

## Specification for the Class of

## HORTI CULTURE I NSPECTOR, SENI OR

**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). Acts as lead inspector, as necessary, and trains individuals in the classes of Horticulture Inspector Trainee and Horticulture Inspector including recommendation to management for licensure of commodities. As a single position located in Spokane, performs terminal market inspections.

Distinguishing Characteristics: This is the senior level horticulture inspector. Positions inspect and certify at least 5 major horticulture commodities within a horticulture district and are assigned on a regular basis at least 2 of the following: (1) training activities of horticulture inspectors and trainees involving recommendation of licensure, (2) leading horticulture inspectors and/or trainees on assigned inspections, (3) monitoring and reviewing inspection certificates for accuracy, consistency, and completeness, and (4) conducting audits of controlled atmosphere storage licensees.

Note: USDA- APHIS license or other federally issued license shall be equivalent to a major commodity. Minor commodities (inspection) shall be equivalent to a major commodity (inspection) on a two-for-one basis.

Major commodities: apples, pears, potatoes, processing potatoes, cherries, peaches, prunes, onions asparagus.

Major commodities: apricots, plums, nectarines, lettuce, cabbage, rutabagas, grapes, turnips, cauliflower, rhubarb, cucumbers, cantaloupe, tomatoes, others.

### 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 permits 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;

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;

Performs inspections of fruits and/or vegetables for insurance companies or other financially interested parties to establish amount of damage or loss due to fire, equipment failure or other causes for the purpose of providing information useful in making monetary settlements or marketing decisions;

Performs audits of controlled atmosphere storage licensee's records regarding temperatures, numbers of days in storage, air components, and minimum or maximum levels of oxygen content of the storage atmosphere; certifies compliance of Chapter 15.30 RCW Controlled Atmosphere Storage of Fruits and Vegetables and qualifies the eligibility of the fruit for packing and marketing

as controlled atmosphere subject to additional grade and condition inspections;

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;

During the peak seasons, assists the Area Supervisor in organizing and setting up field operations;

Instructs, trains, and provides field supervision for entrance level horticulture inspectors; instructs, trains, and supervises Horticulture Inspector Trainees and makes progress reports to the Area Supervisor or Manager regarding trainee; assists in training and development of the Horticulture Inspector; assists in monitoring, and reviews other inspectors' certificates for accuracy and completeness;

Performs as a crew leader of commodity graders in processing plants where third party or contract inspection is in progress;

May investigate complaints from purchasers of defective fruits and/or vegetables; may investigate complaints of infested orchards; writes reports concerning his or her inspections;

May perform any or all the duties of a Horticulture Inspector;

In emergencies, or Area Supervisor's absence, may act as Area Supervisor on an interim basis;

Performs other work as required.

#### Knowledge and Abilities

Thorough and in-depth 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 fruits and/or vegetable commodities.

Abilities: understand and follow procedures and practices which have been developed and to devise new ones when the existing guidelines do not cover particular factors; withstand trade pressures; interpret and apply grade standards and inspection procedures and clearly and convincingly explain them to inspection applicants or to other interested persons; deal tactfully and competently with members of the trade or with organized groups; train, instruct, and check work of 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

Six years of experience in regulatory horticulture inspection and USDA licensing for five major commodities.

Two years of college-level coursework with major emphasis in horticulture, agronomy, or closely related field will be substituted for one year of the required experience.

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.

New class: 3-15-85

Revised definition: 1-13-89

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