

Specification for Class of

RAILROAD INSPECTOR 1

Abolished 7/14/06

Definition: Inspects all railroad facilities, appliances and practices; investigates requests for service and formal complaints concerning railroads throughout the state; investigates railroad accidents other than those of a fatal or catastrophic nature (participates in these under the supervision of a Railroad Inspector 2). Enforces, as a commissioned peace officer, Title 81 of the RCW and Rules and Regulations of the Utilities and Transportation Commission.

Typical Work

Inspects freight cars, locomotives, cabooses, frames, undercarriages, loose or broken ladders, cracked drawbars and any other rolling stock; inspects existing and proposed railroad crossings, tracks, bridges, structures and other facilities; inspects and tests railroad weighing scales at various locations in Washington and Oregon, using railroad scale test cars; removes scales from services that do not test within allowed tolerances;

Issues correction notices if infractions of Standards are found; makes follow-up inspection to insure that corrections have been made;

Prepares bills of lading for moving test cars and arranges with dispatchers of various railroad carriers to have cars moved to next test location;

Prepares reports on each scale tested;

Investigates request for railroad service and formal complaints regarding violations of statutes, Utilities and Transportation Commissions rules and safe practices, such as insufficient structural clearances, new or revised public crossings or abandonment of crossings;

Investigates violations of Train Full-Crew Law;

Maintains scale-test cars in good operating condition; keeps cars in calibration by frequent checks on master scale;

Investigates accidents occurring on railroads in assigned area; prepares accident investigation reports;

Investigates and inspects railroad shelters and sanitation facilities, including inspection of water supply, toilets, sleeping and eating accommodations, washing and bathing facilities and clothes lockers;

Impounds and orders immediate repair or removal of any defective rolling stock considered dangerous;

Performs other work as required.

Knowledge and Abilities

Knowledge of: laws, rules, court decisions and precedent decisions concerning operation of rolling stock and track-side facilities on railroads; investigation and inspection techniques; railroad organization, problems, practices and equipment; State of Washington, Oregon and United States Bureau of Standards scale testing rules; testing and calibration of standard beam and electronic scales.

Ability to: make complicated inspections and investigations; prepare clear, concise reports concerning results; make fast, accurate inspections of moving rolling stock; make traffic counts at grade crossings and check train speeds; testify as expert witness before court or Commission; determine why scale does not test and calibrate correctly and what correcting action is needed; use mechanic's hand and power tools; establish and maintain effective working relationships with railroad carrier employees to expedite movements of scale test cars; write correct and accurate reports as required.

Minimum Qualifications

1. Graduation from high school or GED equivalent.

AND

2. Five years of recent experience with a railroad listed in the Federal Code of Railroads as a locomotive engineer, conductor, brakeman, section crew supervisor, signalman, special agent or other railroad car or train operational or railroad right-of-way maintenance position.

College education may be substituted for not more than two years of required experience on the basis of one year of college being equivalent to one year of experience.

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Police or investigative experience, military or civil, may be substituted for not more than two years of required railroad experience on a year-for-year basis.

Recent experience is defined as being within the past two years.

Note: A valid Washington driver's license is required for appointment to and continued employment in this class.

Effective May 1, 1963

Revised August 9, 1971

Revises minimum qualifications

Revised July 25, 1974

Revises definition, general revision and title change (formerly Railroad Inspector)

Revised May 1, 1975

Revises definition and minimum qualifications

General Revision, November 1978