

# WAGE GRADE CAREER PATH

**WG 8852**

## Aircraft Mechanic

This occupation covers all nonsupervisory jobs involved in the maintenance, troubleshooting, repair, overhaul, and modification of fixed and rotary wing aircraft systems, airframes, components and assemblies, where the work requires substantive knowledge of the airframe and aircraft mechanical, pneumatic, and/or electrical systems and their interrelationships. Some work situations within this series may require varying levels of electronics knowledge.

WG02 - Step  
WG05

### Part 1 Apprentice/Helper/Trainee; Trade/Less than Journeyman

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | 1 | Complete New Hire Orientation                                     |
|  | 2 | Complete Civilian Training Plan requirements for current position |
|  | 3 | Complete task qualifications for current position                 |
|  | 4 | Complete task certifications for current position                 |
|  | 5 | Master simple to common work tasks under supervision              |
|  | 6 | Maintain successful to above average performance ratings          |

### Part 2 Journeyman

- |  |   |   |
|--|---|---|
|  | 1 | Continue required on-the-job and formal classroom training required in Civilian Training Plan   |
|  | 2 | Complete task qualifications for current position   |
|  | 3 | Complete task certifications for current position   |
|  |   | Master common to complex work tasks. At grade 8, aircraft workers apply standardized and specific procedures to accomplish tasks of limited complexity. Typical work assignments at this level include the disassembly of aircraft or major components for overhaul or modification. Workers at this level remove major components of aircraft structure or systems such as control surfaces, fairings, access panels, doors, hatches, landing gear assemblies, engines, activator units, tubing, electrical wiring, and control cables. In some work situations, grade 8 workers may further disassemble major components for transfer to various specialty shops and assist in configuration changes, refuel/defuel, and towing. They report unusual wear or damage if observed. They perform repairs of limited complexity such as removing and replacing worn or damaged gaskets, pneumatic lines and couplings, fuel cells, cables, and pulleys. They follow detailed procedures that specify task sequences, tolerances, etc. Grade 8 workers also install, align, and adjust less complex aircraft systems, subsystems, assemblies and components such as ejection seats, nuclear shielding, or similar self-contained systems that have few adjustments and little interaction with other systems. At this level, they may work as part of a team, under the direction of higher grade employees, to accomplish larger and more complex operations such as jacking and leveling aircraft, installing and adjusting engines, landing gear assemblies, instrument panels, and flight control systems. Workers at this level may make entries, either manual or automated, in the aircraft records of work accomplished and deficiencies observed. |
|  | 4 | Master common to complex work tasks. At grade 10, aircraft mechanics, install, adjust, align, troubleshoot and perform final functional and operational tests on a variety of major aircraft systems, their assemblies, and components such as airframe, landing gear, power plant, gear boxes, pumps, and hydraulic, pressurization, utility, fuel, oil, pneumatic, and flight control systems. Typical work assignments at this level include installing, aligning, and functionally testing the various major and minor mechanical and pneumatic systems on an aircraft during overhaul or modification. Work assignments may range from complete aircraft overhauls to routine maintenance and servicing aircraft. Grade 10 aircraft mechanics perform flight line maintenance of assigned and transient operational aircraft, including functional testing, troubleshooting, and repairing all airframe mechanical systems, or post assembly checkout, adjustment, and repair of overhauled and modified aircraft to prepare for and correct deficiencies found on functional check flights. Mechanics at this level check technical guides to assure they include up-to-date changes. They report errors and poorly presented or confusing information. In some work situations, they may be required to run up and taxi aircraft to conduct operational tests.   |
|  | 5 | Master common to complex work tasks. At Grade 11, it is appropriate when the aircraft mechanic is assigned as the dedicated crew chief or plane captain and has the primary responsibility for performing, coordinating and/or overseeing the work and any periodic inspections to be done on an aircraft whether it is alone, or with the assistance of other mechanics and/or workers. Grade 11 also is responsible for coordinating the work of other journey-level workers in other trades to work simultaneously on the aircraft. Grade 11 aircraft mechanics serve as the technical authority to advise on, examine, and approve all airframe, mechanical, electrical, and pneumatic repairs to their assigned aircraft. They determine when the nature and scope of repair involves other trades, e.g., engine mechanics, electricians, electronics mechanics, or integrated systems mechanics and coordinate the work of these individuals with the other trades. Grade 11 aircraft mechanics check/review the work of other trades to ensure completion. They conduct functional tests of repairs/modifications to ensure proper operation. They report malfunctions to appropriate personnel and schedule follow-up work. They are responsible for grounding an aircraft when the severity of a malfunction warrants it and may be responsible for releasing the aircraft to service after repairs are completed and tested.  |
|  | 6 | Provide production support services   |
|  | 7 | Maintain successful to above average performance ratings  |

*This list is not all inclusive. For more information on your series, visit the OPM site below. Copy and paste the link in your browser.*

[OPM Classification Standards](#)