

Driver of Heavyweight Trucks (Federal Diploma of Vocational Education and Training) in training

Drivers of Heavyweight Trucks transport various goods by lorry and other vehicles (driving licence category B/C/CE). They plan the transport and know how to handle the goods. They can also carry out minor repairs and rectify breakdowns.

Activities

Preparation

- Organise transport, plan the route and estimate how long it will take to load and unload the goods
- Check transport documents, for example customs documents, addresses, deadlines and weight of the goods
- Check the condition of the vehicle, such as wheels, brakes and lights, and check whether there is enough fuel in the tank
- Supervise the loading of goods onto the vehicle and, depending on the situation, help out, sometimes with a forklift or lifting platform
- Distribute loads evenly and sensibly
- Know and comply with safety regulations, secure loads, for example with straps, poles or nets

Transport and delivery of goods

- drive the vehicle to the delivery location and observe traffic conditions (traffic, weather), use electronic devices such as route planners and tachographs
- Unload goods at the customer's premises and check that everything is in order
- Complete formalities, for example hand over delivery notes and have them signed by customers
- Comply with occupational safety and environmental protection regulations and also know the regulations in the countries where goods are transported

Vehicle maintenance

- Cleaning vehicles inside and out
- Carry out checks (e.g. electronics, tyre pressure or lighting) and replace defective parts
- Carry out minor repairs to vehicles
- Maintain tools and equipment
- Dispose of waste in an environmentally friendly manner

Training programme

Duration: 3 years (our students are at the beginning of their 3rd year of training)

Training in vocational practice: In a road transport company

School education: 1 day at the vocational college in the Bildungszentrum Limmattal training centre

Learning content

- Carrying out transport operations
- Ensuring maintenance, safety and environmental protection

Inter-company courses: Practical learning, deepening and practising of professional basics, driver safety course, forklift test

At the age of 17, apprentices receive a category B, C and CE learner's licence. They are accompanied on journeys by their instructor. Once they have passed their driving test, they carry out transport jobs independently.

Degree: Heavy vehicle driver with the Swiss Certificate of Competence¹

¹ Source and further information: berufsberatung.ch

