

Position Classification Flysheet for Plant Protection Technician Series, GS-0421

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SERIES DEFINITION

This series includes all positions that primarily require a practical knowledge of the methods and techniques of plant protection and quarantine. Plant protection technicians provide technical support in research efforts; in the establishment and enforcement of plant quarantines governing the movement of insects, plant diseases, nematodes, and other plant pests of economic importance; or in the survey, detection, field identification, control or eradication of plant pests. The duties require the application of a practical knowledge of the types and characteristics of plant pests, quarantine procedures, pest control and eradication methods, and plant pest survey techniques. This standard supersedes the standard for the Plant Protection Technician, GS-0421, which was issued in June 1961 and revised in April 1966. It also supersedes the flysheet published in May 1976.

EXCLUSIONS

1. Classify positions that require a professional knowledge of the field of plant protection and quarantine in the [Plant Protection and Quarantine Series, GS-0436](#).
2. Classify positions that primarily require a technical knowledge of plant and insect pests in an environment other than that which supports plant protection and quarantine programs in other appropriate technician series of the [Biological Science Group, GS-0400](#).

OCCUPATIONAL INFORMATION

The primary focus of the plant protection technician's work is to support an organization's efforts to protect the Nation's agriculture from the introduction and spread of pests injurious to plants and to control or eradicate pests already established (for more information on the field of plant protection and quarantine, see the position classification standard for the [Plant Protection and Quarantine Series, GS-0436](#).)

Plant protection technicians are most commonly found in first level units and are principally concerned with performing work supporting the implementation of projects and program goals. They may be specialists in specific specialty areas such as airport inspections or in other techniques and practices associated with production oriented work.

TITLES

Plant Protection Aid is the authorized title for all positions at GS-3 and below.

Plant Protection Technician is the authorized title for all positions at GS-4 and above.

Lead Plant Protection Technician is the authorized title for positions that meet the criteria of the [General Schedule Leader Grade Evaluation Guide](#).

Supervisory Plant Protection Technician is the authorized title for positions that meet criteria of the appropriate [supervisory guide](#).

In addition, agencies may supplement the basic title by adding a parenthetical suffix, where necessary, to identify duties and responsibilities which reflect specific knowledges and skills required in the work.

EVALUATING POSITIONS

The Plant Protection Technician Series, GS-0421, is a one grade interval series for purposes of personnel administration. Additional information on the nature of technician work and criteria for determining grade levels are contained in the [Grade Level Guide for Aid and Technical Work in the Biological Sciences, GS-0400](#).