

DRUG ANALYST

Kind of Work

Advanced Professional laboratory work of a technical nature in the analytical examination of drugs and medicine.

Distinguishing Features of Work

An employee in this class is responsible for the proper maintenance and efficient functioning of a drug laboratory and the training of staff attached thereto. Work involves supervision of subordinates and participation in the chemical and physical analysis of local and imported drugs and raw drug ingredients, to determine quality, purity and conformity with label claims and existing standards. Assignments are received in the form of samples selected or collected by the Drug Analyst or submitted by Government Departments and Private Agencies. Work is performed independently and requires a considerable degree of initiative, especially as relates to development of Methodology and is subject only to administrative review by professional superiors.

Examples of Work

Organizes, plans and directs all activities in a drug laboratory.

Supervises and trains subordinate staff and participates in the chemical and physical analysis of local imported drugs and raw drug ingredients, to determine quality, purity and conformity with label claims and existing standards.

Identifies sample drugs, components, complex drug mixtures and solid dosage forms.

Checks on quality control procedures in drug factories in accordance with regulations.

Advises on formulation of drugs with regard to potency, dosage, efficiency, stability and on enforcement of laws relating to drug standards.

Acts as Government expert for the purposes of the Food and Drug Ordinance and the Narcotics Ordinance.

Examines labels and drug advertisements to ensure validity of claims.

Performs related work as requested.

Required Knowledge, Skills and Abilities

Considerable knowledge of modern methods and techniques employed in drug analysis.

Knowledge of the principles and practices of analytical chemistry.

Knowledge of modern laboratory practices equipment and materials.

Knowledge of the laws and regulations relating to drugs.

Skill in the use and care of laboratory instruments, equipment and materials.

Ability to assign and to instruct assistants in laboratory methods.

Ability to make chemical and physical analyses of drug samples in incorporate findings in reports of varying complexity and to give evidence in Court if necessary.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees and the public.

Minimum Experience and Training

Experience (18 months to 4 years) in the field of analytical chemistry, and training as evidenced by a Bachelors degree in Science including Chemistry as a major subject or a Bachelors Degree in Pharmacy or Pharmacology supplemented by post graduate training in the field of drug analysis; or any equivalent combination of experience and training.

CHIEF SCIENTIFIC ASSISTANT

Kind of Work

Responsible technical and supervisory work in a chemical laboratory.

Distinguishing Features of Work

An employee in this class is responsible for the overall supervision of the activities of Scientific Assistants and other subordinates in a chemical laboratory. Work involves assisting in the coordination of laboratory activities, maintaining records of all samples entering the laboratory and the results of analyses. Duties also includes insuring the adequate supply of the necessary chemicals and apparatus, and performing routine and sub-professional analyses on a wide variety of samples. Work assignments are received from a professional superior and are performed with a moderate degree of independence, but analytical work is subject to review by a professional superior for accuracy and completeness of experiments and of final reports.

Examples of Work

Organises, plans and supervises the work of non-professional workers in a chemical laboratory.

Keeps and maintains records of the results of analyses after approval by the Chemist.

Replenishes supplies of necessary agents and other chemicals and apparatus used in the laboratory.

Performs routine and sub-professional chemical analyses and tests on a wide variety of samples, also tests new methods of analyses for future laboratory use.

Records findings, makes calculations and prepares reports of same for review by a professional superior.

Checks results of routine analyses performed by other scientific assistants and trains junior staff in laboratory techniques and procedures.

Performs related work as required.

Required Knowledges, Skills and Abilities

Extensive knowledge of the sub-professional tests and analyses made in a chemical laboratory.

Extensive knowledge of laboratory procedures and of the use of laboratory equipment and re-agents.

Skill in making routine and sub-professional chemical analyses.

Ability to carry tests through to conclusion, to analyse results and prepare reports on same.

Ability to supervise the non-professional functions of the laboratory and to give guidance to subordinate staff on the conduct of analyses.

Ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with other employees and the public.

Minimum Experience and Training

Extensive (more than 8 years) experience in the particular field of technical laboratory work as may have been gained in the lower classes including considerable experience in a supervisory capacity; and training as evidence by a G.C.E. 'O' Level or its equivalent, with passes in five subjects including English Language, Mathematics, Chemistry and /or Physics and/or a Biological Science (Botany, Zoology, Biology) or Part II of the National Certificate; or any equivalent combination of experience and training.