

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST TITLE SERIES DEFINITIONS

I. DEFINITIONS

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST

Positions work under close progressing to limited supervision. Principles and practices have been learned prior to entrance into this title series. The emphasis is in developing skills in working with and/or understanding the program, systems, user group(s) and the mechanics of the program; and developing an understanding and applying the statutes, rules, regulations, administrative code and standards required in the program area. Initial work assignments are well defined and short term in duration. Over time the work assignments become long term or short term with the employee expected to exercise independent judgment in determining specifics and priorities, as the objectives are progressively less clear. The positions may be in contact with outside entities and may have assignments which cross program lines depending on where the individual employee's performance level is determined. The supervisor reviews the work to determine the completeness or accuracy and adherence to policy.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST-SENIOR

Positions allocated to this level include environmental health specialists in the following specialty areas: Indoor Air, Chemical Safety, and OSHA and other Safety Specialists. Senior level positions in these specialty areas are differentiated from lower-level positions in that they generally function as lead environmental health specialists for a specialty area, and have jurisdiction over many diverse work sites, independently perform more complex tests and analyses, and have more professional latitude in prioritizing work assignments, deciding appropriate tests to be performed, analyzing test results, and making recommendations. Positions at this level independently develop in-depth, long-term, solutions for complex situations involving a variety of environmental health and safety issues, and spanning multiple regulatory areas. They deal with issues that are sensitive, due to public perception, but that may not be highly regulated, or scientifically understood (e.g., radon). At this level, positions are involved in some combination of the following activities: (1) performing complex analytical tests on routine and non-routine samples, e.g., analyzing industrial hygiene and related samples using instrumental techniques, assisting other environmental health specialists in the selection and performance of tests and procedures; (2) directing the abatement of a particular occupational hazard or problem; developing comprehensive, integrated program elements such as chemical inventory management, emergency response planning, or training programs; (3) providing assistance to other scientists in the same program area; (4) assisting the supervisor in the maintenance of supplies, equipment and instruments, and in the "day-to-day" function of the particular section; (5) providing peer review of test results for accuracy and completeness; performing in-house environmental audits or inspections to assure regulatory compliance; and (6) functioning as a liaison with governmental agencies, the private sector, and the public. These positions also conduct special projects or research; and are involved in training students, lower level environmental health specialists, and technical staff. Positions function under general supervision.

ENVIRONMENTAL HEALTH SPECIALIST-ADVANCED

Positions allocated to this level are advanced-level environmental health specialists in a variety of specialty areas. Employees in this title function as the environmental health specialist in a specialized area of a statewide program, or a program that provides multi-faceted, balanced compliance with conflicting rules of multiple agencies, as the program exercises stewardship over state resources. Positions are responsible for independently performing and interpreting the results of complex analyses on industrial hygiene samples; conducting field investigations and research related to industrial hygiene, environmental protection, or public health programs; and functioning as the scientific expert on all professional matters related to environmental health and industrial hygiene. Positions may function as expert witnesses for court testimony when needed. Work may also include teaching lower level professional or non-professional staff or students; directing special projects, analyses, or independent research; serving as a representative on technical or advisory health and safety committees; and/or traveling to make field checks of other facilities or workplaces. Positions often function in a public relations capacity, i.e., as liaisons with state or federal agencies, or industry, and/or representing the institution or laboratory at professional functions including symposia and colloquia. Positions function very independently, under very general supervision, and are expected to guide and review the work of other professional and technical staff. In order to be designated at this level, the position must be easily distinguishable from positions at the senior level by the scope and complexity of the responsibilities.

II. QUALIFICATIONS

The qualifications required for these positions will be determined at the time of recruitment.