

Washington State Department of Personnel
Class Specification

COMMISSION MERCHANT INVESTIGATOR 1

568N

Abolished; adopted 2/10/2011, effective 2/11/2011

Definition:

Investigates claims and complaints of alleged law violations, improper payments, fraud/collusion, and unfair business practices against commission merchants, dealers, cash buyers, and brokers of agricultural products and against livestock markets; inspects and audits records and financial accounts; enforces agricultural laws and regulations.

Typical Work:

Receives complaints and claims from customers and creditors of commission merchants, dealers, cash buyers, brokers, and livestock markets; makes investigations to establish validity of complaints including audits of records and financial accounts; issues subpoenas; administers oaths, takes statements and depositions; prepares felony, gross misdemeanor, and misdemeanor criminal cases; testifies at hearings and in court as expert witness;

Mediates settlement of claims without formal proceedings whenever possible;

Assists in surveillance and audits of certified feedlots;

Stops shipments of agricultural commodities for noncompliance with transport laws; issues warning and arrest citations;

Makes cooperative investigations for other divisions and sections of the Department of Agriculture, as well as other State, county, and Federal agencies;

On own initiative, inspects places of business to assure proper licensing and posting of rate structure;

Maintains records and writes investigative reports;

Performs other duties as required.

Knowledge and Abilities:

Knowledge of: agricultural laws and regulations; court decisions; rules of evidence; laws of arrest, search and seizure; accounting and bookkeeping procedures.

Ability to: make intensive investigations of firms and individuals without arousing undue or undesirable comment; make investigative audits of financial accounts; enforce agricultural laws using maturity of judgment and knowledge; speak and write accurately and informatively; travel frequently and for extended periods.

Legal Requirement(s):

There may be instances where individual positions must have additional licenses or certification. It is the employer's responsibility to ensure the appropriate licenses/certifications are obtained for each position.

Desirable Qualifications:

A Bachelor's degree in police science, agricultural economics, or other allied field.

AND

One year of agricultural business management, or agricultural regulatory experience.

Additional qualifying experience may substitute, year for year, for education.

Class Specification History:

New class Effective April 4, 1969

Revised minimum qualifications November 8, 1971

Revised minimum qualifications, general revision December 20, 1974

Revised definition, minimum qualifications, title change (formerly Commission Merchant Investigator), general revision October 12, 1979

Revised Minimum qualifications October 12, 1984 (emergency) November 9, 1984 (final)

Revised minimum qualifications December 12, 1986

New class code: (formerly 44430) effective July 1, 2007

