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Physical Science Technician 07

GS-1311-07

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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 complex tasks that require application of technical skills, practices and procedures, and extensive use of analytical equipment. Utilizes equipment to analyze specific components of samples, and determines appropriate instrument parameters to obtain the desired results. Takes readings, and records and reports findings, analyzing data and noting the presence of inconsistencies in results. Where appropriate, transfers data to computer database.

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 3-3, 275 points

Guides include procedures manuals, technical literature, and equipment manuals. Incumbent exercises judgment in selecting appropriate guide and applies a thorough understanding of procedures and techniques in interpreting guidelines and determining their applicability to situations not specifically covered.

Factor 4, Complexity - FL 4-3, 150 points

The incumbent uses a variety of experimental procedures to perform various tests. The work consists of a number of complex and exacting steps and special precautions to prevent extraneous contamination or loss of samples under study. Requires sound judgment, ingenuity and originality be applied in the conduct of the work. The incumbent observes and records all unusual phenomena or results, recognizes malfunctions in equipment and/or unusual test results and troubleshoots these problems. The incumbent evaluates the quality of all data before presenting them to the project manager.

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 contacts is to plan and coordinate the work efforts, and provide technical information to coworkers.

Factor 8, Physical Demands - FL 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 dexterity and agility.

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 = 1515

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

IV. UNIQUE POSITION REQUIREMENTS

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