

Effective Date: June 9, 1996

Modified: June 22, 1997

Modified: June 25, 2006

**STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION**

**POWER PLANT OPERATOR  
CLASSIFICATION SERIES**

**I. INTRODUCTION**

A. Purpose of This Classification Specification

This classification specification is the basic authority under ER 2.04, Wis. Adm. Code, for making classification decisions relative to present and future positions located within state operated centralized power plants. Positions allocated to this classification series operate and/or monitor coal, gas or oil fired boilers and related equipment in a state operated power plant and/or may perform maintenance on plant equipment. This classification specification is not intended to identify every duty which may be assigned to positions, but is intended to serve as a framework for classification decision making in this occupational area.

Classification decisions must be based on the "best fit" of the duties within the existing classification structure. The "best fit" is determined by the majority (i.e., more than 50%) of the work assigned to and performed by the position when compared to the class concepts and definition of this specification or through other methods of position analysis. Position analysis defines the nature and character of the work through the use of any or all of the following: definition statements; listing of areas of specialization; representative examples of work performed; allocation patterns of representative positions; job evaluation guide charts, standards or factors; statements of inclusion and exclusion; licensure or certification requirements; and other such information necessary to facilitate the assignment of positions to the appropriate classification.

B. Inclusions

The positions in this classification series are located within a variety of state agencies. In order for positions to be included in this series, they must **(1)** be located in a state-operated power plant meeting the definition of "a singular centralized plant that produces high pressure (above 15 psig) steam or hot water to be utilized for space heating, process energy, and/or domestic water heating, and/or produces chilled water for space cooling, and/or produces electrical power, and distributes such utilities via a common central distribution system to an entire facility consisting of multiple buildings" **or (2)** spend the majority of time monitoring high pressure steam distribution on the UW-Whitewater campus, providing the critical link between the high pressure steam being generated by LS Power and the university campus which requires the UW-Whitewater Heating Plant to oversee the distribution of the steam and maintain the on-campus plant in constant stand-by mode. Positions in this classification series: **(1)** spend the majority of time operating and/or monitoring power plant equipment including boilers, chillers, electrical generators, high pressure steam distribution, etc., and may perform maintenance of the plant equipment; **OR (2)** spend the majority of time performing maintenance duties related specifically to power plant equipment and function as plant operator as needed.

C. Exclusions

Excluded from this classification series are the following types of positions:

1. Positions which meet the statutory definition(s) of supervisor and/or management as defined in Wis. Stats. 111.81(19) and (13) as administered and interpreted by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission.
2. Positions which are, for a majority of the time, engaged in providing mechanical maintenance to a variety of building systems and other related equipment and are more appropriately classified as Maintenance Mechanic.
3. Positions which are, for a majority of the time, engaged in utility plant operation (i.e., potable water pumping or waste water treatment) and maintenance activities and are more appropriately classified as Utility Plant Operator.
4. Positions which are, for a majority of the time, engaged in custodial activities within a power plant and are more appropriately classified as Custodian.
5. Positions which are, for a majority of the time, engaged in work in a state-operated high-pressure power plant assisting Power Plant Operators in the operation, monitoring and maintenance of the plant and its equipment and are more appropriately classified as Power Plant Assistant.
6. Positions which are, for a majority of the time, engaged in buildings and grounds maintenance and repair work and are more appropriately classified as Facilities Repair Worker.
7. All other positions which are more appropriately identified by other classification specifications.

D. Entrance Into and Progression Through This Classification Series

Employees enter positions within this classification series by competitive examination. Progression to the senior level is through reclassification as the employee satisfactorily attains the specified training, education, or experience. Movement to the Power Plant Operator-In Charge level requires competition.

## II. DEFINITIONS

### POWER PLANT OPERATOR CLASSIFICATION SERIES

Positions in this classification series are responsible for a majority of the time for the operation and/or monitoring and maintenance of coal, gas and/or oil-fired boilers and/or chillers, and/or electric generators, and related auxiliary equipment in a state-operated power plant. Positions which perform operator duties a majority of the time may also perform a variety of maintenance activities on the power plant equipment and/or have responsibility for operating water treatment facilities less than a majority of the time. Positions which perform maintenance activities on power plant equipment a majority of the time must also function as plant operator as needed.

