Vehicle Inspectors
An employment guide for newcomers to British Columbia
1. What Would I Do?

Vehicle Inspectors inspect transportation vehicles such as automobiles and trucks, and weighing and measuring devices such as scales and meters, as well as industrial instruments, processes and equipment for conformity 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.Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2262
2. Am I Suited For This Job?

Vehicle Inspectors should be:
- detail-oriented
- good with people
- mechanically skilled

they 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 Profile for Vehicle Inspectors (in the occupation group, Engineering inspectors and regulatory officers)
  https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2262
- Career Cruising database (Profiles for ‘Transportation Inspector’)
  http://www.vpl.ca/digital-library/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 $80,212.

JobBank Canada lists hourly wages for BC where Vehicle Inspectors can expect to make:
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 Profile for Vehicle Inspectors** (in the occupation group, Engineering inspectors and regulatory officers)
  [https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2262](https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2262)
- **Career Cruising** database (Profiles for ‘Transportation Inspector’)

### 4. What Is The Job Outlook In BC?

**WorkBC** provides regional employment outlooks:
- **Lower Mainland / Southwest region**: projecting 1.4% average annual employment growth for 2017 with 210 job openings
- **Vancouver Island / Coast region**: projecting 0.5% average annual employment growth for 2017 with 20 job openings
JobBank Canada reports that the employment outlook will be fair for Engineering inspectors (including vehicle inspectors) (NOC 2262) in British Columbia for the 2017-2019 period. Employment growth is expected to be moderate; a moderate number of people are expected to retire.

Sources:
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- **WorkBC Career Profile for Vehicle Inspectors** (in the occupation group, Engineering inspectors and regulatory officers)
  https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2262
- **JobBank Canada: Job Market Report**

5. **How do I become a Vehicle Inspector**

Vehicle Inspectors must have:
- trades qualification
- successful completion of an ‘Authorized Inspectors’ course.

**Trades Qualification**

Vehicle Inspectors must have a BC/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.

Source:
Commercial Vehicle Safety & Enforcement – CVSE - General Requirements for Authorized Inspectors
http://www.cvse.ca/vehicle_inspections/authorized_inspectors.htm
For more information on BC Trades Training programs, see the Industry Training Authority (ITA), http://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.

Sources:

**Industry Training Authority of BC (ITA)**

- information on the Challenge Process
  
  http://www.itabc.ca/apply-apprenticeship/challenging-exams

- information on the Challenge Process in specific trade(s)
  
  http://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**

**Authorized Inspectors Course**

Course includes approximately 20 hours of classroom time and is available throughout BC at approximately fifteen BC colleges and institutes and one university.

**List of accredited BC institutions offering the Inspectors course:**

http://www.cvse.ca/vehicle_inspections/PDF/authorized_inspectors_course.pdf

Examples of Vehicle Inspectors Courses in Metro Vancouver and Fraser Valley:

- http://www.bcit.ca/study/courses/ctmx0110 - BC Institute of Technology (BCIT)
For more information, see:

**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.

http://www.cvse.ca/vehicle_inspections/authorized_inspectors.htm

Source:

- **WorkBC Career Profile for Vehicle Inspectors** (in the occupation group, Engineering inspectors and regulatory officers)
  https://www.workbc.ca/Job-Seekers/Career-Profiles/2262

**Commercial Safety Vehicle & Enforcement Branch (CVSE) – Peace Officers**

*For information on requirements and training to become a CVSE Officer,*
see: http://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/careers-myhr/job-seekers/featured-careers/cvse

The CVSE promotes compliance of safety regulations within the commercial transport sector. CVSE Officers work in field offices or commercial transport inspection stations and their duties include:

- stop and inspect vehicles and/or drivers for safety violations.
- issue violation tickets and inspection notices.
- conduct roadside inspections of commercial vehicles.
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
  
  http://careers.bcaa.com/ (careers in vehicle inspection and roadside assistance)
  
  http://careers.bcaa.com/jobs
- BC Public Service Agency: Job Opportunities
  
  https://search.employment.gov.bc.ca/cgi-bin/a/searchjobs.cgi
  
  Search "Commercial vehicle" for postings in the Commercial Vehicle Safety Enforcement Branch (CVSE)
- Indeed.ca
  
  http://ca.indeed.com/advanced_search
  

Where would I work?
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**
  
  http://www.cvse.ca/vehicle_inspections/PDF/DIFs.pdf
  
  list of facilities across BC that employ certified vehicle inspectors

- **Reference Canada**
  
  http://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 LOOKUP. Select the appropriate headings. Lower down, select the Province, choose the cities, and click the "View Results" button.

  Available from the VPL Digital Library | Explore our Digital Library page

**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
  [http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/](http://www.volunteerbc.bc.ca/)
- GoVolunteer.ca
  [http://govolunteer.ca/](http://govolunteer.ca/)

- Networking for Employment
  Go to [http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca](http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca) [Search Networking for Employment]

- Getting Canadian Work Experience
  Go to [http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca](http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca) [Search 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, [http://vpl.bibliocommons.com/](http://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**
  
  Go to [http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca](http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca)
  
  [Search Writing Resumes and Cover Letters]

8. Where Can This Job Lead?

Progression from vehicle inspector to commercial vehicle inspector to senior commercial vehicle inspector is possible with additional training and experience. 

Source:

- **Career Cruising** database (Profiles for ‘Transportation Inspector’)
  


- **Welcome BC: Job Profiles for Immigrants: Vehicle Inspector**
  
  [https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-or-Study-in-B-C/Your-Career-in-B-C/2262](https://www.welcomebc.ca/Work-or-Study-in-B-C/Your-Career-in-B-C/2262)

- **Province of BC: Vehicle Inspection Program - Commercial and Private Vehicles**
  
  [http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse/vehicle_inspections/PDF/vehicle_inspection_program_description.pdf](http://www.th.gov.bc.ca/cvse/vehicle_inspections/PDF/vehicle_inspection_program_description.pdf)

- **Automobile Protection Association (Canada)**
  
  [https://apa.ca/](https://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 [http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/](http://skilledimmigrants.vpl.ca/).