good judgment*
- *good communication skills*
- *good writing skills to report findings & make recommendations*
- *integrity and a sense of responsibility*

Inspection work often takes place outdoors, in all weather conditions. Inspectors may also spend time indoors, either inspecting vehicles or writing reports.

Sources: WorkBC & Career Cruising

3. What Are The Wages And Benefits?

WorkBC reports that in British Columbia the **median** annual salary for Vehicle Inspectors (in the occupation group, Engineering inspectors and regulatory officers) is approximately \$87,991.

In BC's regions you can expect to earn:

Community/Area	Wages (\$/hour)		
	Low	Median	High
British Columbia	22.50	42.19	67.31
Lower Mainland–Southwest Region	22.50	44.00	67.31
Vancouver Island and Coast Region	22.50	42.19	67.31

Table from Job Bank Canada Wages <https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis/search-wages>

Transportation inspectors generally receive benefits in addition to a salary. These benefits often include paid vacation and sick days, health insurance, and retirement contributions.

Sources: WorkBC & Career Cruising

4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

Approximately 600 people work as engineering inspectors and regulatory officers (including **vehicle inspectors**) in BC. Most are employed in the Lower Mainland/Southwest and Vancouver Island/ Coast regions of the province.

JobBank Canada reports that the employment outlook will be fair for vehicle inspectors in British Columbia for the 2021-2023 period.

Employment Outlook, 2021-2031

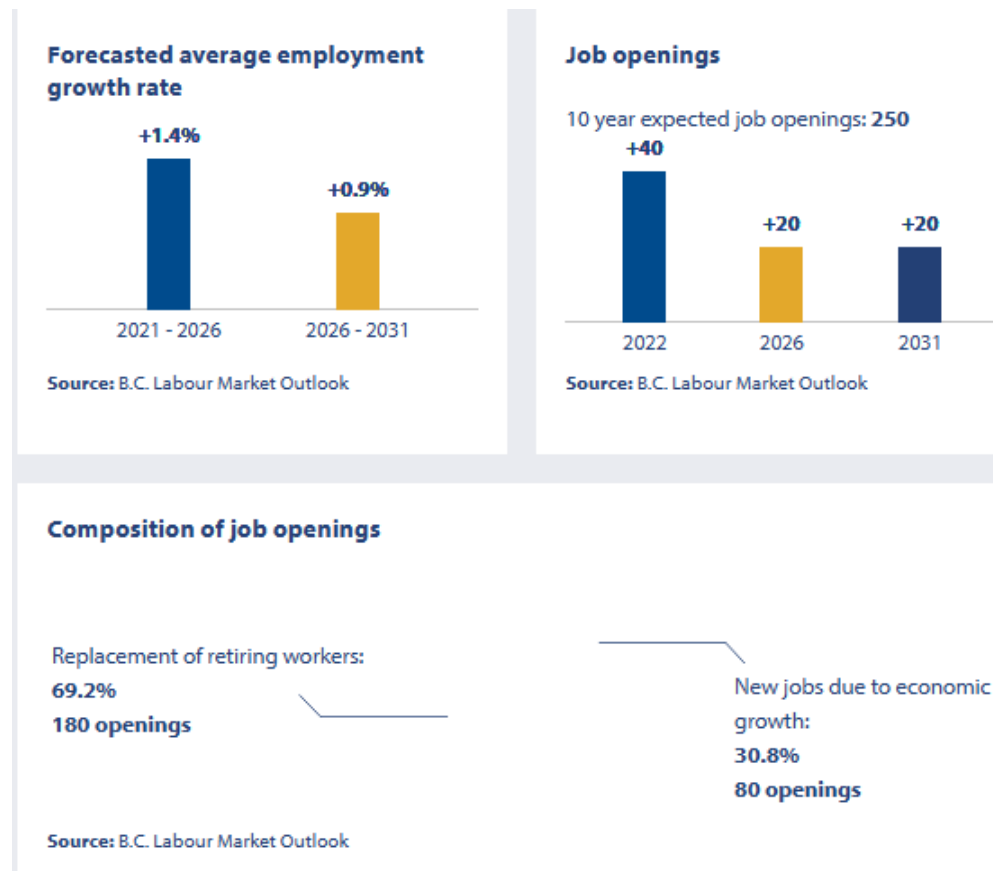


Chart from WorkBC

Sources :

- JobBank Canada Job Prospects
<https://www.jobbank.gc.ca/trend-analysis>
- WorkBC Career Profile

5. How do I become a Vehicle Inspector

Only trade qualified vehicle technicians, licenced by the **Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch (CVSE)** Vehicle Inspection & Standards Program, are authorized to conduct vehicle inspections in B.C.

What are the Prerequisites for becoming an Authorized Inspector?

- successful completion of an 'Authorized Inspectors' course; and
- BC or/Red Seal equivalent Journeyman Trade qualification in one of the following:
 - Heavy Duty Equipment Technician
 - Commercial Transport Vehicle Mechanic
 - Commercial Transport Trailer Technician
 - Automotive Service Technician
 - Motorcycle Mechanic/Technician

PLUS

Endorsements (in addition to above):

- Pressure Fuel – Current Certificate of Qualification issued by the British Columbia Safety Authority
- Air Brake Inspection – Heavy Duty and Commercial Transport and Trailer Technicians are qualified for an Air Brake endorsement automatically. Automotive Technicians are required to pass an Air Brake Repair course.

