

Position Classification Standard for Public Health Quarantine Inspection Series, GS-1864

Table of Contents

SERIES DEFINITION.....	2
EXCLUSIONS.....	2
TITLES.....	3
EXPLANATORY STATEMENT.....	3
CLASSIFICATION FACTORS.....	5
QUARANTINE INSPECTOR GS-1864-07.....	6
VESSEL SANITATION INSPECTOR GS-1864-07.....	7
QUARANTINE INSPECTOR GS-1864-09.....	9

SERIES DEFINITION

This series includes all positions the duties of which are to supervise or perform inspections work in the enforcement of public health quarantine and sanitary regulations governing the entrance of persons and things into the United States or its possessions. The work involves (1) the inspection of persons for the possible presence of quarantinable or communicable diseases and (2) the inspection of carriers engaged in foreign transportation and their cargoes and of vehicles, personal effects, and other things for the presence of disease vectors, infestation, or conditions contrary to approved sanitary procedures and practices.

This standard supersedes and is to be substituted for the standard for the Public Health Quarantine Inspection Series issued in March 1949 under the code CAF-1065. This standard describes only the principal classes of non supervisory positions in this series. Supervisory positions are evaluated by reference to the [General Schedule Supervisory Guide](#).

EXCLUSIONS

Excluded from this series are:

1. Positions involving the performance of professional and scientific work in the inspection of plants and plant products for the purpose of enforcing plant quarantines or in the survey, detection, identification, control, or eradication of plant pests. These positions are classified in the [Plant Protection and Quarantine Series, GS-0436](#).
2. Positions involving professional medical work in the diagnosis of diseases for quarantine and immigration purposes. These positions are classified in the [Medical Officer Series, GS-0602](#).
3. Positions that involve principally inspections and related work in the enforcement of the Tariff Act and other laws governing the importation or exportation of merchandise. These positions are classified in the [Customs Inspection Series, GS-1890](#).
4. Positions involving work in the inspection of food and/or food establishments to determine compliance with laws and regulations regarding wholesomeness, purity, and the criteria to be met in processing, serving, packaging, and storing food and food products. Positions of this kind are classified in the [Food Inspection Series, GS-1863](#).
5. Positions that consist principally of inspections work in the enforcement of immigration laws and regulations. Such positions are classified in the [Immigrant Inspection Series, GS-1816](#)

TITLES

The title, *Quarantine Inspector*, is established for nonsupervisory positions concerned with all types of quarantine and sanitation inspections.

The title, *Vessel Sanitation Inspector*, is established for nonsupervisory positions concerned with vessel sanitation inspection work.

The title, *Supervisory Quarantine Inspector*, is established for positions in which [supervisory](#) quarantine inspections duties and responsibilities are significant.

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Public health quarantine inspection work consists of the duties and responsibilities involved in inspecting persons and things at ports of entry for the purpose of preventing the introduction of quarantinable and other communicable diseases into the United States or its possessions. Work of this kind is performed by the Public Health Service which administers the foreign quarantine program through a number of quarantine inspection stations located at the principal maritime and border ports of entry. These stations usually provide quarantine inspection service to smaller ports of entry located in relatively nearby areas or to outlying ports of entry where such service is not provided by a medical officer. A medical officer is in charge of the quarantine inspection station at each of the principal ports of entry and is responsible for carrying out the quarantine inspection functions of the station in accordance with headquarters plans, policies, and regulations.

Unless specifically exempted, all persons, carriers, cargoes, vehicles, baggage, and personal effects; certain birds and animals; and various specifically designated items are subject to quarantine inspection upon arrival in the United States or its possessions. The purpose of quarantine inspection is to determine whether diseases or defects of quarantine or immigration importance, disease vectors, rodent or vermin infestation, and/ or unsanitary practices or conditions are present. Quarantine inspection work is performed by (1) *quarantine inspectors* who make all types of quarantine and sanitation inspections and (2) *vessel sanitation inspectors* who inspect vessels arriving from foreign ports for rodent or vermin infestation and for general sanitary condition.

Persons entering the United States, including citizens as well as aliens and crew members as well as passengers, are inspected for the presence of quarantinable or communicable diseases. Persons found to have a quarantinable or a communicable disease are isolated under the supervision of medical officers. Persons suspected of having a quarantinable disease still in the incubation stage may be detained at Public Health Service facilities under observation or released under the surveillance of local health authorities. Aliens requesting entry are inspected, in addition, for mental or physical diseases or defects which might affect ability to earn a living. Those who have a disease or defect of immigration importance are referred, with a report of the condition involved, to the Immigration and Naturalization Service. Citizens and aliens who meet all quarantine requirements are given quarantine clearance.

