Plumber Apprentice

Class Code: 6550
Date Established: 01-01-81
Date Revised: 05-01-05

OVERVIEW:
Under immediate supervision, in a trainee capacity, the Plumber Apprentice performs a variety of progressively more complex plumbing tasks and performs related work, as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:
The apprentice classification is distinguished from the Plumber by the absence of substantial responsibility for the completion of journey-level tasks on a continuing basis and by the requirement that incumbents receive immediate supervision from journey-level Plumbers. Incumbents follow a formal training plan with established objectives and are not solely responsible or accountable for the completion of journey-level tasks on a continuing basis.

The apprentice classification is designed for the employment of minimally qualified individuals with little or no skilled work experience, who are at least 18 years of age. This classification will be used in conjunction with a formal training program of on-the-job training and supplemental education which outlines training objectives and provides a method for evaluation of performance while achieving those objectives. As it is a four-year training classification, and not intended for the employment of journey-level Plumbers, incumbents may not be appointed to this classification for more than four years. Upon certification of journey-level capability, incumbents will become eligible for appointment or transition to the Plumber classification; however, placement into the Plumber classification is not guaranteed.

TYPICAL ACTIVITIES:
Incumbents in this apprentice classification are instructed in and learn with graduated responsibility to install, maintain, inspect and repair standard plumbing equipment concerned with water, gas, oil, sewage, fire control, steam and refrigeration systems; learn the names and applications of various plumbing tools and equipment; assist journey-level workers in the installation and repair of pumps; learn general maintenance of the plumbing shop; learn to trouble-shoot plumbing systems; make rough sketches of plumbing systems; estimate labor and materials for minor plumbing installation and repair; and select, order and store plumbing supplies and equipment. Incumbents make simple reports, keep simple records and keep a daily log of work completed as well as record their progression through the work processes listed in their training guidelines.

TYPICAL QUALIFICATIONS:
Knowledge and Abilities:
Entry to this apprentice classification requires the possession of a high school diploma, California GED, or equivalent combination of education and experience.
Incumbents must be able to follow oral and written instructions; read, write and perform such tasks at a level appropriate for the duties; establish and maintain cooperative working relationships; perform basic arithmetic computations; learn the methods, materials, tools and equipment used in the plumbing trades; and learn and apply the rules and regulations of the California State Plumbing Codes and the Safety Orders of the Division of Industrial Safety applicable to plumbing. Incumbents also must be able to work in a trainee capacity, demonstrating continued progress and improvement in plumbing work, work habits, knowledge and abilities; demonstrate a definite interest in a career as a crafts painter; and meet all the criteria as defined in the CSU and SETC Apprenticeship Standards Addendum.