

Position Classification Flysheet for Environmental Health Technician Series, GS-0698

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SERIES DEFINITION

This series includes positions that involve investigating, evaluating, and providing information on sanitation practices, techniques, and methods for the purpose of identifying, preventing, and eliminating environmental health hazards. Positions in this occupation require a practical knowledge of basic environmental health concepts, principles, methods, and techniques, including survey and inspection techniques and control and eradication methods.

EXCLUSIONS

1. Positions that involve planning, developing, evaluating, and advising on programs concerned with the elimination and prevention of environmental health hazards. These positions are classified in the [Sanitarian Series, GS-0688](#).
2. Positions involving inspections or investigations for the primary purpose of enforcing compliance with public health laws and regulations pertaining to food, drug, cosmetics or to the wholesomeness and purity of food and food products. Such positions are classified in the appropriate series of the [Investigation Group, GS-1800](#).
3. Positions primarily involving grading foods or other commodities, or developing, installing, or administering quality control programs. Such positions are classified in the appropriate series of the [Quality Assurance, Inspection and Grading Group, GS-1900](#).

EXPLANATORY STATEMENT

Environmental health aids and technicians provide technical support and assistance to the sanitarian or other health specialists (e.g., sanitary engineer, health physicist, health officer). They conduct surveys and implement measures to control the spread of diseases and other health hazards or conditions (e.g., food contamination, air and water pollutants, insect and rodent harborages). They take samples of such materials as water, food, and air, and perform or assist sanitarians in performing tests to determine contamination. They explain how to repair, install, or construct sanitation facilities (e. g., water systems, sewage disposal systems, plumbing) as well as how to maintain and utilize individual facilities. They investigate public and private establishments (e.g., food markets, restaurants, dairy plants, water supplies, medical care facilities) to determine compliance with or violation of public sanitation laws and regulations. However, when the primary purpose of the position is to perform the latter duty, it should be allocated to the appropriate series in the investigation group (e.g., Public Health Inspection Series, GS-1860; [Food Inspection Series, GS-1863](#)).

At the higher levels, many of the assignments made to technicians require the same depth of analysis as sanitarian positions. They differ from sanitarian assignments in that the technician is not required to resolve problems that require the application of new methods and techniques or those that require action beyond the specific work assignment. On the other hand, the

knowledges and abilities required for sanitarian work may be different in kind and breadth from those required for technician work, but not necessarily different in grade level. For example, technician work may require a high level of technical or administrative qualifications applicable to specific work assignments based on a comprehensive background of practical experience, training, and skill in applying knowledge of precedents, guides, and techniques.

While all positions require a practical knowledge of basic environmental health concepts, principles, methods, and techniques, the experienced technician must have a detailed knowledge of the laws and regulations governing environmental health practices as well as what constitutes a good environmental health program in one or more of the following or other comparable environmental health areas:

- milk and food
- water supply
- waste
- insect and rodent
- shellfish
- recreation, housing, care facilities or other institutions.

TITLES

The title for trainee or developmental jobs (GS-1/3) is *Environmental Health Aid*. Environmental health aids collect and record adequate data on existing environmental sanitation conditions and initiate corrective action on the health hazards that are fully covered by written guidelines.

The title *Environmental Health Technician* is established for all nonsupervisory positions in this series (GS-4 and above). Illustrative examples of tasks performed by environmental health technicians include the following:

- conduct investigations to determine the source of outbreaks of diseases (e.g., water supplies, contaminated food, untreated waste);
- determine sources of, and methods to eliminate or control, insect and rodent breeding and harborage;
- inspect and evaluate sanitary aspects of rail, sea, and air conveyances;
- perform water quality tests on individual water supplies and disinfect community water sources and systems; and
- prepare reports of findings and discuss recommendations with owners or representatives of public and private establishments to secure cooperation in improving sanitation practices.

Those positions which include supervisory responsibilities of such significance as to require supervisory qualifications will be identified by the adding the prefix, *Supervisory*, to the basic title.

EVALUATION NOTES

This material does not include grade-level criteria. The following standards and guide may be used to evaluate environmental health aid and technician positions.

Positions concerned with investigative, survey, or testing activities will be evaluated by comparison with the criteria for related occupations such as: the [Biological Technician Series, GS-0404](#), Section II, the [Medical Technician Series, GS-0645](#), and the [Physical Science Technician Series, GS-1311](#).

Supervisory positions should be evaluated by reference to the [General Schedule Supervisory Guide](#).