The quarantine inspection of persons by the quarantine inspector includes, in addition to visual inspection of the person, the examination of medical reports and other documents, and such interrogation of the person as is necessary to establish whether diseases or defects of quarantine or immigration importance may be present. Cases in which there is clearly no evidence of these diseases or defects are given quarantine clearance by the quarantine inspector. Cases in which there is doubt as to the presence of a disease or defect of these kinds are referred to a medical officer for examination and diagnosis. The inspection made by the quarantine inspector eliminates the need for consideration of cases of no quarantine or immigration importance by a medical officer.

Other quarantine inspections include the inspection of (1) carriers engaged in foreign transportation and their cargoes for the presence of rodent or insect infestation and for compliance with regulations regarding sanitary conditions and practices, (2) dogs, cats, monkeys, and psittacine birds for the presence of disease or disease vectors, (3) private vehicles of various kinds, baggage, and personal effects for the presence of disease vectors or vermin, and (4) various specifically designated items for the presence of disease vectors and for compliance with sanitary requirements. Animals and things that meet all quarantine requirements are given quarantine clearance. Various methods are used to eliminate adverse conditions in animals and things that do not meet quarantine requirements. Control and eradication measures applied for this purpose provide for the disinfection of vehicles and personal effects by fumigation or insecticide spraying, the destruction of excluded birds and animals, the use of rodenticide and rodent trapping methods in maritime vessels, and other similar measures.

Carriers are subject to both quarantine and sanitation inspection. The quarantine inspection of maritime vessels includes determining the sanitary history and condition of the vessels, inspecting passengers and crew members for diseases of quarantine and/or immigration importance, examining animals and things for diseases or conditions of quarantine importance, and determining the measures necessary to prevent the introduction of quarantinable or communicable diseases. This inspection is made by a quarantine inspector. The sanitation inspection of maritime vessels involves inspecting the vessel and its cargo for the presence of rodent and/or insect infestation and for compliance with regulations regarding water supply and distribution systems, food-handling practices, and similar matters of general sanitation. Normally, this inspection is made by a vessel sanitation inspector. However, in the absence of a vessel sanitation inspector, it is made by a quarantine inspector. The sanitation inspection of aircraft, trains, buses, and other carriers is less complex than vessel sanitation inspection. The sanitation inspection of these other carriers may be made by either a quarantine inspector or a vessel sanitation inspector. Carriers that meet all quarantine requirements are granted free pratique or quarantine clearance. Carriers requiring the application of sanitary measures may be granted provisional pratique or appropriate sanitary measures are applied until all quarantine requirements have been met, depending upon the circumstances involved.

CLASSIFICATION FACTORS

The distinctions between the grades of positions covered by this standard are based on differences in the qualifications required, the level of difficulty and responsibility involved in the duties performed, and the supervision exercised over the position.

The work performed by quarantine inspectors requires knowledge of quarantine and sanitary regulations governing all types of inspections of persons and things for quarantine, immigration, and sanitation purposes; knowledge of the symptoms of quarantinable and communicable diseases and of the prevalence of these diseases on a worldwide basis; knowledge of physical and mental diseases and defects which may affect ability to earn a living and of the physical and mental requirements of various occupations; knowledge of animal and bird diseases and conditions that are of quarantine importance; knowledge of insect and other disease vectors; ability to determine the presence of diseases or defects of quarantine and/or immigration importance; ability to identify cases which should be referred to a medical officer for diagnosis; ability to detect the presence of rodent or insect infestation on vessels and other carriers by observing visible signs or by observing causative or conducive conditions or situations; knowledge of the construction of various kinds of carriers, including maritime vessels of all types, in relation to their water supply and distribution systems and the possible presence of insect or rodent infestation; knowledge of food sanitation and food-handling methods appropriate for various types of carriers; knowledge of and ability to apply prescribed control and eradication measures or to modify such measures to meet specific circumstances; ability to secure the cooperation of and to instruct carrier personnel in applying control and eradication measures; ability to explain quarantine and sanitary requirements and the methods of conforming with such requirements to travelers, carrier personnel, and other interested persons; and other related knowledge and abilities.

The work performed by vessel sanitation inspectors requires those portions of the above knowledge and abilities that pertain to the inspection of maritime vessels for conformance with sanitary regulations. Variations in the extent of the knowledge and abilities required to perform assignments and in the degree of responsibility assigned to the inspector affect the grade level of positions in this series.

