

Code: 2741

Title: WASTEWATER LABORATORY TECHNICIAN

SUMMARY: Performs collection and standardized analyses of water to include ground/storm/surface and solid waste water samples utilizing Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) approved methods. This classification records and reports sample analyses results in compliance with licensure requirements of local, state and federal regulatory agencies.

DUTIES/RESPONSIBILITIES: (Work assignments may vary depending on the department's needs and will be communicated to the applicant or incumbent by the supervisor)

Collects water, solid waste and wastewater effluent samples for laboratory testing;
Performs various standardized laboratory tests such as BOD, COD, TOC, dissolved oxygen, bacteriological examination, alkalinity, hardness, pH, chlorine, fluoride, cyanide, sulfate, sulfide, digester gases, volatile acids, nitrates, phosphates, solids testing, and other related tests as required by regulatory agencies;
Prepares bacterial media used in the analysis of sample for E. coli, fecal coliform and other microbiological organisms;
Operates, calibrates and maintains laboratory equipment and instruments such as gas chromatographs, UV/VIS spectrophotometers, analytical balances, DO meters, pH meters, flow injection analyzers, and computer controlled BOD robotic instruments;
Performs acid neutralization, thermometer calibration, safety equipment checks, and sample bottle preparations;
Prepares laboratory waste for hauling off-site for proper disposal;
Performs laboratory audits, completes control charts and determines and documents the standard deviation and linear regression of laboratory quality control data;
Maintains physical facilities and equipment in accordance with departmental and professional standards;
Adheres to safety procedures in accordance with laboratory and chemical plan;
Maintains manual and automated laboratory records and logbooks on testing and quality control measures as required by regulatory standards;
Reviews and recommends revisions to the standardized operating procedures used for analytical testing;
May assist Wastewater Laboratory Chemists and Chemist Specialists in training new laboratory support staff.

KNOWLEDGE & SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- principles of biology, microbiology and chemistry;
- the operation and care of standard test equipment used in test procedures;
- laboratory processes and procedures involving water and wastewater testing;
- federal and state requirements for compliance testing of wastewater, ground water, surface water, storm water and solid waste samples.

Skill in:

- performing standard laboratory tests;
- communicating effectively and following written and verbal instructions;
- using standard laboratory equipment;
- performing mathematical and statistical calculations;
- use of automated information systems for tracking data and report generation.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

EITHER:

(1) An Associate's degree from an accredited college in chemistry, biology, microbiology or a closely related field as defined by the appointing authority and two years of experience performing standard laboratory tests or instrumental laboratory analyses.

OR:

(2) A Bachelor's degree from an accredited college in chemistry, biology, microbiology or a closely related field as defined by the appointing authority.

OR:

(3) Three years of experience with Pima County as a Wastewater Laboratory Assistant.

OR:

(4) Five years of laboratory experience performing sample preparations and assisting with basic analytical procedures.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS:

Licenses and Certificates: A valid Class D Arizona driver's license is required at the time of appointment.

Physical/Sensory Requirements: Some positions may require the ability to: lift and carry up to fifty pounds; work with or in the presence of obnoxious odors; work with noxious or potentially hazardous chemicals, compounds or wastewater products. Safety training and equipment will be provided by Pima County.

This class specification is intended to indicate the basic nature of positions allocated to the class and examples of typical duties that may be assigned. It does not imply that all positions within the class perform all of the duties listed, nor does it necessarily list all possible duties that may be assigned.

Pima County

Revised 01/09/05^(ya)
Updated 05/08/09^(tb)