

CHEMIST I

JOB DESCRIPTION

Classification Responsibilities: A Chemist I is assigned to the Water Compliance Laboratory and is responsible for performing professional-level chemical and microbiological analysis of water, wastewater, and/or industrial wastes in the various stages of treatment. In addition, the Chemist I is responsible for developing methods and procedures for the analysis of water and/or wastewater samples. As experience is gained, incumbents learn and perform the more complex analysis performed by the Chemist II. This class performs related duties as required.

Distinguishing Features: The Chemist I is distinguished from the Chemist II by the Chemist II's lead responsibilities and by the Chemist I performing assignments involving less complex chemical analysis. An employee in this class may be required to work irregular hours that include weekends, evenings, holidays, and other hours as required in order to complete specialized and/or time-sensitive assignments. An incumbent in this position is required to work safely with dangerous and toxic chemicals, infectious materials, and acids. This class is subject to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) 1910.1450 guidelines regarding occupational exposure to hazardous chemicals in a laboratory. Employees in this class receive training in order to progress by noncompetitive promotion to the classification of Chemist II upon successful completion of requirements stipulated in the criteria-based promotion plan. The Chemist I is supervised by a Laboratory Supervisor and may receive direction and training from the Water Quality Assurance Coordinator and Chemist II. Work is reviewed through conferences, observation of results achieved, and review of reports. The full-time class is FLSA exempt-professional. The part-time class is non-exempt. The part-time position has been designated as a non-classified, non-merit system, at-will position.

QUALIFICATIONS

Employee Values: All employees of the City of Mesa are expected to uphold and exhibit the City's shared employee values of Knowledge, Respect, and Integrity.

Minimum Qualifications Required. Any combination of training, education, and experience equivalent to graduation from an accredited college or university with a Bachelor's Degree in Chemistry, Microbiology, Biochemistry, or closely related field. A minimum of two years of full-time technical/professional-level work performed in a chemical and/or microbiological laboratory.

Special Requirements. Must possess a valid Class D Arizona Driver's License by hire date.

Substance Abuse Testing. Due to the safety and/or security sensitive nature of this classification, individuals shall be subject to pre-employment or pre-placement alcohol, drug, and/or controlled substance testing as outlined in City policy and procedures.

Preferred/Desirable Qualifications. Previous experience in a public health-oriented water or wastewater laboratory is strongly preferred. Possession of any Water or Wastewater Operator certification from Arizona Department of Environmental Quality (ADEQ) at the time of hire is preferred.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS

Communication: Communicates verbally and in writing with other City employees, vendors, customers, and management staff in order to explain chemical data analysis, technical data, and review of technical specifications. Prepares written materials for reporting to state agencies in compliance with laboratory licensure.

Manual/Physical: Performs periodic physical, chemical, and microbiological analysis of water and wastewater. Distinguishes colors to complete analytical data. Uses specialized hand tools to install, maintain, calibrate, and repair laboratory analytical equipment. Operates a variety of standard office equipment (examples: personal computer [PC], calculator, and fax) to communicate and receive information. Enters data into a Laboratory Information Management System (LIMS), maintains databases, and reports analytical results. Makes purchases of and performs physical inventories of spare parts, laboratory equipment, and chemicals. Moves material, chemicals, and water samples from one place to another using hand trucks, trays, or lab carts. Moves objects weighing up to 50 pounds. Cleans work area and/or laboratory equipment in order to maintain safety. Works with hazardous chemicals such as standards, organic solvents, acids, and bases requiring the use of specialized equipment. Connects and disconnects high-pressure tanks of laboratory gases, some very flammable. Collects water/wastewater samples as needed. Drives a vehicle requiring a standard Class D Arizona Driver's License to routinely pick up and deliver samples, materials, and supplies, and to attend meetings and training at off-site facilities. Meets scheduling and attendance requirements.

Mental: Develops and determines methods and procedures for compliance analyses, conformance to state and federal specifications, and investigation of microbiological and chemical problems related to the water and/or wastewater treatment processes. Provides analytical data to be utilized in quality control of water and wastewater. Plans and organizes water and wastewater compliance and laboratory activities. Conducts research and analyzes data for water and/or wastewater quality. Performs mathematical calculations, statistical computations, and analytical quality control calculations to analyze trends. Maintains all required records for lab licensure. Technical training is provided by analytical equipment suppliers and regulatory agencies such as the Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS).

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of:

chemical and microbiological principles and practices;
techniques, equipment, and terminology used in a chemical and/or microbiological laboratory;
chemicals, safety precautions, and equipment used in environmental, water, and wastewater facilities;
OSHA regulations as they apply to safe use of hazardous chemicals in the laboratory;
PC and related software pertinent to laboratory equipment and data reporting; and
the calibration, operation, and maintenance of specialized laboratory equipment.

Ability to:

prioritize scheduled and unscheduled duties;
maintain ADHS lab licensure by updating all lab records, quality control records, and Standard

Operating Procedures (SOPs);

learn sophisticated analytical methods such as: Atomic Absorption Spectrophotometers, Ion Chromatography, Total Organic Carbon Analysis, Gas Chromatography with Electron Capture, and/or Mass Spectrometer Detectors;

perform physical, chemical, and microbiological examinations of water and/or wastewater;

understand technical literature related to the field;

prepare work reports on problems and research; and

handle all physical requirements, including eyesight, sufficient to permit extended microscopic work, and normal color perception.

The duties listed above are intended only as general illustrations of the various types of work that may be performed. Specific statements of duties not included do not exclude them from the position if the work is similar, related, or a logical assignment to the position. Job descriptions are subject to change by the City as the needs of the City and requirements of the job change.

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PAY GRADE: 48

CS4605 (Part-time, Non-benefited) PAY GRADE: 48

EEO-Prof

IND-7580

JOB FCTN-ADM

SWORN-No

INCREMENTS 43-200