Certain characteristics of quarantine inspector positions at the GS-9 level should be especially noted. These positions are characterized by responsibility for the inspection of various kinds of travelers for all types of diseases and defects of quarantine or immigration importance. This function is of major importance as it constitutes the principal basis for the grade level of quarantine inspector positions. The function is performed at all ports of entry and does not vary from one port to another. Also characteristic of these positions is responsibility for performing the full range of quarantine inspection duties. This includes, in addition to the inspection of persons, a variety of other quarantine inspections. These other quarantine inspections are less difficult and responsible than the inspection of persons and they usually vary in kind from one entry port to another. Because of this variation quarantine inspector positions normally do not show responsibility for performing all of the less difficult quarantine inspections at any one time. However, quarantine inspectors are typically rotated through all types of the less difficult

quarantine inspections at large ports or through a group of smaller ports so that over a period of time the work performed normally includes all of these inspections. Moreover, quarantine inspectors are subject at all times to assignment to a port of entry at any location and, for this reason, must be qualified at all times to make all types of quarantine inspections. It is the requirement for ability to apply the necessary knowledge and abilities on demand rather than their continuous application that is of classification significance. Another matter for consideration is that since the quarantine inspection of persons provides the principal basis for the grade level of these positions, the absence of other types of quarantine inspection work would not affect the classification of the positions unless it were so extensive as to change the nature of the work.

QUARANTINE INSPECTOR GS-1864-07

Positions at this level include those of employees who receive training in the performance of quarantine inspection duties of the kind described at the GS-9 level.

Characteristics of the level

- A. Positions at this level include responsibility for receiving on-the-job training and classroom, lecture, or other formal instruction (at a designated agency training center) in (1) the quarantine laws and sanitary regulations governing the entry of persons and things into the United States, (2) the visible symptoms and other evidence of diseases and defects which are of quarantine or immigration importance, and (3) the work methods, techniques; and procedures to be used in performing the full range of quarantine inspection duties.
- B. Assignments include the performance of quarantine inspection duties under the observation of a quarantine inspector in a higher grade position who explains the application of regulatory provisions and gives advice and instructions as requested by the Quarantine Inspector GS-7 or as indicated to be necessary by observation of the work during its performance. As competence in the work is acquired instructions become less specific and direct until the Quarantine Inspector GS-7 is performing work of the difficulty described at the GS-9 level independently except for initial assignment and post review for conformance with established policies and procedures.
- C. The duties performed characteristically require such knowledge and abilities as ability to acquire thorough knowledge of applicable laws, regulations, and procedures; ability to learn to detect the possible presence of diseases and defects of quarantine or immigration importance; ability to learn to question persons of various nationalities and socio-economic backgrounds to secure information necessary in determining whether conditions of quarantine or immigration importance may exist; ability to use tact in questioning persons and in explaining the measures necessary to meet quarantine and sanitary requirements; ability to learn to make all types of quarantine and sanitation inspections.

VESSEL SANITATION INSPECTOR GS-1864-07

Positions at this level typically include responsibility for (1) independently making routine vessel sanitation inspections in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and established methods and procedures and (2) recommending appropriate quarantine clearance or insuring the application of appropriate control or eradication measures.

Characteristics of the level

- A. The principal duties performed include (1) inspecting all types of American and foreign flag vessels arriving from foreign ports for the presence of disease vectors, rodent or insect infestation, and unsanitary practices or conditions and (2) taking appropriate action on the basis of the findings when this includes (a) recommending that vessels be granted free or provisional pratique (quarantine clearance) or (b) applying, or supervising the application of, appropriate control and eradication measures. The work also includes inspecting dock areas periodically for rodent or insect infestation and preparing a report of findings with recommended control measures for the use of the agency responsible for the dock area. The work may also include, as an additional duty of subordinate nature, the sanitation inspection of carriers or vehicles other than vessels.
- B. The inspection of maritime vessels includes (1) inspecting passenger, cargo, tanker, and such other types of vessels as may arrive from foreign ports to detect signs of rodent or insect infestation in any area of the vessel or in its cargo; (2) inspecting passenger and crew food-handling operations, water supply and distribution systems, waste disposal methods, equipment and practices used in the preparation and serving of food, and similar matters to determine conformance with regulations regarding (a) the maintenance of potability in drinking water, (b) effective separation of water supply systems furnishing potable water from water systems used for other purposes, (c) light and ventilation, (d) general cleanliness, and (e) other related requirements; (3) determining the extent to which such defects as faulty vessel construction, deficient plumbing systems, inadequate or improperly applied control measures, or unsanitary practices contribute to the incidence of rodent or insect infestation; (4) applying, or supervising the application of, the most effective methods of eliminating rodents and insects (traps, insecticides, and rodenticide, fumigation, etc.); (5) making detailed recommendations on the correction of such structural defects in vessels that cause or contribute to rodent infestation; (6) instructing vessel personnel in the use of effective rodent and insect control and eradication measures, approved food-handling methods, and similar matters; (7) identifying and preparing for laboratory examination rodent specimens collected after application of control and eradication measures; and (8) preparing reports of findings with statements of the control and eradication measures or corrective action applied or required.
- C. The duties performed characteristically require such knowledge and abilities as (1) knowledge of all regulations pertaining to the sanitary condition of all types of maritime vessels; the methods and procedures appropriate for making all types of vessel sanitation inspections; the construction of vessels of various kinds and the structural conditions or

