

JOB PROFILE: ROAD TRANSPORT MANAGER

WHAT'S IT ALL ABOUT?

If you are destined for a career at the top, then you might want to consider **Transport Management!** Road Transport Managers work in either passenger or freight transport. They are responsible for overseeing the efficient and safe running of vehicles carrying passengers or goods by road.

Passenger Transport Managers are responsible for managing and planning the routes and schedules of buses and coaches as well as ensuring they are roadworthy and comply with legal requirements. It is a job that comes with plenty of responsibility and lots of decision making!

You will be responsible for planning and estimating;

- The number of people who want to travel
- The times when they want to travel ie day, week and year
- The number of buses or coaches required to meet passenger travel requirements.

That's not all! You will also need a head for figures, in order to evaluate and analyse the cost of journeys, devise timetables and schedules and make sure that all services fall within a specified budget. Planning is a complex business, but you will be using spreadsheets and some of the latest planning software to assist you in getting it right!

As well as this, Transport Managers can also be responsible for ensuring that enough staff are working at the right times, and that drivers follow regulations on driving times and rest periods.

No two days are ever the same, as traffic congestion, accidents, adverse weather conditions and staff absence all have a significant impact on day to day operations. As you can see, the ability to make quick decisions and react to changing circumstances is essential.

And of course, all operations need to be carried out in accordance to UK and EU laws and regulations governing vehicles and drivers. So you will need to be conversant and keep up-to-date with regulations governing the transport of goods and people, both at a national and international level.

Passenger transport operates 24 hours a day, seven days a week, so Transport Managers may need to work shifts and be on call to deal with emergencies.

The future outlook – there is currently a shortage of Transport Managers. So there are plenty of opportunities for everyone to start working their way to the top.

QUALITIES & SKILLS

- Excellent analytical and problem solving skills
- Good organisational and planning skills
- First-class communication – both verbal and written
- Ability to multi-task and make quick decisions

- Tactful and diplomatic approach
- Ability to work well under pressure and to tight deadlines
- Good IT and numerical skills
- People management skills

TRAINING

Most Transport Managers will train towards a Certificate of Professional Competence (CPC), which is roughly equivalent to NVQ Level 3. There are four certificates available within the sector:

1. National Road Haulage Operations
2. International Road Haulage Operations
3. National Passenger Transport Operations
4. International Passenger Transport Operations.

There are dedicated training centres throughout the UK which specialise in these qualifications.

Work based training courses are also available in Road Passenger Transport at S/NVQ Levels 2 and 3, and the Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport offer a programme of qualifications from introductory certificate to MSc level.

ENTRY

There are a number of entry routes into Transport Management.

It is possible to enter the sector with GCSEs, A Levels or a Degree or the vocational equivalent. There are also opportunities to enter the industry through apprenticeships or foundation degrees. Many companies offer trainee positions for school/college leavers and for university graduates.

Promotion from other transport related jobs including administration and driving is also possible.

PROGRESSION & SALARY

As a guide:

- Salaries can range from £15,000 for graduate trainees
- Experienced Transport Managers can earn between £25,000 to £40,000

Allowances are usually paid for shift work and unsocial hours as well.

With so many employers in the field there are plenty of opportunities to move and specialise in different modes of transport – ie rail, sea or air. There are also consultancy opportunities – so the sky is the limit with Transport Management!

FIND OUT MORE...

Chartered Institute of Logistics and Transport

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