

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

Classification Standard

Occ. Code 7860005

Railroad Inspector (Hazardous Material), Grade 15	7860005
Railroad Inspector (Operating Practice), Grade 15	7860010
Railroad Inspector (Motive Power & Equipment), Grade 15	7860015
Railroad Inspector (Track), Grade 15	7860020
Railroad Inspector (Signal and Train Control), Grade 15	7860030

Brief Description of Class Series

Within their assigned specialties, which requires specific training and experience, and in accordance with State and federal rail-safety rules and regulations, Railroad Inspectors conduct safety inspections of rail transportation equipment, infrastructure, regulated hazardous materials and substances, and ensure compliance with railroad employee certifications and standards. Incumbents also assist in the investigation of railway accidents to determine cause and collect and analyze rail-related accident and incident data to convert into statistical tables, charts, and reports. Incumbents are required to work independently and may be required to travel extensively within an assigned territory.

Railroad Inspectors are required to undergo training specific to their specialties, and to obtain and maintain federal inspector certification status, in accordance with the federal-state rail safety participation agreement. Areas of specialty are not interchangeable, and duties can only be performed within the specialty area for which training, and certification have been attained.

These positions are classified only at the Department of Transportation.

Distinguishing Characteristics

Railroad Inspector (Hazardous Material): assigned to a field office of the agency that administers and enforces State and federal safety and health laws and regulations that apply to the rail transportation industry; monitors regulatory compliance in the transportation of hazardous materials by rail, within an assigned territory.

Railroad Inspector (Operating Practice): assigned to a field office of the agency that administers and enforces State and federal safety and health laws and regulations that apply to the rail transportation industry; monitors railroad operating rules and practices, the administration of federal alcohol and drug control programs, hours of

service for railroad employees involved with the movement of trains, federal locomotive engineer certification standards, occupational safety conditions and reporting, and employee training and qualification.

Railroad Inspector (Motive Power & Equipment): assigned to a field office of the agency that administers and enforces State and federal safety and health laws and regulations that apply to the rail transportation industry; conducts safety inspections of locomotives, rail cars and other rail transportation equipment, and conducts investigations of railway accidents to determine if faulty equipment was a contributing factor.

Railroad Inspector (Track): assigned to a field office of the agency that administers and enforces State and federal safety and health laws and regulations that apply to the rail transportation industry; conducts track and structure safety inspections, including railroad tracks, roadbeds, tunnels, bridges, yards, signals, and other non-moving equipment and structures, and conducts investigations of railway accidents to determine if faulty equipment was a contributing factor.

Railroad Inspector (Signal and Train Control): assigned to a field office of the agency that administers and enforces State and federal safety and health laws and regulations that apply to the rail transportation industry; plans and carries out periodic inspections of all signal and train control and highway-rail grade crossing warning systems to ensure that they are properly operated, tested, and maintained by the railroads, and conducts investigations of railway accidents to determine if signals or train control equipment was a contributing factor.

Illustrative Duties

Railroad Inspector (Hazardous Material)

Plans and carries out an itinerary of periodic inspections of the handling of hazardous materials at all rail facilities, including intermodal facilities and shipper/consignee locations.

Inspects rail cars, freight containers and intermodal bulk containers for compliance with applicable hazardous materials regulations, freight car equipment and safety appliance standards.

Conducts investigations of collisions, reportable derailments, unintentional releases of hazardous materials, or other accidents/incidents resulting in serious injury to persons or to the property of a railroad occurring on the line of any common carrier engaged in interstate transportation.

- Determines probable cause of accident or incident and if State or federal regulations were violated.

- Develops comprehensive reports (accident, incident, and notices of probable violation) which outline findings and recommendations.

Inspects the method of construction, repair, testing, retesting and manufacture of specification containers used for hazardous materials to determine compliance with existing regulations, specifications, and the need for changes in the specifications.

Inspects railroad shippers' packaging, marking, labeling, shipping procedures, and documentation of shipments of hazardous materials.

Inspects the loading/unloading, switching and movement of cars containing hazardous materials by rail, as well as the shippers' and carriers' documentation of such car loadings.

Inspects and collects evidence of violations of hazardous materials regulations relating to railroads by interviewing witnesses and examining and securing pertinent evidence and/or documentations.

Inspects regional/short line railroads for compliance with the hazardous materials regulations and assists in training those entities to enhance compliance with federal regulations.

- Instructs trainees in job related functions to foster an easier transition phase for those trainees that have chosen the hazardous materials discipline.

Works jointly with the local Association of American Railroads Bureau of Explosives Inspector and with other departmental representatives in promoting uniform understanding and, if necessary, enforcement of hazardous materials regulations applicable to container manufacturers, shippers/consignees, and carriers.