arrangements that contribute to rodent infestation; rodent biology; the control and eradication measures suitable for rodent and insect infestations of varying level or degree; sanitary systems commonly used on various types of vessels; food sanitation and approved food-handling methods and procedures; (2) ability to determine the presence of rodent or insect infestation through the observation of visible evidence and through observation of structural defects and other conditions of a causative or contributive nature; (3) ability to convince ships' officers and agents of the need for application of prescribed control and eradication measures and ability to train vessel personnel in the use of such techniques; and (4) ability to train vessel personnel in the use of sanitary food-handling practices.

- D. Personal work contacts are made with ships' officers and other vessel personnel, ships' agents, dock area employees, and other concerned persons for such purposes as explaining the sanitary regulations and the need for specific control and eradication measures; securing admission to locked or otherwise inaccessible parts of vessels; providing advice and training in the application of rodent and insect control and eradication measures; and giving instructions in efficient food-handling methods and sanitary food-handling practices.
- E. Ingenuity and judgment are required in performing such duties as determining which of several possible rodent or insect control measures are adequate for specific levels of rodent activity or degrees of insect infestation; recommending the best method of making required corrective changes in physical equipment; and determining the changes necessary to bring foodhandling operations into conformance with sanitary requirements.
- F. The work is performed in accordance with established regulations, procedures, and instructions which prescribe in detail such matters as the procedures for conducting vessel and dock area inspections; the control and eradication measures appropriate for specific conditions of infestation; approved food-handling operations; and the sanitary requirements for vessel water supply and distribution systems. Deviations from established guides and situations for which only general provision can be made are of normal occurrence and judgment is required in determining the extent to which prescribed methods and procedures are applicable in specific instances.
- G. Supervisory control over positions in this class is general and is exercised by a supervisory quarantine inspector or a quarantine inspector in a higher grade position who (1) is available for advice on any unusual problem referred by the Vessel Sanitation Inspector GS-7; (2) gives instructions in new or revised policies and procedures; (3) reviews written reports of each inspection made by the Vessel Sanitation Inspector GS-; for conformance with established policies and procedures; and (4) signs the quarantine clearance papers granting free or provisional pratique to the vessel.

QUARANTINE INSPECTOR GS-1864-09

Positions in this class typically include responsibility for independently performing the full range of quarantine inspection duties in accordance with applicable laws and regulations and established methods and procedures.

Characteristics of the level

- A. The work includes (1) inspecting persons and such things as carriers of all types, cargoes, vehicles, specified birds, and animals, and personal effects for the presence of disease, disease vectors, infestation, and/or unsanitary conditions, (2) authorizing the release of persons and things that are without evidence of conditions of quarantine or immigration importance by signing quarantine clearance papers, and (3) applying appropriate control measures in cases which do not meet quarantine requirements when this requires thorough knowledge of all quarantine and sanitation inspection laws, regulations, and procedures pertaining to the entry of persons and things into the United States or its possessions and such additional knowledge and abilities as are more specifically described in the following material .
- B. The inspection of persons for quarantine and immigration purposes involves persons of various nationalities and all socio-economic groups who arrive from areas throughout the world. The persons inspected include citizen and alien travelers, aliens requesting permanent entry, crew members on passenger and cargo carriers, and/or others who arrive by means of any type of carrier or private conveyance or as pedestrians. The performance of these inspection duties characteristically requires such knowledge and abilities as (1) knowledge of the symptoms of all types of quarantinable and communicable diseases, current epidemic conditions in specific locations and the prevalence of quarantinable and communicable diseases on a worldwide basis, the manifestations of diseases and defects that are of importance for immigration purposes, and the mental and physical demands of various occupations; (2) ability to obtain information concerning mental and physical diseases and defects by means of visual inspection, questioning individuals involved, and reviewing such related documents as medical reports, X-rays, visas, and vaccination certificates; (3) ability to determine on the basis of information secured during inspection whether symptoms or other evidence may indicate the presence of conditions of quarantine or immigration importance; (4) ability to question persons concerning such matters as visible symptoms, physical defects, and previous whereabouts when language, personality, and other characteristics are widely varied; and (5) ability to determine with respect to each person inspected that quarantine clearance should be given or the particular control measures (isolation, vaccination, surveillance, or detention for examination by a medical officer) necessary to prevent the introduction of quarantinable or communicable disease.
- C. The inspection of things for quarantine and/or sanitation purposes includes the inspection of any or all things subject to such inspection and requires such knowledge and abilities as (1) knowledge of the procedures appropriate for the inspection of various things; the construction of and the sanitary systems normally used on various types of carriers; the

