



Railway Conductor

Education and Training

Conductors need a 17 week training program from BCIT or SAIT

Nature of Work

Railway Conductors coordinate the activities of freight and passenger train crews. Railroad conductors assigned to freight trains review their operating authorities, switching orders, and way bills. Conductors work as members of a train crew in either road or yard service. They are involved with switching cars, making or splitting up trains in yards, or moving cars between yards, sidings or tracks according to instructions originating with yard and train planners. The role of the Railway Conductor is an important link between ensuring customer satisfaction and achieving efficient operations.

Main Duties

- Before a train leaves the terminal, the conductor and engineer discuss instructions received from the dispatcher concerning the train's route, timetable, cargo and operating authority
- While underway, conductors receive additional information by radio. This may include information about track conditions or instructions to pull off at the next available siding to allow other trains to pass.
- During the run, conductors use two-way radios and cellular phones to communicate with dispatchers, engineers and conductors of other trains
- Conductors receive information from Rail Traffic Controllers or electronic monitoring devices that relay any equipment problems on the train or the rail
- Arrange for defective cars to be removed from the train for repairs at the nearest station or stop. Additionally, alternative routes may be discussed if there is a defect or obstruction on the rail. They inform dispatchers of any problems using a radio or wayside telephone.

Earnings

Low: \$47,000
Average: \$63,000
High: \$70,000

Essential Characteristics

- Effective communication skills
- Attention to detail
- Good organizational skills



Typical Employer

Large and small railways

Additional Information

Career on Track

www.irtcanada.net

SAIT

www.sait.ca/pages/cometosait/academic/certificates/arcdr.shtml

Teamsters Canada Rail Conference

www.teamstersrail.ca

BCIT

www.bcit.ca/study/programs/2070ipcert

Railway Association of Canada

www.railcan.ca

United Transportation Union

www.utu.org