Railroad Inspector (Operating Practice)

Investigates serious railroad accidents, visits the accident site and makes inspections and tests of situations and objects to determine the operational condition of affected equipment.

Questions employees and witnesses to develop facts, and writes a narrative report describing the accident, the cause or causes, and recommends measures to prevent similar accidents in the future.

Examines carrier records to determine that all reportable personal injuries and accidents have been properly reported, to determine if employees connected with the movement of a train were permitted to be or remain on duty contrary to provisions of the law, to determine if employees connected with the movement of a train are in compliance with federal alcohol and drug regulations, and to determine if employees connected with the

operation of locomotives or a train are in compliance with federal regulations concerning locomotive engineer certification.

Investigates complaints from railroad employees or the general public regarding unsafe practices involving train operations.

Investigates reportable accidents and incidents involving railroad operations to determine probable cause and if federal regulations were violated.

Observes railroad employees in the performance of operational duties related to the movement of trains for compliance with the law, including utility employees.

Assists in the inspection of railroad yards, repair shops, and locomotive repair and servicing facilities for compliance with blue signal protection regulations.

May appear in court as a witness when required; submits evidence for prosecution for violations; and enforces the provisions of the appropriate federal laws.

Railroad Inspector (Motive Power & Equipment)

Conducts safety inspections of railroad transportation equipment in repair shops, rail yards and on sidings to determine adherence to federal and State safety standards for safe operation.

Checks air-brake equipment, safety devices, couplers, wheels, and all rolling stock.

Makes internal and external examinations of locomotives and of diesel engines, applying knowledge of construction, composition in installation, stresses and deterioration of diesel locomotives and accessory equipment.

Assesses the contributing and causal factors of accidents, which may be due to defective equipment.

Prepares reports of findings and recommendations and evaluates rail capital equipment improvements for safety effectiveness and contract compliance.

Railroad Inspector (Track)

Inspects railroad tracks, roadbeds, and related structures, such as tunnels, bridges, yards, signals, and other non-moving equipment and structures, to ensure compliance with State or federal law.

Conducts hi-rail inspections to determine track alignment, tie condition, and surface conditions.

Checks grade crossings for presence and condition of protection devices and warning lights.

Rides trains to determine smoothness of ride on tracks and through curves, switches, crossovers, and sidings.

Conducts walking inspections to determine condition of rails, ties, joint bars, bridge structures and piers, switches, guard rails, and other devices.

Prepares reports documenting conditions, noting deficiencies and actions needed to correct them.

Investigates complaints about track and structure condition, ensures that deficiencies are corrected, or refers to higher level staff for corrective action, and notifies complainants of findings and corrective actions taken.

Assesses the contributing and causal factors of accidents, such as derailments or explosions, to assist in determining probable cause and prepares reports of findings.

Evaluates rail track capital improvements for safety, effectiveness, and contract compliance.

Railroad Inspector (Signals & Train Control)

Inspects signals and train control systems to detect deviations from signal and train control maintenance standards.

Conducts reviews of maintenance schedules.

Conducts reviews of plans and records to make inspections of signal train control systems and to determine adequacy of stopping distances from prescribed speeds.

Assesses the contributing and causal factors of accidents, which may be due to defective equipment.

Prepares reports of findings and recommendations and evaluates rail capital equipment improvements for safety effectiveness and contract compliance.

Checks grade crossings for presence and condition of protection devices and warning lights.

Prepares reports documenting conditions, noting deficiencies and actions needed to correct them.

Minimum Qualifications

Railroad Inspector (Hazardous Material)

Open competitive: Two years of experience in developing, administering, or performing managerial functions related to compliance with the hazardous materials regulations; or four years of experience in performing functions related to compliance with the hazardous materials regulations; or a bachelor's degree in physics, chemistry, engineering, logistics, or fire science.

Railroad Inspector (Operating Practice)

Open competitive: Four years of experience in developing or administering railroad operating rules.

Railroad Inspector (Motive Power & Equipment)

Open competitive: Four years of experience in the construction or maintenance of railroad rolling equipment or inspecting such equipment for a public regulatory agency.

Substitution: Due to Federal Railroad Administration requirements for candidates, a bachelor's degree may substitute for two years of the required experience.

Railroad Inspector (Track)

Open competitive: Four years of experience in railroad track construction or maintenance.

Substitution: Due to Federal Railroad Administration requirements for candidates, a bachelor's degree may substitute for two years of the required experience.

Railroad Inspector (Signals & Train Control)

Open competitive: Four years of experience in the design, installation, maintenance, testing or inspection of signal and train control systems and their capabilities and limitation.

Substitution: Due to Federal Railroad Administration requirements for candidates, a bachelor's degree may substitute for two years of the required experience.

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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