

Apprenticeship Training Programme

Phase 1: *With Employer*

Induction Training
Introduction to Health & Safety Training
Introduction to Tools & Equipment
Introduction to Basic Skills

Phase 2: *Delivered in Training Centre (20 weeks)*

Course Content:

Induction
Engines
Transmissions
Plant Electrics
Hydraulics
Plant Vehicles
Small Plant
Related Theory

Phase 3: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

Phase 4: *Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

Course Content:

Engines
Transmissions
Plant Electrics
Hydraulics
Small Plant
Plant Vehicles
Related Theory

Phase 5: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

Phase 6: *Delivered in Educational Colleges (10 weeks)*

Course Content:

Engines
Transmissions
Plant Electrics
Hydraulics
Wheeled & Tracked Plant
Related Theory

Phase 7: *With Employer*

Work Based Assessments

The overall duration of this apprenticeship is a minimum of 4 years provided all phases are successfully completed. On successful completion of the programme the learner is awarded a Level 6 Advanced Certificate Craft – Construction Plant Fitting.

For further information please contact your local Education & Training Board Training Centre or log onto www.SOLAS.ie

The Craft of Construction Plant Fitting



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 **Apprenticeship**

KNOWLEDGE. SKILL. COMPETENCE

Overview

Construction plant fitters are generally employed in the construction industry. The vast ranges of equipment within the industry requires that the plant fitter will be multi-skilled in the maintenance and repair of mobile equipment such as diggers, cranes, bulldozers and dumper trucks, as well as equipment that usually stays in one place such as electrical generators, pumps, air compressors and even massive concrete mixing installations.

The ability to diagnose and rectify electrical faults in plant and to carry out welding and fitting repairs is also within the scope of the construction plant fitter. Because of the high cost of 'machine time' the major part of the maintenance and repair work is carried out on site.

Work activities

A construction plant fitter's work can be very varied. For example, one day they could be working on an excavator and the next on a crane.

Ideally, each machine should have a preventive maintenance schedule. After a specified length of time, for example monthly or quarterly, the plant fitter does a series of checks, inspecting for wear and damage, replacing parts known to have a limited life or which are found to be damaged and renewing oil levels.

Breakdowns normally take priority over maintenance. If a machine breaks down while it is in use, the plant fitter talks with the operator, identifies the fault and diagnoses what may have caused it. The fitter repairs the faulty part or replaces it with a new one. The machine is re-assembled and checked to make sure it is running safely again.

Fitters handle mechanical, hydraulic, pneumatic, electrical and electronic aspects of the machines. They use a wide range of hand and power tools and measuring devices, and refer to technical drawings and manuals.

They record work they have done, and time spent, on daily log sheets.

Aspects of Work

- Learning new practical skills
- Learning how machines work
- Repairing things
- Working with vehicles and plant equipment
- Learning and developing new craft-related skills, knowledge and competence
- Understanding and using physics
- Being responsible for controlling or adjusting equipment
- Understanding technical drawings and diagrams
- Being accurate with numbers in counting, measuring and arithmetic
- Travelling around from place to place
- Practical skills and theoretical knowledge
- Working outdoors in any weather
- Being physically active and on your feet
- Working with electricity or electronics
- Lifting or carrying heavy items
- Taking responsibility for own learning, including the allocation of study time

Personal qualities and Skills

As a plant fitter, you need to be physically fit and active, and have stamina and nimble fingers. You must be able to cope with lifting, bending and stretching. Good eye-to-hand co-ordination is important in fitting and adjusting.

You should be logical and patient in tracing faults and methodical in organising tasks, especially when taking apart and re-assembling machines. The ability to work at heights is important for some tasks.

Teamwork is an essential part of working in construction because each person relies on another person to carry out his or her particular task, safely and efficiently.

Opportunities

Opportunities arise from time-to-time for promotion to supervisor level. Many persons use an apprenticeship as a first step in proceeding to such occupations as instructors, teachers, training advisers, managers and owners of businesses.

Where apprentices and crafts persons have the necessary ability, initiative and basic qualifications, opportunities are available for advancement. These include advanced technological and management courses which are available in Institutes of Technology, Schools of Management, Professional Institutes, etc.

People anxious to advance themselves in their careers are advised to discover for themselves what opportunities are available.

Educational Requirements

The minimum age at which the employment of an apprentice may commence is 16 years of age.

The minimum educational requirements are:

1. Grade D in five subjects in the Department of Education & Skills Junior Certificate Examination or an approved equivalent,
or
2. The successful completion of an approved Pre-Apprenticeship course
or
3. Three years' work experience gained over sixteen years of age in a relevant designated industrial activity as SOLAS shall deem acceptable

You must obtain a job as an apprentice in your chosen occupation. Your employer must be approved to train apprentices and must register you as an apprentice within 2 weeks of recruitment.

In certain crafts, apprenticeship applicants are required to pass a colour vision test approved by SOLAS.