

LABORATORY TECHNICIAN I

Class Definition

Under close supervision, performs standardized chemical and biochemical analyses of water, raw and digested sludges, sewage and similar materials, in accordance with prescribed methods.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Laboratory Technician I is the entry level class in the Laboratory Technician series. Work includes standardized organic and inorganic chemical analysis, bacteriological analysis, quality assurance, and preparation of reagents and media. Work effectiveness is determined through precision and accuracy of results and proficiency in performance of analysis. This class is distinguished from Laboratory Technician II in that the latter is the journey level. It is distinguished from Senior Laboratory Technician in that incumbents of the latter provide lead direction to an assigned shift in the Wastewater Laboratory.

Typical Tasks

(An incumbent may not be assigned all duties listed, nor do the examples cover all duties which may be assigned.)

Performs routine qualitative and quantitative chemical and biochemical analyses of water, sewage, soil, or other materials by standardized and predetermined methods, i.e., volatile and suspended solids, volatile acids, alkalinity, chlorides, biochemical oxygen demand, coliform MPN, total cyanide, chemical oxygen demand, oil and grease, atomic absorption spectrophotometry, gas chromatography, and other analysis.

Assists other laboratory personnel in the performance of more complex tests and analyses.

Operates and cleans various laboratory devices and equipment.

Performs routine calculations in analysis determination and report writing.

Records test data and keeps records pertaining to analysis using the Laboratory Information Management System.

Performs related duties as required.

Knowledge, Abilities and Skills

Knowledge of modern laboratory techniques and procedures as related to the analysis of sewage and water.

Knowledge of the care, maintenance, and operational requirements of laboratory equipment and apparatus.

Knowledge of the principles of organic and inorganic chemistry.

Knowledge of microbiological techniques and equipment sterilization.

Ability to learn quality control/quality assurance procedures.

Ability to perform standard laboratory examinations in a safe and efficient manner.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in chemistry, biochemistry, biology or a natural or physical science. After one year of satisfactory performance as a Laboratory Technician I, and upon recommendation of the supervisor, an incumbent may be promoted to Laboratory Technician II, upon successful completion of a non-competitive qualifying examination.

Necessary Special Requirements

Possession of a valid California Driver's License at time of appointment.

APPROVED: _____

Director of Personnel

DATE: _____

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