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Van Kam Freightways Ltd., 10155 Grace Rd., Surrey, BC V3V 3V7



CAREERS IN COMMERCIAL TRUCK DRIVING

A guide to a satisfying & rewarding career in the freight transportation and logistics industry.



DRIVEFORVANKAM.COM



BC Family-Owned &
Operated Since 1947

Why consider a career in truck driving?

Truck drivers are essential to our economy. As a truck driver, you would have extreme purpose within your role. Just imagine – nearly everything around you was delivered on a truck at some point. Without truck drivers grocery stores could not stock food, hospitals would not have necessary medical supplies, construction sites would not have resources to build, and car lots would not have vehicles to sell.



Important Skills to Have:

Communication Skills

While the perception is that drivers spend the majority of their time on the road by themselves, the role still requires a great deal of communication. Whether with customers, dispatchers, or governing bodies, drivers must be comfortable enough to receive instructions and relay information as necessary.

Technology Skills

The world of trucking is changing rapidly. Not only are the trucks equipped with more computers and technology (lane keep assist, etc), but the job itself requires the incumbent to be comfortable with handheld technology, accessing routes and customer information, taking pictures of freight upon pick-up and delivery, and having customer sign electronic receipts, to name a few!

Mechanical Knowledge

While our drivers are not required to fix or maintain the trucks, a basic understanding of their operation and a mechanical aptitude would be of significant value.

Safety Conscious

With driving trucks comes incredible responsibility. Not only in terms of your own safety, but the safety of others on the road. Drivers must care deeply about safety in everything they do and err on the side of caution.

Care and Attention

Truck drivers are hauling extremely precious cargo. Giving attention to detail (ie., ensuring proper pre-and post trip inspections are completed, dangerous goods paperwork and placards are in place, etc.), are vital to this role and ensuring customer get their freight in a timely manner without incident.



Driving at Van Kam

LOCAL DRIVERS

These drivers deliver freight to local businesses throughout their specified regions. This is typically a day job, and the drivers are home every night. They work anywhere between 8-14 hours per day.

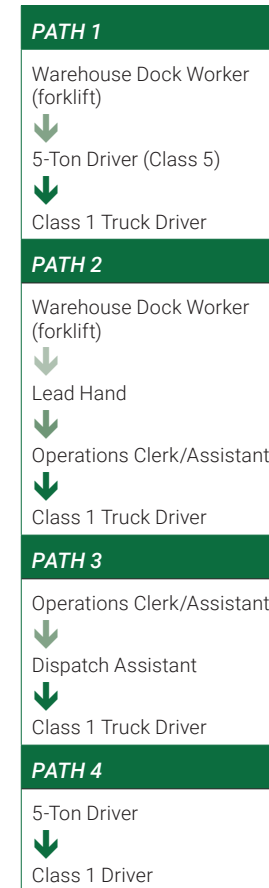
PROS	CONS
Get to spend most of the day on the road. Customer facing role, so would appeal to someone who still likes to interact with people throughout the day. Satisfaction in delivering freight to businesses and contributing to the economy.	Must deal with a variety of drivers on the road. Job is somewhat physical in nature (loading/unloading freight on the truck – typically with a power walker or pallet jack). Dealing with a variety of road and weather conditions.
PAY: Our local drivers are paid an hourly wage of \$29.36 (as of 2024). They are eligible for overtime hours and pay as well. Our average local driver makes between \$60,000 – 85,000 per year.	

LINEHAUL DRIVERS

Otherwise known as our highway drivers. These drivers typically transport trailers from one terminal to another within the BC or to Alberta or Washington state.

PROS	CONS
Appeals to someone who enjoys driving and likes spending quite a bit of time on the road.	Our linehaul drivers are required to work in the evenings and driving at night (although this appeals to many as they have to deal with less traffic on the road at that time).
Get to see and experience many areas throughout the province.	Extreme driving conditions with mountain and snow travel. Pressure of juggling on-time arrivals with hours of service requirements and unforeseen circumstances.
Mostly self-supervised work.	Not an entry-level position. Requires several years mountain/snow experience in a commercial truck for insurance and safety reasons.
PAY: Our linehaul drivers get paid by mileage. The current rate is \$0.67 per mile. They also make an hourly rate of \$29.36 for things like wait times, chain-up times, etc. Our average linehaul driver makes anywhere between \$60,000 to \$110,000 per year depending on their routes and availability. Drivers can also make more money for Long-Combination Vehicle (LCV) experience/training.	

Career Paths to Entry as a Commercial Truck Driver



Class 5 Driver (standard license)

Van Kam offers limited positions in this field at each terminal location. Previous driving/delivery experience is valuable. Skills gained in customer service, geographical area knowledge, and demonstrated safe driving practices are key assets when applying!

Forklift Operator / Warehouse Dock Worker

Gain valuable experience on the "loading" side of the business. Can receive forklift training through a 3rd party or can receive from your employer on-the-job.

The above opportunities would allow an employee to get their foot in the door at a local business, and possibly work with the company to fund their Class 1 training.

Interested candidates could obtain their Class 1 license on their own and then apply to entry level Class 1 jobs to gain entry into the field.

Other Considerations:

Our drivers are part of the Teamsters Union.
Drivers require a Class 1 license. This is obtained through a driving school and typically costs between \$14,000-18,000. The program is a couple months in length and includes a mix of classroom and on-the-road training. Visit ICBC website for more information.



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Van Kam has 8 freight terminals throughout BC:
 Victoria | Surrey | Nanaimo | Campbell River
 Kamloops | Kelowna | Castlegar | Prince George