

**County of Humboldt Job Specification**  
**BOAT OPERATOR I/II**  
**Classification 0431A/B**  
**FLSA: Non-Exempt**



**DEFINITION**

Under immediate (Boat Operator I) to general (Boat Operator II) supervision, performs unskilled to skilled heavy, physical work in the maintenance, repair and construction of roads and the operation of crusher equipment; operates a ferry boat to transport passengers across rivers when low water crossings are impassible; and performs related duties as assigned.

**SUPERVISION RECEIVED AND EXERCISED**

Receives immediate (Boat Operator I) to general (Boat Operator II) supervision from assigned supervisory or management personnel. Exercises no direct supervision over staff.

**CLASS CHARACTERISTICS**

Boat Operator I: This is the entry-level classification in the Boat Operator series. Initially under immediate supervision, incumbents learn and perform routine ferry boat operation during high river water level seasons and road maintenance duties during low river water level seasons. As experience is gained, assignments become more varied, complex, and difficult; close supervision and frequent review of work lessen as an incumbent demonstrates skill to perform the work independently. Positions at this level usually perform most of the duties required of the positions at the II level but are not expected to function at the same skill level and usually exercise less independent discretion and judgment in matters related to work procedures and methods. Work is usually supervised while in progress and fits an established structure or pattern. Exceptions or changes in procedures are explained in detail as they arise. Boat Operator I will train to operate heavier equipment.

Boat Operator II: This is the journey-level classification in the Boat Operator series. Positions at this level are distinguished from the I level by the performance of the full range of duties as assigned, working independently, and exercising judgment and initiative. Positions at this level receive only occasional instruction or assistance as new or unusual situations arise and are fully aware of the operating procedures and policies of the work unit. This class is distinguished from Boat Operator III class in that the latter performs the more complex work assigned to the series and/or providing technical and functional direction over lower-level staff. This class is further distinguished from the Road Maintenance Worker class series in that the latter does not have responsibilities for ferry boat operation and maintenance. Operates all equipment as a Boat Operator II, including heavy equipment for Crusher operations.

Positions in the Boat Operator I/II class series are flexibly staffed and positions at the II level are typically filled by advancement from the I level after two years of training to gain the knowledge, skill, and experience which meet the qualifications for, and after demonstrating the ability to perform the work of, the higher-level classification.

**EXAMPLES OF TYPICAL JOB FUNCTIONS (Illustrative Only)**

*Management reserves the right to add, modify, change, or rescind the work assignment of different positions.*

*Some duties, knowledge, skills, and abilities may be performed in a learning capacity for entry-level (I-level) positions.*

- During high river water levels seasons, performs a variety of Boat Operator duties and responsibilities related to ferry boat operations to provide river passage over low water crossings that are impassible by motor vehicles
- During low river water levels seasons, performs unskilled to skilled heavy physical labor equivalent to the County's Road Maintenance Worker class series in the maintenance, repair, and construction of County roads.
- Breaks and removes surfaces; digs, shovels, hauls and loads and unloads spoils, sands, asphalt mixes and other materials; operates jack hammers, pavement breakers, concrete saws, spaders, tampers and a wide variety of hand and power tools related to road maintenance work; shovels, rakes, rolls and irons asphalt and sprays oil; operates a variety of heavy trucks; sand seals surfaces; prepares for overlays; cleans up work sites upon completion of jobs; works at rock production sites.
- Performs traffic monitoring and control, including the distribution of barricades, warning signs, safety cones and/or flagging for the vehicles.
- Installs, repairs and maintains culverts, ditches and drainage structures; excavates and clears roads and ditches.
- Operates a variety of light construction equipment such as dump trucks, backhoes, rollers, loaders, patch pots, and sweepers;
- Inspects vehicles and performs minor maintenance; reports the need for major repairs and service; fuels and lubricates vehicles and related equipment; washes and cleans assigned vehicles.
- Operates and maintains a wide variety of hand and power tools and equipment related to work assignments.
- Observes safe work methods and safety practices related to the work; cones and flags worksites to secure from traffic; uses appropriate safety equipment; observes safe driving practices.
- Maintains access to the boat landing; maintains the ferry boat, outboard motor, life jackets, and boat trailer to comply with all applicable safety standards; washes and cleans the equipment; performs preventative maintenance and reports needed repairs.
- Ferries passengers across river waterways which are impassible by motor vehicle; enforces applicable rules, regulations and practices for ferry boat passenger and operator safety.
- Maintains log of work performed including recording repairs to the ferry boat, motor, trailer, life jackets and access; prepares reports of work performed, and a variety of passenger data.
- Responds to emergency situations during off hours as required.
- Performs related duties as assigned.

