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INTRODUCTION

This position classification flysheet establishes the Customs and Border Protection Interdiction Series, 1881. It also provides the series definition, titling instructions, and grading instructions for General Schedule (GS) and other “white collar” pay plans. In the General Schedule position classification system established under chapter 51 of title 5, United States Code, the positions addressed here would be two-grade interval positions.

This flysheet is divided into two parts. Part I contains occupational information that is applicable to federal work covered by the flysheet without regard to pay plan or classification system. Part II provides the grading criteria for positions classified in accordance with GS grade definitions.

The term “General Schedule” or “GS” denotes the major position classification system and pay structure for white collar work in the Federal government. Agencies no longer subject to chapter 51 have replaced the GS pay plan indicator with agency-unique pay plan indicators. For that reason, reference to “General Schedule” or “GS” has been omitted from this flysheet.

COVERAGE

This position classification flysheet covers the following occupational series:

Series

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|---|
| Customs and Border Protection Interdiction, 1881 |
|---|

ESTABLISHING THE OCCUPATIONAL SERIES AND STANDARD

Issuance of this flysheet establishes the occupational series as described in the following table. The table also indicates how to grade work covered by this series.

| Series | Action Taken / How to Classify Work Previously Covered | | |
|---|--|-------------|---|
| <table style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <td style="width: 60%; padding: 5px;">Customs and Border Protection Interdiction</td> <td style="width: 40%; padding: 5px; text-align: center;">1881</td> </tr> </table> | Customs and Border Protection Interdiction | 1881 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishes this occupational series. Refer to the Position Classification Standards for Border Patrol Agent, 1896, and the Aircraft Operation Series, 2181, for grading criteria. |
| Customs and Border Protection Interdiction | 1881 | | |

PART I – OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

Part I provides the series definition, titling instructions, and detailed occupational information for the Customs and Border Protection Interdiction Series, 1881.

GENERAL SERIES DETERMINATION GUIDELINES

For a variety of reasons, selection of the correct series for a position is an essential part of the entire human resources management process. For example, qualification requirements used in recruiting are based on the series of the position; career ladders are influenced by the series; and organizational structures are often designed with consideration of the series of assigned positions.

Determining the correct series for a position is usually apparent by reviewing the assigned duties and responsibilities and then comparing them to the series definitions and general occupational information the classification flysheet or standard provides. Generally, the series determination for a position is based on the primary work of the position, the highest level of work performed, and the paramount knowledge required to do the work of the position. Normally, it is fairly easy to make this decision. However, in some instances, determining the correct series may not be as obvious.

Use the following guidelines to determine the predominant series when the work of a position matches more than one series or occupational group. Also, when the work of a position falls into more than one series it is sometimes difficult to determine which particular series predominates. In such situations, apply the guidelines below in the order listed to determine the correct series.

- ***Paramount knowledge required.*** Although there may be several different kinds of work in the position, most positions will have a paramount knowledge requirement. The paramount knowledge is the most important type of subject-matter knowledge or experience required to do the work.
- ***Reason for existence.*** The primary purpose of the position or management's intent in establishing the position is a positive indicator for determining the appropriate series.
- ***Organizational mission and/or function.*** Positions generally align with the mission and function of the organization to which they are assigned. The organization's function is often mirrored in the organizational title and may influence the appropriate series.
- ***Recruitment source.*** Supervisors and managers can help by identifying the occupational series that provides the best qualified applicants to do the work. This is closely related to the paramount knowledge required.

The [Additional Occupational Considerations](#) section of this flysheet provides examples where the work may involve applying related knowledge and skills, but not to the extent that it warrants classification to this occupational series. Additional information may be found in the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) publication [The Classifier's Handbook](#).

OFFICIAL TITLING PROVISIONS

Title 5, United States Code, requires the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) to establish the authorized official position title that includes a basic title (e.g., Customs and Border Protection Air Interdiction Agent) that may be appended with one or more prefixes and/or suffixes. Agencies must use the official position titles for human resources management, budget, and fiscal purposes. Instructions for assigning official position titles are provided in this section.

