

Job Dictionary

Position title:	Plant Operator
Compiled by:	Safety Sam – Injury Prevention, Management and Health Consultant - KINNECT
Job Description:	Operation of heavy machinery such as backhoes, excavators and trucks (MR and HR) to dig trenches and transport materials to construct water infrastructure.
Duties:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-start safety check and recording; • Operators are required to operate machinery through use of hand controls and foot pedals; • Operators may be required to change ground-engaging tools (eg. backhoe and excavator); • Repairing and servicing of machinery (e.g. re-greasing, check fluids); • Re-fuelling of machinery; • Cleaning machinery exterior.
Critical Functional Job Demands:	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constant sitting and static neck postures during machinery operation; • Constant forward reach and repetitive grasp to operate hand controls during operation of machinery; • Frequent and repetitive foot movement during machinery operation; • Frequent neck movements; • Occasional forward bent posture; • Occasional ladder climbing up two steps to access / egress machinery cabin and tray of truck; • Rare floor to waist height lifting and carrying of containers of up to 20kg; • Rare lifting of tools of up to 5kg at floor to shoulder height; • Rare squatting, kneeling, crawling and lying during pre-start inspection and re-greasing of machinery.
Hours / Roster:	6:30 am – 3:30 pm (1 x 30 mins break, 2 x 15 mins break) Monday – Friday
PPE / Uniform:	High visibility long sleeve shirt; High visibility trousers; Sunglasses; Steel Cap Boots; Hat with wide brim sun protection.
Equipment / Tools:	Heavy machinery (backhoes, excavators, trucks (MR and HR)); two-way radio; manual grease gun; hand tools (eg. shifter); prestart record book; mobile telephone.
Environmental Factors:	Seated in air-conditioned cab of machinery when driving between and on worksites. Full exposure to outdoor environment when outside cabin including seasonal temperature variation (7° – 40°). Needs to walk short distances on both even, sealed ground and uneven, soft, wet, muddy, sticky or rocky ground.
Work Characteristics:	The work involves occasional access / egress of machinery via ladder or over tracks of machinery. The work is not carried out during wet weather. Workers may experience time-pressures to complete jobs, particularly when the workload increases following natural disasters (e.g. flood). Hand controls of machinery in cabin are above hip height and within easy reach. In some machinery accessing the two-way radio requires reaching above and behind head (eg. excavator).