

**California Department of Food and Agriculture
Border Protection Stations
Agricultural Technician I
Blanket Duty Statement**

I. Program/Position Identification

The Department of Food and Agriculture operates 16 border protection stations across California. Inspectors at these facilities check vehicles and commodities entering California from other states for agricultural pests and quarantine compliance. Collectively, these stations are one of the State’s primary defenses in protecting against exotic pest infestations.

Under supervision of the Station Manager, Shift Supervisor, or Lead Inspector the Agricultural Technician I performs regulatory inspections on vehicles and commodities to prevent the introduction of unwanted pests into California. Seasoned inspectors are expected to be able to work independently with little or no supervision. Agricultural Technicians are used to ensure adequate facility staffing during peak traffic periods (i.e., weekends, holidays, summer months, etc.). They may also be used temporarily to fill in for the absence of permanent staff.

Dependability and job commitment are critical to success in this classification. Inspectors must be able understand and follow directions; communicate effectively (verbally and in writing) in English; follow prescribed safety practices; and work cooperatively with other employees, other agencies, and the public.

Classification:	Agricultural Technician I (Seasonal)
Working Title:	Agricultural Technician I
License or Other Requirement:	None
Position Number:	Various
Division/Branch:	Plant Health and Pest Prevention Services Pest Exclusion Branch
Location:	Statewide
Date Prepared:	January 16, 2019
Work Hours/Shift:	Various/All Shifts

II. Essential and Non-Essential Job Functions

A. Essential Functions:

Function #1:	Vehicle/Commercial Shipment Inspections	55%
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- Inspects vehicles (i.e. automobiles, watercraft, self-moving, etc.) to determine if plant material (i.e., fruits, vegetables, plants, etc.) is present and to check the admissibility of plant material based on quarantine compliance and freedom from pests. This requires verbal communication and physical activities such as opening and removing containers, climbing, stooping, and bending around and within vehicles.

- Reads and interprets shipping manifests, quarantine certificates, bills of lading, and other industry-related documents to determine the contents and admissibility of commercial shipments and to make sound decisions relating to the release or rejection of shipments. This requires the use of printed and electronic manuals and lists to compare commodities and origins.
- Determines the admissibility of all shipments of plant material to protect the State's agricultural and natural resources by using printed and electronic reference materials such as quarantine manuals, Program operation guide, and Border Station memos to make sound decisions relating to the release or rejection of shipments.
- Copies or scans shipping documents, certificates, and other related paperwork, using photocopiers and scanners, concerning the regulation of movement of commodities to monitor pest pathways into the State.
- Monitors traffic movement to determine which vehicles need to be inspected and to control traffic flow in order to recognize potential signs of high risk vehicle travel, using visual and auditory clues and through good verbal communication.
- Prioritizes and directs vehicle inspections based on pest risk and traffic flow to minimize traffic back-ups for the purpose of public safety.
- Searches for and removes pests (i.e., gypsy moth, zebra mussel, etc.), attached or roaming, within or on vehicles by using "creepers" to inspect the underside of vehicles, ladders to climb into or onto vehicles, power-washers, and hand tools, removing pests to prevent pest infestations and mitigate pest risk of vehicles and commodities from entering the State.
- Enters electronic and handwritten data to gather information regarding traffic flow, pest samples, and rejected or quarantined commercial shipments into databases for statistical analysis and to assist the Program in evaluating trends. This task requires use and comprehension of computers, spreadsheets, and databases.
- Disseminates information to advise and inform interested parties including the public, headquarters office, agricultural commissioners, and other agencies via fax, e-mail, and postal systems.
- Maintains a profound understanding of any applicable laws and/or regulations as it relates to border protection. Promotes and adheres to all laws governing the CDFA Border Patrol processes to ensure compliance.

Function #2:

Cooperative Activities

20%

The Border Protection Stations Program collaborates with outside agencies and other CDFA regulatory programs. Activities with these entities include:

- Examines and photocopies shipping manifests (bills of lading, short-form manifests) and forwards the necessary data to the California Department of Tax and Fee Administration (CDTFA) Revenue and Taxation unit. The inspector

must be able to review the bill of lading and make sound decisions on the level of probability of use tax liability of incoming shipments.