Authorized Inspectors Course

Course includes approximately 20 hours of classroom time and is available at colleges and universities throughout BC:

- **List of accredited BC institutions offering the Inspectors course:**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/vehicle-safety-enforcement/services/vehicle-inspections-standards/training>

Certification

After successful completion of both the 'authorized inspectors' course and the final exam, your qualifications will be forwarded to the *Commercial Vehicle Safety and Enforcement Branch (CVSE)*. Once all eligibility requirements have been met, the CVSE will then certify you as an Authorized Inspector.

More information:

- **Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement – CVSE - General Requirements for Authorized Inspectors**
https://www.cvse.ca/vehicle_inspections/authorized_inspectors.htm
https://www.cvse.ca/vehicle_inspections/PDF/MV3001_QandA_Info%20Sheet.pdf
- **BC Industry Training Authority (ITA) – Trades Training Programs**
<https://www.itabc.ca/discover-apprenticeship-programs/search-programs>

Internationally Trained Vehicle/Motorcycle/Heavy Duty Equipment Technicians

If you have extensive experience working in a trade but have *never been certified in Canada*, you can apply to challenge certification in your trade. Each trade requires a minimum number of hours of related work experience plus evidence that you have worked in the full scope of the trade. After you apply to challenge, the Industry Training Authority (ITA) will review your work history, talk to your employers and determine if you have the necessary experience to challenge the certification.

More information:

Industry Training Authority of BC (ITA)

- **Challenging Certification Exams**
<https://www.itabc.ca/apply-apprenticeship/challenging-certification-exams>
- information on the Challenge Process in specific trade(s)
<https://www.itabc.ca/discover-apprenticeship-programs/search-programs>
Look at the 'Program Profile' for your trade which describes the requirements for apprentices and *challengers to earn certification*

6. How Do I Find A Job?

Where would I work?

- *government agencies (at the federal or provincial level)*
- *industry employers in the private sector*

Finding Advertised Jobs

Jobs are advertised in a variety of sources including newspapers, magazines and online job sites.

Local Newspapers

You can look at the *Vancouver Sun* & *The Province* at Vancouver Public Library for free. Check the job postings daily, the careers section in the *Vancouver Sun* on Wednesdays and Saturdays and, in *The Province* on Sundays.

Online Job Postings

- **BCAA – BC Automobile Association**
<https://www.bcaa.com/about-us/careers/> (careers in vehicle inspection and roadside assistance)
- **BC Commercial Safety Vehicle & Enforcement Branch**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/careers-myhr/job-seekers/featured-careers/cvse>
- **Indeed.ca**
https://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
- **WorkBC**
<https://www.workbc.ca/Jobs-Careers/Find-Jobs/Jobs.aspx#/job-search>

Finding "Hidden Jobs"

Many job vacancies are not advertised. The resources below will help you *with finding jobs in this "hidden" job market.*

Using Directories to Create a List of Potential Employers

You can use directories to produce lists of employers who are in this industry. Contact them directly to find out if they're hiring.

- **Designated Inspection Facilities (DIF) in BC**

<https://www.th.gov.bc.ca/twm/?c=vip>

List of facilities across BC that employ certified vehicle inspectors

- **Reference Canada**

<https://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/reference-canada>

Click on "Start Search" beside Canadian Businesses, then select the "Advanced Search" button. Select both "Keyword/SIC/NAICS" under Business Type and "City" under Geography. In the top search box enter "vehicle inspection" and click SEARCH. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

Available from the VPL Digital Library

NOTE: You can access this database from a Library computer. If you are using a computer from outside the Library, you will need a Vancouver Public Library card to login to this database. After clicking on the database name, you will be asked to enter your library card number and PIN (usually last four digits of your telephone number).

Networking, Volunteering and Temporary Agencies

Many positions are filled by people who have been recommended by someone they know. Networking, working as a volunteer or registering with a temporary employment agency are good ways of helping you find jobs and meet people in your industry.

Networking and the Hidden Job Market:

When looking for work, be sure to talk to friends, relatives and neighbours. They may know someone who is hiring! Working as a volunteer, attending events, and joining clubs and associations are good ways to gain "Canadian experience." They are also good ways to meet people to learn about the local job market.

Volunteer opportunities

- **Volunteer BC**
<https://volunteerbc.bc.ca/>
- **GoVolunteer.ca**
<https://govolunteer.ca/>

More information:

- **Networking for Employment**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/networking-for-employment>
- **Getting Canadian Work Experience**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/getting-canadian-work-experience>

7. Applying for a Job

In Canada, employers usually expect to receive a resume and a cover letter that identifies the position you are applying for and summarizes your experience. Use the library catalogue, <https://vpl.bibliocommons.com/> to find books on writing resumes and cover letters specific to your industry.

For more information see:

- **Writing Resumes and Cover Letters**
<https://www.vpl.ca/siic/guide/job-search-resources/writing-resumes-and-cover-letters>

8. Where Can This Job Lead?

With additional training and experience, you may progress from vehicle inspector to commercial vehicle inspector and to senior commercial vehicle inspector.

Source: Career Cruising

9. Where Can I Find More Information?

- **Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement – Vehicle Inspections and Standards**
https://www.cvse.ca/vehicle_inspections.htm
- **Industry Training Authority of BC**
<https://www.itabc.ca/>
- **Vehicle Safety & Enforcement – Government of BC**
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/transportation/vehicle-safety-enforcement>
- **BC Automobile Association – Vehicle Inspection Services**
<https://www.bcaa.com/automotive/bcaa-auto-service-centre/vehicle-inspections>
- **Automobile Protection Association (Canada)**
<https://www.apa.ca/>

Questions? Please ask the Information Staff at the Central Library or telephone 604-331-3603.

Please note that the information in this guide is also available online through the Skilled Immigrant InfoCentre website at <https://www.vpl.ca/siic>