

STATE OF WISCONSIN  
CLASSIFICATION SPECIFICATION

PLUMBER

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 skilled trade positions located within state government. This classification specification will not specifically identify every eventuality or combination of duties and responsibilities of positions that currently exist, or those that result from changing program emphasis in the future. Rather, it is designed 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

This classification is to be used exclusively for positions performing the full range of journey level plumber work for a majority of the time.

C. Exclusions

Excluded from this classification are the following types of positions:

1. Positions that meet the definition of confidential, professional or supervisor as defined in s. 111.81 (7) and (13) and (19) as administered and interpreted by the Wisconsin Employment Relations Commission.
2. Positions that perform semi-skilled trades work for a majority of the time such as Facilities Repair Worker or Facilities Mechanic. Semi-skilled trades work means the repair or replacement of existing equipment or building components with equipment or components of the same kind and does not alter or affect the performance of any building system, structure, exterior walls, roof or exits.
3. All other positions that are more appropriately identified by other classification specifications.

- D. Entrance Into This Classification  
Employees enter positions in this classification through competition.

## II. DEFINITIONS

### PLUMBER

This is journey level plumber work. Employees in this classification perform plumber work at the journeyman level of skill under general supervision. Employees assemble, install, and repair pipes, fittings, and fixtures of heating, water, and drainage systems, according to specifications and plumbing codes. Plumber work is normally performed on a full time basis; however, other related duties may also be assigned as necessary. Positions in this classification may also direct and instruct apprentices, helpers and other assistants.

Positions are assigned any combination of the following duties:

- Assemble pipe sections, tubing and fittings, using couplings, clamps, screws, bolts, cement, plastic solvent, caulking, or soldering, brazing and welding equipment.
- Fill pipes or plumbing fixtures with water or air and observe pressure gauges to detect and locate leaks.
- Review blueprints and buildings codes and specifications to determine work details and procedures.
- Prepare written work cost estimates.
- Study building plans and inspect structures to assess material and equipment needs, to establish the sequence of pipe installations, and to plan installation around obstructions such as electrical wiring.
- Perform complex calculations and planning for special or very large jobs.
- Locate and mark the position of pipe installations, connections, passage holes, and fixtures in structures, using measuring instruments such as rulers and levels.
- Measure, cut, thread, and bend pipe to required angle, using hand and power tools or machines such as pipe cutters, pipe-threading machines, and pipe-bending machines.
- Install pipe assemblies, fittings, valves, appliances such as dishwashers and water heaters, and fixtures such as sinks and toilets, using hand and power tools.
- Assemble and install air, gas, water and waste-disposal systems, cutting openings in walls for pipes, cutting, reaming and threading pipes.
- Install gas, water and sanitary fixtures and equipment with their supports, hangers or foundations.
- Melt and caulk lead joints, using cutting and welding equipment.
- Open sewers and keep them free from stoppage.
- Clean and repair any defective items in the system.
- Install and test backflow prevention devices, apply for all required permits and documentation.
- Install suitable fire stop system.
- Install laboratory equipment.
- Keep records and make reports.
- Perform related work as required.

### **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.

Plumber: Graduation from high school or attainment of age 18 and possession of an unrestricted journeyman plumber's license issued by the Department of Commerce. Completion of a plumbing apprenticeship approved by the Department of Workforce Development is preferred. Certain positions may require possession of a master plumber's license.

Equivalent training and experience for this craft: Evidence of at least 8,000 hours total of sewer and private sewage disposal systems; cold and hot water piping including installation and connection of industrial piping and water mains; installation and connection of domestic hot water tanks, heaters and softeners; setting and connection of plumbing fixtures and appliances using supply and drainage systems; repair and service of gas stove piping; remodeling of plumbing and drainage systems; remodeling of plumbing and drainage systems; and related instruction and safety procedures. Such evidence may include letters or statements from past customers/clients and/or employers.

### **IV. ADMINISTRATIVE INFORMATION**

This classification was created in the 1970s. The specification was modified effective May 14, 2006 and announced in Bulletin OSER-00930MRS/SC in order to convert the specification to the format used in 2006, provide more specific work examples, reinforce the requirements of the skilled trades and better distinguish the work of the skilled trades from that of the semi-skilled trades (such as Facilities Repair Worker, Facilities Mechanic, etc.).

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