Supervisors and Leaders

- Add the prefix “Supervisory” to the basic title when the agency classifies the position as supervisory. If the position is covered by the General Schedule, refer to the [General Schedule Supervisory Guide](#) for additional titling and grading information.
- Add the prefix “Lead” to the basic title when the agency classifies the position as leader. If the position is covered by the General Schedule, refer to the [General Schedule Leader Grade Evaluation Guide](#) for additional titling and grading information.

Parenthetical Titles

For this series, OPM has prescribed one parenthetical title, Customs and Border Protection Air Interdiction Agent (Flight Instructor).

Organizational Titles

Organizational and functional titles do not replace, but complement official position titles. Agencies may establish organizational and functional titles for internal administration, public convenience, program management, or similar purposes. Examples of organizational titles are Branch Chief and Division Chief. Examples of functional titles are Chief of Maintenance and Chief of Policy Development.

| CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION INTERDICTION, 1881 | | Qualification Standards |
|---|--|---|
| Series Definition | <p>This series covers positions that supervise, lead, or perform Customs and Border Protection Interdiction work. The duties primarily involve performing aviation law enforcement operations to detect, interdict, apprehend and prevent terrorists and other persons, weapons and contraband, from illegally entering or attacking the United States. Positions covered by this series have in common dual paramount requirements for knowledge and skills necessary to pilot aircraft and knowledge of the customs and border protection activities that forms the basis for the flying assignments.</p> | |
| Titling | <p>The basic titles specified for this series are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Customs and Border Protection Air Interdiction Agent – Work that involves operating aircraft for such purposes as to prevent the illegal entry and smuggling of aliens, commercial goods, and/or contraband into the United States and to arrest persons suspected of such violations. • Customs and Border Protection Air Interdiction Agent (Flight Instructor) – Work that involves providing ground and flight instruction, including in-flight evaluations, in support of aviation law enforcement flying activities. <p>To accommodate automated systems limitations, these positions may be abbreviated or referred to as CBP Air Interdiction Agent or CBP Air Interdiction Agent (Flight Instructor).</p> | |
| Occupational Information | <p>General Occupational Information</p> <p>The primary function of the CBP Air Interdiction Agent is to perform aviation law enforcement duties to aid in preventing illegal entry and smuggling of aliens, commercial goods, and/or contraband into the United States and to arrest persons suspected of such violations. These responsibilities are carried out through a variety of duties, which may vary because of sector requirements, geographical considerations, and program goals or objectives.</p> <p>The duties of an agent require judgment and skill in aviation law enforcement involving:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • air-to-ground border interdiction of people and conveyances illegally crossing land borders; • air-to-air border interdiction of aircraft illegally crossing air borders; • air-to-water border interdiction of conveyances illegally crossing water borders; • anti-terrorism detection and prevention operations, e.g., support to airspace security for designated areas and national security events as requested by the primary responsible agency; • enforcement of Temporary Flight Restrictions (TFR) and other airspace restrictions; and • use of electronic equipment, such as two-way radios, night scopes, and remote monitored sensor and video systems. <p>Typical Duties and Functions</p> <p>Interdiction consists of several major functions: detecting, sorting, intercepting/tracking, apprehending, intelligence-gathering, assisting in prosecuting, and coordinating with other law enforcement and intelligence agencies.</p> <p>Detecting. Agents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • conduct air patrols, surveillance, and pursuit activities related to the interdiction of contraband smuggled via land vehicles, aircraft, or vessels; • perform routine aviation patrols and enforcement operations, including city, airport, and river patrols and international boundary security operations; • perform air-to-ground sign-cutting; • use aircraft-borne sensor devices and systems to perform interdiction by monitoring behavior patterns and activities of persons, vehicles, or aircraft believed to be engaged in illegal activities including acts of terrorism; • use remote video systems, remote monitored sensor systems, night-vision goggles, pocket and fiber-optic scopes, and other electronic equipment to detect and identify aliens or other persons of interest; • use air intercept/sea search radar; and • fly over water to conduct unseen surveillance of vessels to determine speed, probable route, and point of rendezvous. | |

(continued)

CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION INTERDICTION, 1881 (continued)

Occupational Information (continued)

Sorting. Agents:

- identify individuals suspected of violating titles 8, 19, and 21 of the United States Code and other related statutes;
- make decisions on the admissibility of aliens and vessels into the United States;
- inspect documents to determine citizenship or alien status;
- detect speech mannerisms and differences in attire and customs of aliens;
- monitor furtive behavior patterns, body language, mannerisms, and speech to establish probable cause for detention or arrest;
- recognize fraudulent, counterfeit, and altered photos and documents; and
- identify intercepted aircraft.

