

New York State Department of Civil Service
DIVISION OF CLASSIFICATION & COMPENSATION

Tentative Classification Standard

Occ. Code 1643100

Pesticide Control Specialist 1, Grade 18	1643100
Pesticide Control Specialist 2, Grade 21	1643200
Pesticide Control Specialist 3, Grade 25	1643300
Pesticide Control Specialist 4, M-3	1643400

Brief Description of Class Series

Pesticide Control Specialists are technical specialists responsible for the oversight, administration, and implementation of State and federal pesticide laws, rules, and regulations to ensure compliance in the distribution, storage, sale, application, and use of pesticides by regulated community.

These positions are classified only in the Department of Environmental Conservation and exist in both central and regional offices.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Pesticide Control Specialist 1: entry level; performs routine inspection of facilities and pesticide applications, investigates reported cases of pesticide misuse and pesticide-related incidents, referring more difficult cases to a Pesticide Control Specialist 2; collects samples, writes reports, and provides testimony in support of investigations, and administers certification exam sessions; monitors Department approved recertification seminars, and reviews and issues Aquatic Purchase Permits to pond owners.

Pesticide Control Specialist 2: first supervisory level; supervises Pesticide Control Specialists 1; handles more complex interpretations of State and federal pesticide laws, regulations, and enforcement policies and more complex technical tasks that demonstrate a higher degree of difficulty and little direct guidance; may serve as the regional program manager in a region with a small pesticide program staff, testifies as State expert for pesticide related matters; and represents the Department in regional and local matters.

Pesticide Control Specialist 3: serves as program manager responsible for an entire Section in the Bureau of Pesticides Management or for regional offices with a large pesticide program staff; testifies in cases involved with State and national pesticide issues; serves as statewide expert in a specified program field including, but

not limited to aquatic permits, aerial applications, and termiticides; handles the most difficult administrative and technical matters with limited guidance; develops and oversees programs related to pesticides as well as state and national security.

Pesticide Control Specialist 4: Bureau Director; oversees the activities of the Bureau of Pesticides Management; develops and implements Bureau works plans and establishes pesticides management program goals, objectives, and policies; provides pesticides management program recommendations with the highest degree of independence to executive management.

Illustrative Duties

Pesticide Control Specialist 1

Investigates reported cases of pesticide misuse and pesticide-related incidents to substantiate and document violations of pesticide laws, rules, and regulations.

Conducts scheduled and unscheduled pesticide use investigations of pesticide applicators, pesticide-producing establishments, and pesticide distributors, to ensure compliance with State and federal pesticide laws, rules, and regulations.

Evaluates with aerial applicators, dealers, distributors, manufacturers, and other applicators of pesticides and fertilizers, to assess the security of the products and equipment in their possession and ensure their awareness of the potential for bio-terrorist activities.

Investigates unusual requests for products or services.

Provides detailed on-site monitoring of pesticide experimental use permits and Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act (FIFRA) Section 18 registrations (that allow the use of a non-EPA registered pesticide in urgent, non-routine situations) to ensure full compliance with the provisions and restrictions mandated by the permit or emergency exemption.

Conducts detailed investigations of agricultural growers to determine compliance with the Federal Worker Protection Standard to protect the health and safety of agricultural workers who may encounter applied pesticides.

Monitors and evaluates pesticide applicator and recertification training programs to ensure the training programs meet requirements of pesticide certification and recertification training standards.

Conducts pesticide control certification and training examinations throughout the State.

Performs outreach and aids and promotes the Integrated Pest Management (IPM), Pesticide Reporting Law and other pesticide programs.

Incumbents perform their duties within parameters of established, written guidelines, and their completed work is subject to close supervisory review.

Pesticide Control Specialist 2

Provides information to assist Department legal staff, Environmental Conservation Officers, prosecutors, and Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) staff to support alleged violations of State or federal pesticide laws.

Provides technical instruction, advice, and guidance to the regulated community and other constituents and develops programs to ensure compliance with pesticide laws, rules, and regulations.

Represents the Department as a contact for bioterrorism and other potential security issues involving pesticides.

Collaborates with State, local, and municipal government agencies in the development of mosquito and black fly control programs in response to West Nile Virus and other health concerns.

Drafts consent orders and recommends appropriate fines based on guidelines.

Drafts terms and conditions of compliance schedules.