*The requirements listed below are representative of the knowledge and ability required. Reasonable accommodations may be made to enable qualified individuals with disabilities to perform the essential functions.*

## **QUALIFICATIONS**

### **Knowledge of:**

- Principles and practices of safe boating operations.
- Small watercraft operations, including outboard motor operations.
- Techniques, materials, tools, equipment and vehicles used in the maintenance and repair of boats, roads and crusher equipment.
- Operation and maintenance of a wide variety of hand and power tools and equipment used in the work.
- Safe work methods and safety regulations pertaining to the work.
- Applicable federal, state, and local laws, codes, and ordinances relevant to the area(s) of responsibility.
- Techniques for providing a high level of customer service by effectively dealing with the public, vendors, contractors, and County staff.
- The structure and content of the English language to effectively perform the work.
- Modern equipment and communication tools used for business functions and program, project, and task coordination, including computers and software programs relevant to work performed.

### **Ability to:**

- Operate a ferry boat according to applicable safety standards.
- Accurately analyze river conditions and adopt a proper course of action for passage.
- Operate road construction and crusher equipment such as trucks, rollers, loaders and backhoes.
- Perform heavy physical labor.
- Understand and follow oral and written instructions.
- Exercise sound independent judgment and initiative without close supervision.
- Keep accurate records and prepare simple reports.
- Effectively use computer systems, software applications relevant to work performed, and modern business equipment to perform a variety of work tasks.
- Communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing.
- Establish, maintain, and foster positive and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

### **Education and Experience:**

*Any combination of training and experience that would provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the required qualifications would be:*

Equivalent to completion of the twelfth (12<sup>th</sup>) grade.

**and**

Boat Operator I: Two (2) years of training in the operation of a small watercraft and six (6) months of work experience as a laborer in construction or maintenance work.

Boat Operator II: Two (2) years of experience in construction and maintenance of roads and the safe operation of a passenger ferry boat at a level equivalent to the County's class of Boat Operator I.

### **Licenses and Certifications:**

- Must possess a valid US driver's license upon date of application. Must obtain California driver's license following hire date per California DMV regulations.
- Must possess certification of completion of a basic boating safety course provided by the California Department of Boating and Waterways, the United States Coast Guard Auxiliary or other appropriate agency or obtain such certification within 60 days of hire.
- Must obtain a First Aid Certificate within 60 days of hire at the I level. Must possess a First Aid Certificate prior to hire date at the II level.
- Must obtain a Class B driver's license within 6 months of hire at the I level. Must possess a Class B driver's license prior to hire at the II level.
- Must obtain a Class A driver's license within 6 months of hire at the II level.

### **PHYSICAL DEMANDS**

- Mobility to work in the field on roads and waterways; to sit, stand, and walk on level, uneven, or slippery ground and watercraft surfaces as well as on rolling, pitching, and yawing watercraft; frequently reach, twist, turn, kneel, bend, stoop, squat, crouch, grasp and make repetitive hand movement in the performance of daily duties; to climb and descend ladders; to operate varied hand and power tools and construction equipment, to operate a ferry boat safely; and to operate a motor vehicle and visit various County sites.
- Strength and stamina to perform medium to heavy physical work; to lift, carry, push, and pull materials and objects averaging a weight of 50 pounds or heavier weights up to 100 pounds, in all cases with the use of proper equipment and/or assistance from other staff.
- Vision to inspect and operate equipment and to identify and avoid potential waterway hazards in a river or other small to medium body of water.
- Fieldwork requiring frequent walking in operational areas to identify problems or hazards.
- Finger dexterity to operate and repair tools and equipment.

### **ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS**

- Field work with exposure to loud noise levels, cold and hot temperatures, inclement weather conditions, flooding conditions, road hazards, waterway hazards, chemicals, mechanical and/or hazardous physical substances and fumes, dust and air contaminants.
- Employees may interact with upset staff and/or public and private representatives in interpreting and enforcing departmental policies and procedures.

### **ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Pre-employment screening measures are required before an offer of employment can be made for this position (i.e. background screening, physical examination, drug testing, etc.).
- Must be willing to work outside in all weather conditions and to work varied and odd hours.

- This is a DOT (Department of Transportation) covered classification and is subject to random drug and/or alcohol screening.