Intercepting/Tracking. Agents:

- develop strategy to successfully interdict conveyances including vehicles, aircraft, and vessels;
- fly in close proximity of suspected violator’s aircraft or surface conveyance during hours of darkness in a covert manner;
- fly in day and night formation flights;
- interpret radar data to calculate approximate triangulation;
- visually detect and interpret marks, tracks, and other physical evidence left by the movements of people, animals, vehicles, or other objects at or near international boundaries; and
- coordinate ground teams in locating and surrounding smugglers and others.

Apprehending. Agents:

- develop strategy and coordinate aircraft, ground, and water assets;
- operate airplanes and helicopters to tactically insert apprehension teams to remote or inaccessible landing sites in support of law enforcement operations;
- apprehend, arrest and search aliens or U.S. citizens who are illegally entering or attempting to enter or to smuggle goods or contraband into the United States;
- seize narcotics and contraband;
- interview suspects to determine if violations have been committed;
- arrest violators on-site;
- search persons, vessels, baggage, and cargo for contraband or weapons incidental to detention or arrest; and
- search vessels or persons after interdiction to gather evidence to support allegations of criminal or terrorist activity.

Intelligence-Gathering. Agents:

- make contact and coordinate with persons in the general aviation and marine community and other law enforcement agencies to gather and share intelligence information about illegal activities or potential acts of terrorism;
- collect, refine, and analyze strategic and tactical intelligence;
- develop and utilize information on smuggler and smuggling activity as well as terrorist activity and operations, during in-flight operations; and
- utilize interrogation and interview techniques to elicit information from suspects to determine criminal violation.

Assisting in Prosecuting. Agents:

- testify under oath before grand jury, in Federal court proceedings, and in other domestic legal proceedings;
- advise on the development of facts and evidence;
- write concise and comprehensive reports of interdiction activities that are forwarded to the appropriate investigative agency, and may become the basis for prosecution;
- present cases before both criminal and administrative proceedings;
- ensure all evidence requirements are fulfilled prior to trial;
- prepare criminal complaints; and
- obtain sworn statements.

(continued)

| CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION INTERDICTION, 1881 (continued) | |
|---|--|
| Occ Info (contd) | <p>Coordinating with Other Law Enforcement and Intelligence Agencies. Agents:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • fly in support of Federal, state, and local law enforcement activities; • work with foreign law enforcement personnel on mutually negotiated interdiction strategies and operations; and • lead, participate, or represent the agency in interagency task force operations. |

| IMPACT OF AUTOMATION |
|---|
| <p>Automation and computer technologies affect how background information, data, evidence, and other types of information are gathered to accomplish interdiction work. Positions in this series use computers and computer-assisted equipment to perform a wide variety of tasks, such as researching and obtaining up-to-date data and weather information; and using remote monitored sensor systems. They access files, obtain up-to-date information, analyze data, and generate reports. They input, store, and retrieve data in multiple formats. The Internet is used to search for information pertaining to assignments.</p> <p>Although the incumbents use computers to perform basic work processes, knowledge of the rules and processes to perform the work remains the paramount subject-matter knowledge required. The kind of automation tools involved and the skill required to use them generally replace or supplement work methods and techniques previously performed through manual or machine-enhanced processes. Incumbents may require knowledge of the applications of information technology (IT) to the assignment area and skill in the use of IT software and hardware systems, but the positions are not directly involved in developing, delivering, or supporting IT systems, applications, and services. In many cases, an employee with advanced knowledge and skill in the use of IT systems may be regarded as the IT “expert” in the immediate organization and relied upon by other employees for limited technical advice and assistance in applying IT systems to the assignment area. Although computers are used to facilitate work within this series, the use of automation does not change the primary purpose of the work. Proper classification of positions within this and other technical occupations is based on the relevant knowledge and skills required to perform the primary duties of the position – in this instance, those duties related to customs and border protection interdiction.</p> |

