

Mobile Training Centers for Masonry

The International Masonry Institute (IMI), a labor-management trust, administers national craft training programs for the International Union of Bricklayers and Allied Craftworkers and their employees. In addition to an extensive network of training centers throughout the United States, one of IMI's most successful programs is the mobile training system. This program allows a rapid response to the needs of local unions and contractors.

Whenever there is a need for masonry training, either due to pent-up demand or a special project such as a stadium, a fully outfitted mobile training unit can be brought to the area. Each mobile unit consists of a tractor trailer equipped with everything necessary to conduct a 12 week pre-job training course for 20 or more trainees in bricklaying, tile setting, cement masonry and related crafts. Large tents for outdoor craft training, a full complement of tools, books and videos are all packed inside. In addition, the trailer expands on both sides to form a larger, furnished space with audiovisual equipment and desks for the classroom portions of the course. Within a few days of the trailer's arrival, the designated site becomes a fully functioning training center.

The mobile units bring high-quality masonry training courses to any location, and allow a quick response to market demands and the needs of both contractors and craft workers. Mobile units have limited overhead expense which permits more resources to be focused on actual training. They also attract positive media attention for the training program and the masonry industry in general. In many communities, the arrival of the trailer and commencement of the training course leads to press and television stories that help attract new trainees to the masonry craft.

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