

Specification for the Class of

HORTICULTURE INSPECTOR

Abolished Initially Effective January 13, 2006

Abolished Final Effective February 10, 2006

Definition: 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. Certifies compliance with export regulations and foreign country phytosanitary requirements, including treatment of product. Grades raw product(s) for processing under contract specifications, federal or state grading standards, or a combination of the two. Provides 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 are fully qualified, journey-level horticulture inspectors, working under general limited supervision inspecting and certifying assigned horticultural commodities within a horticulture district.

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, blemishes, shape, mechanical damage, and evidence of insect and/or disease; inspects for condition of product as to factors of maturity/firmness/freshness, presence and degree of latent condition defects occurring subsequent to grading and packing; inspects for proper sizing of product, tightness and/or fill of pack, and correct labeling as required by grade standards; determines grade(s), classification(s), or percentages of usable stock of raw product for processing;

Supervises fumigation's or other treatments for control of insect infestation and makes appropriate certification;

Issues federal - state certificates, state certificates, shipping documents and other clearance documents for domestic and foreign destinations, detailed inspection notesheets of samples inspected, federal phytosanitary certificates, (when properly licensed) and state phytosanitary certificates declaring presence or absence of pests and disease. Issues notices on non-complying product(s) and takes regulatory actions as necessary; issues certificates indicating quality levels or percentages of marketable stock for payment to the producer by the buyer or processor;

Assists in inspection, grading, and certification of native and non-native fruits and/or vegetables at receiving points; performs platform inspections of horticultural commodities to be put into storage; makes platform inspections of fruits and/or vegetables for payment to producer by the processor;

Instructs, trains, and provides oversight of entrance-level horticulture inspectors and trainees;

Calculates fees on inspection documents; calculates and collects inspection fees and assessments for commodity commissions from incidental inspection applicants such as growers, truckers, and others not having established a credit account.

Writes other reports concerning his/her inspections, as necessary;

Performs other work as required.

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of: 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, Washington laws and regulations governing controlled atmosphere storage; methods and practices used in harvesting, shipping, and marketing of fresh fruit and/or vegetable commodities.

Abilities: understand and follow procedures and practices which have been developed; withstand trade pressures; interpret and apply grade standards and inspection procedures clearly and convincingly explain to the inspection applicants or to other

interested persons; deal tactfully and competently with members of the trade; train, instruct, and check work of entrance-level horticulture inspectors; interpret, explain, and apply state and federal fruit and/or vegetable regulations; enforce horticultural laws, using mature 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

One year of experience as a Horticulture Inspector Trainee or equivalent.

Note: A valid license issued by the United States Department of Agriculture to inspect horticultural products is required prior to 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: 10-1-69

Title change (formerly Horticulture Inspector 2): 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