

Applying for a job in the Drilling Industry

Please note: This information is provided as a service only. ADITC is not an employment agency and does not have any role in employing or recommending people for employment. We can help you with training.

How do you apply for a job in the industry?

Companies may place advertisements in the newspaper in the Trades and Technical Employment section, or on the web. Web based employment-search services (like SEEK.com) list drilling jobs at various levels. The Search category is usually: *Mining, Oil and Gas* subcategory *Drilling*.

Most employers in the drilling industry recruit directly. It is usually best to approach the companies directly. You can find drilling companies listed in the Australian Yellow Pages under *Boring and/or Drilling Contractors*. Be aware though that this lists all sizes and sectors of company, from companies which drill post holes to offshore oil and gas drilling companies.

You should expect to do a little bit of research about the companies. You can check up on the websites of individual companies as a guide. You can check the websites of relevant industry associations for information – for example:

- the Australian Drilling Industry Association
- the New Zealand Drillers' Federation
- the Australasian Society for Trenchless Technology
- the Piling and Foundation Specialists Federation

The industry has the following sectors, and companies may work in one or more sectors –

Blast hole drilling	Mineral production drilling
Environmental drilling	Raiseboring
Foundation/construction drilling	Oil and gas drilling, offshore
Geotechnical drilling	Oil and gas drilling, onshore
Geothermal drilling	Seismic drilling
Horizontal directional drilling	Trenchless technology
Mineral exploration drilling	Waterwell drilling

How do you prepare to join the drilling industry? What skills is the drilling industry looking for?

The drilling industry really values people who are good with their hands and have good mechanical skills. We need people who are independent and self-reliant, because much of the work is done in regional areas in small teams. Good maths aptitude is helpful. You do not need to have completed Year 12 to join the industry.

Coming from school:

In primary and high school, subjects which will help you are applied mechanical skills and maths and science. Good driving skills and a good driving record are also important.

Coming from other industries:

Previous experience and documented training in trades or in the armed forces will be a great assistance and the industry will recognize relevant skills and training (for example, welding, fork lift, dogging, heavy machinery training). A heavy vehicle driving licence and a good driving record will be valuable. Remember that there is a range of sectors in the industry which relate to the mining, construction, civil construction and water industries, and your skills may be readily transferable.

Training to enter the industry

ADITC offers a distance learning course, the DICAT Course, which is the only industry training course to offer an extensive and thorough training for the Drilling Industry by distance learning. This training complements your work once you get employment in the industry, and employers look favourably at it as a good grounding. ADITC also publishes the main reference textbook used by the industry: *Drilling, the Manual of Methods, Applications and Management*.

The Drilling Industry has national qualifications available at Certificate II, III, IV, Diploma and advanced Diploma level, but you do not have to hold any of these to enter the industry.

ADITC can give you advice about these qualifications.

Be aware

Be aware that due to the importance of safe working practice and the type of work done in drilling, the industry does not tolerate drug use and that most companies will regard this as an action for which you can be fired on the spot.

Police checks may also be required due to the secure nature of many worksites.

A web site you might like to look up which may give you more information on seeking employment in the industry is www.myfuture.edu.au

For general information about the industry, contact us at ADITC:

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