

ELEVATOR CONSTRUCTOR

Nature of the Work

An elevator constructor has a lot of ups and downs. One minute you're on top of the building. The next thing you know, you're down in the basement. But elevator constructors take the highs and lows in stride. After all, it's their job. Elevator constructors install and maintain elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters, wheelchair lifts, and moving walkways. Often, we take for granted the machinery that moves us effortlessly from one place to another, and yet elevators, escalators, dumbwaiters and moving sidewalks have made our lives much easier and more efficient.

Elevator constructors work on all kinds of elevators, from simple passenger elevators and on enormous and complex industrial elevators. They install and maintain single escalators that move passengers from one floor of a building to another as well as whole systems of elevators and escalators that keep commuters flowing through the subway. Elevator constructors may specialize in construction, maintenance or repair work.

Working Conditions

Elevator constructors work indoors most of the time, but may do some outdoor work. They usually work eight hours a day, Monday through Friday. Although, maintenance and service personnel may be on 24-hour call for specified periods of time. There is some risk of injury from heavy equipment, falls and electrical shocks.

Interest and Personal Qualities

Elevator installers lift and carry heavy equipment and parts, and may work in cramped spaces or awkward positions. Potential hazards include falls, electrical shock, muscle strains, and other injuries related to handling heavy equipment. Because most of their work is performed indoors in buildings under construction or in existing buildings, elevator installers and repairers lose less work time due to inclement weather than do other construction trades workers.

General Qualifications

- Age 18 or older
- Mechanical aptitude
- The ability to work well in a small crew without direct supervision
- The ability to do detailed and precise work
- A willingness to keep up to date with innovations in the field
- High school diploma or GED
- Pre physical evaluation and drug test

Admission Requirements of the Joint Apprenticeship and Training Committee

Applicants are later contacted to take a written aptitude and general scholastic skills test which is administered under the guidelines set by the U.S. Department of Labor.

Terms of Training

Length of apprenticeship - 4 years.

Classroom work and home studies are required along with on the job training.

Recommended High School Courses

General Math, Algebra I, Geometry, Mechanical Drawing, Electronics

Contact Information / Available Applications

International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 85
5800 Executive Drive
Lansing, MI 48911
Phone (517) 882-0100
FAX (517) 882-1970
David Miller, Career Opportunity Consultant

Please Note: Local 85, currently, is not accepting applications. The Local is finishing up a hiring list and won't be accepting applications again until 2007.

All applicants are afforded equal opportunity without regard to race, religion, color, sex, national origin, age or disability.