| ADDITIONAL OCCUPATIONAL CONSIDERATIONS | |
|---|---|
| <p>Some positions may include work requiring knowledge and skills typically associated with the Customs and Border Protection Interdiction Series. In some cases, a closer look at the work may reveal that classification to a series in this series family may not be appropriate. The General Series Determination Guidelines section of this flysheet offers guidance on selecting the most appropriate series.</p> <p>The following table provides examples of work that are similar to that performed in the 1881 occupational series, but not to the extent that the paramount knowledge required, the reason for the position’s existence, the mission and/or function of the organization, and the recruitment source for the best qualified candidates would warrant classification to this series.</p> | |
| If Work Involves... | See This Standard or Series Definition: |
| Applying a professional knowledge of education and training or a practical knowledge of the principles and techniques of education and training in combination with a knowledge of the subject, occupation, or field in which education, instruction, and training are given. | Education Group, 1700. |
| Planning, conducting, or managing investigations that do not involve Federal criminal violations but require knowledge of investigative techniques and skill in interviewing, following leads, researching records, and preparing reports. | General Investigation Series, 1810. |
| Planning, conducting, or managing investigations of alleged or suspected criminal violations of Federal laws requiring knowledge of criminal investigative techniques, rules of criminal procedures, laws, constitutional rights, search and seizure, and admissibility of evidence. | Criminal Investigation Series, 1811. |
| Detecting and preventing smuggling or illegal entry of aliens and goods into the United States, conducting surface surveillance at, around and between international ports of entry and borders of the United States, requiring knowledge of the statutes, regulations, and decisions pertaining to enforcing immigration, naturalization, customs and other Federal statutes but not requiring the ability to fly the aircraft. | Customs and Border Patrol Enforcement Series, 1896. |
| Primarily piloting fixed- or rotary-wing aircraft, or performing related staff work requiring primarily the application of pilot or flying knowledge and skills. | Aircraft Operation Series, 2181. |
| Performing or providing ground and flight instruction in air navigation or weapons systems specialist duties. | Air Navigation Series, 2183. |
| Performing duties in flight engineering, aerial refueling, or aircraft loading. | Aircrew Technician Series, 2185. |
| Maintaining, troubleshooting, repairing, overhauling, and modifying fixed- and rotary-wing aircraft systems, airframes, components, and assemblies that require Federal Wage System knowledge. | Aircraft Mechanic, 8852. |

CROSSWALK TO THE STANDARD OCCUPATIONAL CLASSIFICATION

The Office of Management and Budget requires that all Federal agencies that collect occupational data use the Standard Occupational Classification (SOC) system for statistical data reporting purposes. The Bureau of Labor Statistics uses SOC codes for the National Compensation Survey and other statistical reporting. OPM and other Federal agencies maintain a “crosswalk” between OPM authorized occupational series and the SOC codes to serve this need. This requirement and these SOC codes have no effect on the administration of any Federal human resources management system. The information in this table is for information only and has no direct impact on classifying positions covered by this job family standard. The SOC codes shown here generally apply only to nonsupervisory positions in these occupations. As changes occur to the SOC codes, OPM will update this table. More information about the SOC is available at <http://stats.bls.gov/soc>.

**Federal Occupational Series and Position Title
and the Related Standard Occupational Classification System Code**

| Federal Occupational Series | Standard Occupational Classification Code Based on Occupational Series | | Position Title | Standard Occupational Classification Code Based on Position Title | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| Customs and Border Protection Interdiction, 1881 | 33-3021 | Detectives and Criminal Investigators | Customs and Border Protection Air Interdiction Agent | 33-3021 | Detectives and Criminal Investigators |
| | | | Customs and Border Protection Air Interdiction Agent (Flight Instructor) | 33-3021 | Detectives and Criminal Investigators |

PART II – GRADING INFORMATION

Use the [Border Patrol Series, 1896](#), and the [Aircraft Operations Series, 2181](#), position classification standards to evaluate General Schedule positions classified under chapter 51 of title 5, United States Code.