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## Physical Science Technician 09

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### GS-1311-09

NOTE: THE SENTENCE IN PART I DESCRIBING THE PURPOSE OF THE POSITION AND PARTS II AND III IN THEIR ENTIRETY ARE PERMANENT PARTS OF THE LIBRARY AND MAY NOT BE CHANGED OR EDITED IN ANY WAY.

#### I. INTRODUCTION

This position is located in

As a senior technician performs a variety of technical processes and procedures.

#### II. MAJOR DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Plans, coordinates and oversees the technical aspects of one or more major on-going projects. Optimizes instrument performance and coordinates analytical activities. Analyzes specific components of various samples. Monitors performance, performs routine maintenance and diagnoses malfunctions of analytical equipment. Coordinates the use of analytical instruments for various activities. Assures a safe work area. Records, collates and summarizes all analytical data; provides reports to the project leader.

#### III. FACTORS

Factor 1, Knowledge Required by the Position - FL 1-5, 750 points

Knowledge of a wide range of technical principles, requirements and procedures. Knowledge of appropriate work techniques and practices sufficient to assist lower graded technicians or oversee the technical aspects of complex projects and assure compliance with agency policies. Knowledge of physical science theories sufficient to identify and correct inconsistencies or deficiencies and to determine when to abandon current procedures in favor of others.

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 4-4, 225 points

Work consists of complex tasks, often not routine in nature, that require application of technical skills in laboratory techniques and procedures, and extensive use of analytical equipment, carried out with a high degree of independence. May require special security protocols during the analysis of standards and samples related to law enforcement to assure chain-of-custody. Incumbent will take a lead roll in insuring compliance with established protocols and will assist the project leader in revising and up-dating protocols as required.

**Factor 5, Scope and Effect - FL 5-4, 225 points**

The work comprises significant and required elements of programs within the work unit and may involve development of new and untried approaches to achieve desired results. Results of the work have a significant impact on the further processes within the unit which frequently has high visibility and upon private sector entities.

**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 - FL 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 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 = 1865

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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