- Examines the Imported Material Report (IMR) for incoming shipments of used beverage containers (UBC) for accuracy, legibility, and legitimacy, and inspects the shipment noting material types, approximate weight, vehicle description, vehicle license, unit numbers, description of occupants, and any other pertinent information for the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle).
- Creates the Proof of Inspection (POI) verifying the contents of UBC shipments into the state. Scans the IMR and POI and disseminates information to interested parties including the headquarters office and CalRecycle, noting any irregularities in the shipment.
- Reads and interprets bills of lading, permits, and certificates to determine the regulatory compliance of incoming livestock shipments. This requires knowledge of the Animal Policy in the Plant Quarantine Manual and the Border Station Operating Guide.
- Gathers and inputs data into the Border Station Livestock database concerning the movement of livestock shipments into and through California. Gathered data may also be scanned, faxed, and mailed copies for the Animal Health Branch to follow up on necessary inspections, actions, statistics, or reports.
- Reads and interprets bills of lading to determine the admissibility of incoming whole market and liquid egg (containerized egg whites, “Egg Beaters”, etc) shipments. This requires knowledge of regulations for certified egg shipments as outlined in the Border Station Operating Guide.
- Gathers and inputs data in the Border Station Egg Report database concerning the movement of egg shipments meeting regulation standards into the state. Records shipments that do not meet regulations or are listed on the Egg BOLO list provided by the Egg Safety Quality Management program and notifies required parties via email to follow up on necessary actions.
- Reads and interprets bills of lading and certification to determine the admissibility of incoming cottonseed and cottonseed products to ensure it is within aflatoxin tolerances as outlined in the Border Station Operating Guide.
- Gathers data and disseminates information on the movement of cottonseed products for feed to the Feed, Fertilizer, and Livestock Drugs Regulatory Services Branch via email or fax in a timely manner.
- Examines and interprets the bills of lading for incoming shipments of tobacco products. Scans and/or copies the bills of lading and completes the Tobacco Shipment Record to track the shipment. Gathered data is also scanned or faxed to the Sacramento Headquarters Office to be disseminated for the Department of Justice to follow up on necessary actions.

- Inspects commodities for pest insects, diseases, weeds, and nematodes to capture pest pathways by using visual aids such as hand lenses, microscopes, and dissecting tools (ex. knives and tweezers).
- Records digital images using devices such as digital/ video cameras and microscopes to document events occurring at the facility including accidents, quarantine incidents, and pest finds for legal and quarantine Program responsibilities.
- Submits suspect pest species to CDFA's Plant Pest Diagnostics Lab for identification by collecting samples in alcohol vials or other containers and completing printed and electronic reports.
- Decontaminates and removes host material to prevent pest infested material from entering the State. This includes operating equipment such as high pressure washers and wearing safety gear.
- Recognizes pests for risk analysis by comparing intercepted pests with collected or printed specimens or electronic reference materials.
- Disposes contaminated materials to prevent local pest infestations using hand tools and aids for moving heavy material and by grinding, burning, or bagging. This requires the use of wheel barrows, hand trucks, and incinerators.

Function #4: Public Relations

10%

- Applies good public relations techniques to educate and solicit the cooperation of the public and maintain the good image of Department.
- Verbally communicates laws, rules and regulations for the purpose of inspection to the general public and truck drivers.
- Distributes printed informational materials such as brochures and fliers to the public and truck drivers for public awareness.
- Maintains a professional demeanor to provide the public with a positive impression of the Department and solicit cooperative assistance by being well groomed and using proper body language.
- Politely answers the station telephone and gives accurate information to callers.

B. Non-Essential Functions

Function #1: Facility Maintenance

5%

- Performs minor cleanup and maintenance of buildings and grounds to ensure a facility that is safe, sanitary, and functional.
- Cleans restrooms, storerooms, offices, inspection booths, inspection lanes and other work areas. This may entail cleaning toilets, picking up and emptying trash, washing windows, mopping, sweeping, and other duties as prescribed by the Station Manager, Shift Supervisor, or Shift Leader.

- Performs minor maintenance of the facility and grounds including: restrooms, storerooms, offices, inspection booths, and inspection lanes and areas. This may entail using power equipment to cut lawns or weeds, painting, and minor building repair, and other duties as prescribed by the Station Manager, Shift Supervisor, or Shift Leader.
- Perform other job-related duties as requested by supervisor

III. Work Environment

Employees in this classification are routinely assigned to rotating work shifts including day, evening, night, weekends, and holidays. This job is performed outdoors, in the private vehicle and truck inspection areas approximately 80% of the time. The remaining time is spent in an office environment. When working outdoors, the employee may be exposed to high-low temperature changes, variable climatic conditions, rain, fog, dust, fumes, gases, and odors. The noise level in the work environment is moderate. Required to follow departmental grooming and uniform standards.

IV. Employee’s Statement:

(Initial applicable statements)

_____ I have read and understand the duties and essential functions of the position. I understand Reasonable Accommodation¹ and how it applies to essential functions. I can perform the duties of this job without Reasonable Accommodation.

OR

_____ I have read and understand the duties and essential functions of the position. I understand Reasonable Accommodation and how it applies to essential functions. I will need Reasonable Accommodation to perform one or more of the essential functions described in this duty statement.

_____	_____	_____	_____
Employee Signature ²	Date	Supervisor Signature	Date

Employee Name (Print)

**Duties of this position are subject to change and may be revised as needed or required.*

Approved by: Nicholas Wehr 1/24/19

¹ A reasonable accommodation is an adjustment or modification to a job or workplace that allows qualified employees or prospective employees to perform the essential functions of the job successfully.

² Duties of this position are subject to change and may be revised as needed or required. If/when duties change you will be provided a revised duty statement to sign.