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Physical Science Technician 06

GS-1311-06

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I. INTRODUCTION

This position is located in

Assists scientists and others with various technical procedures and practices.

II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Performs a variety of complex procedures and new techniques that require application of technical skills in laboratory techniques and procedures, and extensive use of analytical equipment. Evaluates and/or develops new analytical techniques as needed. Calibrates and maintains equipment. Maintains thorough laboratory notebook, and records, collates and summarizes all data. Provides reports to the project leader.

III. FACTORS

Factor 1, Knowledge Required by the Position - FL 1-4, 550 points

Knowledge of standard operating procedures sufficient to evaluate and analyze data. General knowledge of principles and functioning of analytical instrumentation including such things as balances, spectrophotometers, chromatographs, microscopes and scintillation counters. Knowledge of quantitative analysis techniques for a variety of sample types.

Factor 2, Supervisory Controls - FL 2-3, 275 points

The supervisor or project leader gives work assignments, provides guidance and is available to assist with unusual or difficult technical questions. The technician independently applies knowledge gained through work experience to achieve desired results. The completed work is spot checked for completeness and accuracy.

Factor 3, Guidelines - FL 3-2, 125 points

Standard procedures involving sequential steps for doing the work have been established and are supplemented by instructions from the supervisor. Equipment operating manuals and other technical literature are available for reference purposes. Incumbent uses judgment in locating and selecting appropriate guidelines for conducting the experimental procedures.

Factor 4, Complexity - FL 4-2, 75 points

The work involves related processes and methods. The decisions regarding how to proceed with an analysis may require choices based on specific situations.

Factor 5, Scope and Effect - FL 5-3, 150 points

The work involves treating a variety of conventional problems, questions and situations such as those involved in a number of standardized, though complicated, activities. The results of the work affects the research decisions or technical operations, and the outcome of the work being carried on by coworkers.

Factor 6, Personal Contacts - FL 6-2, 25 points

Personal contacts are primarily with the scientific and technical staff within the laboratory and with suppliers and equipment representatives.

Factor 7, Purpose of Contacts - 7-2, 50 points

The purpose of the work is to plan and coordinate the work efforts and provide technical information to coworkers.

Factor 8, Physical Demands - 8-2, 20 points

The work requires extensive standing and sitting on laboratory benches. There is some walking, bending and carrying of light to medium loads. The work requires above average agility and dexterity.

Factor 9, Work Environment - FL 9-2, 20 points

The work may be conducted in a laboratory environment with adequate heat, light and air conditioning or outdoors, sometimes aboard ships. May be required to wear special protective clothing such as gloves and safety goggles when handling hazardous materials or operating test equipment.

TOTAL POINTS - 1290

This position is non-exempt from coverage under the Fair Labor Standards Act.

IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS

(Last Updated: November 4, 1994)

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