characteristics that identify and the habits of specific insect and animal vectors; the symptoms of certain bird and animal diseases; visible signs and other evidence of insect and rodent infestation; and the measures appropriate for the control or eradication of each type of quarantinable or unsanitary condition encountered; (2) ability to determine the extent and nature of the inspection necessary for carriers on the basis of information concerning the sanitary condition and history of the carrier secured from carrier personnel; manifests; sanitary or medical logs; and similar sources; (3) ability to detect the presence of certain bird and animal diseases; insect and rodent vectors; and/or other unsanitary conditions through direct observation or through observation of faulty construction arrangements, deficiencies in water supply systems, inadequate insect and rodent control methods, or other elements which contribute to the incidence of such conditions; (4) ability to determine for each thing inspected that quarantine clearance should be given or the control or eradication measures necessary to meet quarantine and sanitary requirements; (5) ability to apply or to direct the application of appropriate control or eradication methods; and (6) ability to determine from reports of findings prepared by Vessel Sanitation Inspectors GS-7 whether to authorize free or provisional pratique for detention of the vessel.

- D. Personal work contacts are numerous and require a considerable degree of tact and diplomacy. These contacts involve persons of various nationalities and socio-economic groups so that language, personality, and similar problems are frequently encountered. Included are contacts with (1) passengers, travelers, and carrier personnel for such purposes as determining whether diseases or defects of quarantine or immigration importance may be present; explaining the need for detention, vaccination, or other quarantine control measures; explaining differences in the findings at the time of inspection and the previous findings of medical officers and personnel in foreign areas; and advising on immunization requirements and precautions recommended for travel in foreign countries; (2) ships' officers, crew members, and other carrier personnel for such purposes as obtaining information concerning the sanitary condition and history of the carrier; explaining requirements to be met in order that free pratique or quarantine clearance may be granted; and securing the cooperation of carrier personnel in the application of appropriate control or eradication measures; and (3) employees of other Federal and non-Federal agencies for the purpose of cooperating in the performance of related activities.
- E. The work requires the use of considerable ingenuity and judgment in performing such duties as distinguishing between symptoms of illness which are of quarantine or immigration importance and those which are not; determining when surveillance will provide adequate protection against quarantinable or communicable diseases; determining the most effective methods of questioning persons of various nationalities and socioeconomic backgrounds in order to secure the information needed to determine their mental and physical condition; explaining the need for quarantine and sanitary requirements and the kind of control or eradication measures necessary to meet such requirements; and determining when the extent of infestation or other unsanitary conditions in carriers is sufficiently minor to warrant granting provisional pratique.

- F. The work is performed in accordance with established regulations, procedures, and instructions which prescribe in detail such matters, as the procedures for conducting inspections; appropriate control or eradication measures for specific quarantinable and unsanitary conditions; the proper disposition of cases of immigration importance; and standard inspection and clearance forms. Such matters as deviations from established procedures, new or changing situations or conditions, and matters for which only general provision can be made (e. g., variations among individuals in the symptoms of quarantinable or communicable diseases, successful methods of questioning persons without fluency in English, etc.) are of normal occurrence and there is continuing need for resourcefulness and the use of judgment in determining the extent to which established guides are applicable in specific instances.
- G. Supervisory control over positions in this class is very general. Technical supervision is exercised by a medical officer who (1) diagnoses and makes final disposition of all cases of suspected or actual diseases or defects of quarantine or immigration importance referred by the Quarantine Inspector GS-9 and (2) makes a post review of work reports and related records prepared by the Quarantine Inspector GS-9 for conformance with established policies and procedures.

Administrative supervision is usually exercised by a supervisory quarantine inspector who (1) assigns inspections to be made without instruction regarding any particular inspection and (2) provides information on new or revised policies, procedures, and regulations. In the absence of a supervisory quarantine inspector, administrative supervision is exercised by a medical officer who may be located at a physically remote point.