Oversees processing and investigation of pesticide complaints and enforcement cases and assigns complaint investigations requested by EPA.

Prepares report results and enforcement data for EPA.

Supervises detailed investigations of pesticide-related accidents and other accidental exposure.

Serves as regional contact for media and legislative referrals.

Coordinates assessments of pesticide concerns of internal Department units and external state and county health departments.

Assists local communities in the development of Lake Management Plans that establish a comprehensive approach to removing, treating, and controlling unwanted vegetation from lakes and waterways and identifying long-term strategies that reduce the dependence on pesticides to achieve these goals.

Provides supervision and oversight of the implementation of the Pesticide Reporting Law and IPM programs, compliance strategies, and applicator records evaluation.

Pesticide Control Specialist 3

Serves as program manager within assigned region or central office, directing and managing all facets of the pesticide program.

Ensures that staff evaluations and required safety training and medical monitoring are current.

Provides expert testimony in civil and criminal actions.

Develops and administers programs regarding bioterrorism and State and national security involving pesticides.

Represents the Department in emergency response activities associated with the outbreak of insect-borne diseases such as West Nile Virus and coordinates response activities with federal, State, and local agencies.

Coordinates monitoring activities and assists other federal, State, and local agencies in development of environmental impact statements and public outreach programs.

Coordinates cooperative efforts with the Federal Bureau of Investigation, US Postal Service, and EPA in “sting” operations and investigations against alleged pesticide violators.

Serves as the Department statewide expert for an assigned topic such as West Nile Virus, aquatics, termiticides, and other areas of pesticide use.

Serves as representative on State and federal committees and organizations for pesticide matters; develops and updates Department pesticide publications and brochures, and other documents.

Makes recommendations for revision of existing regulations.

Develops pesticide applicator test content and reference material for examinations.

Provides scope, program limits, and components for the preparation of legislative initiatives.

Provides oversight of legislative and media contacts by staff on pesticide matters.

Develops reciprocity agreements with other states for NYS certified pesticide applicators and authors departmental findings statements related to newly registered pesticide products or uses of those products.

Pesticide Control Specialist 4

Determines long-range work plans and strategies, develops Bureau goals and objectives, and assesses program effectiveness.

Defines program and project priorities and ensures that managers and staff are complying with priorities and applicable laws, regulations, policies, and procedures.

Prepares or supervises the development of proposed Bureau budgets and monitors expenditures.

Oversees or supervises the development of federal grant proposals and cooperative agreements.

Ensures staff develop and monitor contractual arrangements with vendors performing work overseen by the Bureau.

Develops and oversees organizational, staffing, and training initiatives.

Oversees the preparation of regulations, policies, and procedures relating to pesticides.

Interprets applicable laws, rules, and regulations and consults with appropriate departmental staff, as needed.

Participates in interagency, interstate, and national task forces and committees.

Represents the Department on special projects and initiatives.

Maintains cooperative relationships with regulated industries, public officials, and the general public.

Minimum Qualifications

Pesticide Control Specialist 1

Open-Competitive: Bachelor's degree or higher in agronomy, agriculture, agricultural engineering, biochemistry, chemistry, entomology, environmental science, environmental studies, natural resources, forestry, forest biology, horticulture, biology, botany, or plant pathology.

Pesticide Control Specialist 2

Promotion: One year of service as a Pesticide Control Specialist 1.

Open Competitive: Bachelor's degree or higher in the degree areas listed above; and two years of experience as a certified private or commercial pesticide applicator, with responsibility for reading and comprehending pesticide label requirements; mixing, loading, handling, and applying pesticides; selecting and recommending use of specific pesticides, calibrating pesticide application equipment, storing, and disposing of pesticides and pesticide containers; maintaining pesticide use records; and complying with all State and federal pesticide regulations.

Pesticide Control Specialist 3

Promotion: One year of service as a Pesticide Control Specialist 2.

Pesticide Control Specialist 4

Promotion: One year of service as a Pesticide Control Specialist 3.

Note: Classification Standards illustrate the nature, extent, and scope of duties and responsibilities of the classes they describe. Standards cannot and do not include all the work that might be appropriately performed by a class. The minimum qualifications above are those required for appointment at the time the Classification Standard was written. Please contact the Division of Staffing Services for current information on minimum requirements for appointment or examination.

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