#### **Examples of work performed:**

Place boilers on line and make adjustments for proper operation.  
Monitor equipment control systems, observe changes in boiler pressure, temperature, steam flow, air flow, water level, etc., and take necessary corrective action.  
Monitor and adjust fuel and air flows and adjust boiler controls in order to maintain plant compliance with environmental regulations applicable to the plant.  
Adjust equipment controls to provide for optimum operating levels and conditions.  
Monitor the operation of auxiliary boiler equipment such as air compressors, feedwater pumps, condensate pumps and fuel forwarding equipment.  
Test water for chemical treatment purposes.  
Take readings from charts, meters and gauges at established intervals and take corrective steps as necessary. Initiate appropriate remedial action when operating conditions such as low water, excess back pressure, fuel failure or other equipment malfunctions occur.  
Regenerate water softeners to assure the proper water condition for boiler use.  
Adjust controls of water and fuel feed systems, blowers, and igniters to start or shut down boilers.  
Adjust boiler controls to provide steam at specified temperature and pressure for turbine loads according to power demands.  
Place standby emergency electrical generators on line in emergencies and monitor the temperature, output, and lubrication of the system.  
Start boiler feed pumps and put them in service on the boiler.  
Switch boiler operation from one type of fuel use to another.  
Operate coal handling equipment within a plant.  
Adjust fuel/air intake as necessary to achieve optimum boiler efficiency.  
Monitor and adjust the operation of a chiller(s) within the plant.  
Monitor and test boiler water quality.  
Operate potable water plant.  
Operate sewage handling equipment.  
Make repairs to power plant equipment.  
Perform routine maintenance on plant equipment.  
Perform scheduled maintenance on plant equipment.  
Assist craftworkers in major repairs of plant equipment.

### **POWER PLANT OPERATOR**

Positions allocated to this level perform the full range of duties in a power plant under close progressing to general supervision.

### **POWER PLANT OPERATOR - SENIOR**

Positions allocated to the senior level perform the full range of duties in a power plant under general supervision and: (1) act as the sole operator on a shift responsible for operation of the entire plant during the shift; or (2) perform assigned maintenance duties related to power plant equipment for a majority of the time and function as plant operator as needed; or (3) perform the full range of duties in a power plant which has a combination of at least two of the following three characteristics: (a) multiple fuel capability for heating and cooling purposes beyond that of an emergency, back-up operation; (b) electrical co-generation capability which is utilized within the plant; or (c) multiple chillers within the plant

### **POWER PLANT OPERATOR - IN CHARGE**

Positions allocated to this level perform the full range of duties in a power plant and: (1) act as a leadworker/team leader of all power plant operators in a plant; or (2) act as a leadworker/team leader of all power plant operators on a shift within a plant; or (3), in plants which do not have an assistant power plant superintendent, are in charge of a significant program function in a power plant such as the maintenance and repair program of the plant and the coordination of plant activities in the absence of the superintendent; or (4) act as a leadworker of all power plant maintenance personnel. Responsibilities include troubleshooting, diagnosis, calibration and repair of all gages, transmitters, recorders, flow meters, positioners, and actuators throughout the power plant. This allocation also acts as the emergency power plant operator in-charge. Work is performed under general supervision.

### **III. QUALIFICATIONS**

The qualifications required for these positions will be determined at the time of recruitment. Such determinations will be made based on an analysis of the goals and worker activities performed and by an identification of the education, training, work, or other life experience which would provide reasonable assurance that the knowledge and skills required upon appointment have been acquired.

Some positions may require certification for chlorofluorocarbons (CFC) to handle the maintenance and repair of refrigeration equipment.

### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

This classification series replaces the Power Plant Operator 1,2,3,4 classification series created in December of 1979 and abolished in June of 1996. This classification series was created effective June 9, 1996, as the result of a Personnel Management Survey and was announced in Bulletin CC/SC-53. The specification was modified effective June 22, 1997 and announced in Bulletin CC/SC-67 in order to describe the unique steam generating system at UW-Whitewater. The specification was modified effective June 25, 2006 and announced in Bulletin OSER-0107-MRS/SC in order to set up a special allocation for Power Plant Maintenance personnel.

TFB  
77101