



Yard Master

Education and Training

To become a Yard Master several years of experience in the field is required. Some post secondary education in an appropriate field is preferred. Level "A" Certificate of the Canadian Rail Operating Rules as well as a certificate of the "Qualifications Standard for Operating Crews" are required.

Nature of Work

Yard Masters supervise and coordinate the work of rail crews. This is a position that requires demonstrated skills in the particular trade, as well as the ability to coordinate staff.

Yard Masters are in charge of the overall operation of a yard. They decide which cut will be switched and what cars will be switched into each track. The switch crews work directly for them. They direct traffic in the yard tracks and on the main track in yard limits. They give trains movement instructions for their area of responsibility. In some smaller yards a switch foreman will be given the title of "footboard yardmaster" and he will have the responsibility to direct the overall yard operation, while still being a yard engine foreman. Complex terminals may have multiple yardmasters (hump, trim, east, west, etc.) and when there are multiple yard masters a General Yard Master is in charge. The Yard Masters work for Train Masters and the General Yard Masters.

Earnings

Low:	\$60,000
Average:	\$85,000
High:	\$100,000

Main Duties

- Supervise workers who operate trains within yards.
- Plan ways to meet train schedules, and coordinate work activities.
- Resolve work problems and recommend ways to improve productivity.
- Supervise, co-ordinate, and schedule the activities of workers who operate trains, drive locomotives in railway yards, and perform other duties related to railway operations.
- Establish methods to meet work schedules and co-ordinate work activities with other departments
- Resolve work problems and recommend measures to improve productivity
- Train or arrange for training of workers
- Recommend personnel actions such as hiring and promotions
- Prepare work reports

Typical Employer

Large railways - CN and Canadian Pacific Railway

Additional Information

Railway Association of Canada
www.railcan.ca
 United Transportation Union
www.utu.org

Essential Characteristics

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

