

Specification for the Class of

HORTICULTURE INSPECTOR TRAINEE

Abolished Initially Effective January 13, 2006

Abolished Final Effective February 10, 2006

Definition: In a training capacity, inspects fresh fruits and/or vegetables according to standards of quality, condition, size, pack and other factors as established by state and federal laws and/or regulations and certifies compliance or non-compliance. Enforces state laws and regulations related to fresh fruits and/or vegetables. Under close supervision, on a limited basis, certifies compliance with export regulations and foreign country phytosanitary requirements. Grades raw product(s) for processing under contract specifications, federal or state grading standards, or a combination of the two. May provide information to producers, packers, and other financially interested parties as to: (a) quality/condition of the product, (b) interpretation of grading standards, regulations, and inspection procedures, and (c) options or alternatives for correction of non-complying lots of product(s).

Distinguishing Characteristics: Employees in this class work under close supervision of experienced Horticulture Inspectors and Senior Horticulture Inspectors while learning inspection techniques and applications of grade standards, procedures, and regulations. Upon successful completion of a one-year training period, employees automatically advance to Horticulture Inspector.

Typical Work

Selects and inspects samples of fresh fruits and/or vegetables at shipping points; inspects for a wide variety of quality factors such as, color;

Knowledge and Abilities

Basic knowledge acquired through the training period of: job-assigned Washington fruit and vegetable products; fruit and vegetable inspection techniques, procedures, and practices; Federal Shipping Point Handbook(s), commodity handbooks, written inspection memoranda and instructions, visual aides, and other state, federal, and foreign regulations governing inspection, grading, quarantine, and certification of products inspected; department standards and procedures for enforcement of fresh

fruit and/or vegetable regulations; methods and practices used in harvesting, shipping, and marketing of fresh fruit and/or vegetable commodities.

Abilities: Learn, understand, and follow procedures and practices which have been developed; withstand trade pressures; learn, interpret, and apply grade standards, inspection procedures, state and federal fruit and/or vegetable laws and regulations; clearly explain the fundamentals of grading standards and procedures to inspection applicants; deal tactfully and competently with members of the trade; enforce horticultural laws, using judgment and product knowledge; write and speak clearly, concisely, accurately, and informatively; lift and handle customary packages of products, e.g., apples in approximately 50 pound containers and potatoes in approximately 100 pound sacks; distinguish color variations.

Minimum Qualifications

Graduation from high school or GED.

Note: Licensing by the United States Department of Agriculture to inspect commodity to which assigned is required within 30 days of appointment to this class. A valid license to operate a motor vehicle in Washington State is required. Positions require the lifting of packaged commodities which may weigh up to 100 pounds.

Revised: 10-1-66-

Title change (formerly Horticulture Inspector 1): 6-10-71

Revised minimum qualifications: 11-8-71

Revised distinguishing characteristics and minimum qualifications: 3-15-85

Revised definition: 1-13-89

Revised definition, minimum qualifications and distinguishing characteristics: 7-1-96