

# JOB DESCRIPTION

## Benchmark Job #043

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Ministry: Health  
Branch: BC Centre for Disease Control  
Location: Vancouver

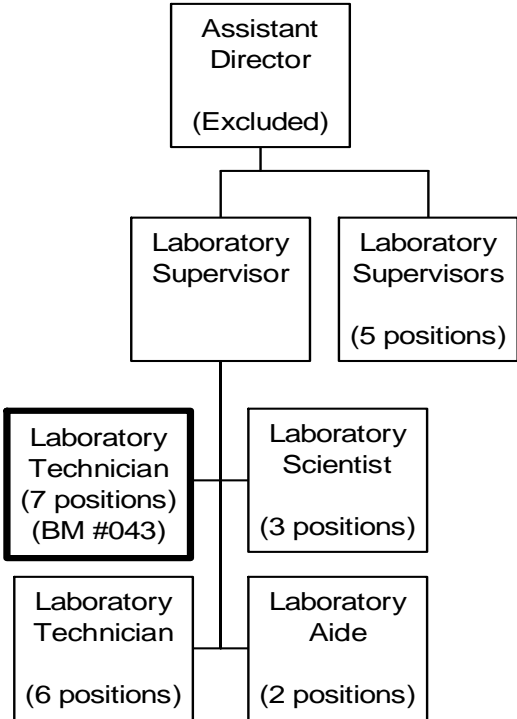
Working Title: **Laboratory Technician**  
Level: Range 21  
Classification: Laboratory Health Science Officer

### PRIMARY FUNCTION

To isolate and identify parasites from laboratory specimens to aid clients in the diagnosis and treatment of communicable diseases.

### JOB DUTIES AND TASKS

1. Prepares specimen samples to isolate and identify parasites
  - a. determines the appropriate protocol to follow based on specimen type and clinical information provided
  - b. prepares a sediment by applying chemical washes, straining and centrifuging fecal, blood or other specimens
  - c. uses staining machine on sediment to prepare acid fast, hemotoxalen and iodine concentrate slides
  - d. examines slides under microscope to identify parasites (between 30 to 50 types), stage of eggs, muscle fibres, red blood cells and charcoal laden crystals; quantitate parasites and determine if parasites are alive or dead
  - e. assesses test results for validity based on control values and quality control parameters
  - f. reorders tests or carries out alternative testing, if necessary, to identify or confirm the identification of parasites
  - g. records observations and test results, interprets findings, and enters data onto formatted computer screen
2. Performs other related duties
  - a. adjusts equipment such as microscopes to correct lights, focus and calibration
  - b. gives instruction in laboratory procedures to employees, medical residents, students and technicians
  - c. discusses specimen collection with doctors, laboratories and hospitals and explains laboratory procedures
  - d. works in awkward positions to operate laboratory equipment such as fume hoods and microscopes
  - e. signs for goods received, such as chemicals



## REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION

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Job Title: Laboratory Technician

FACTOR NO.	REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION	DEGREE	CLASS. POINTS
1	<p><b>JOB KNOWLEDGE</b> Understand the principles of parasitology to conduct laboratory tests, assess and determine results to identify parasites.</p>	G	250
2	<p><b>MENTAL DEMANDS</b> Judgement to apply structured study and analysis to choose and apply appropriate laboratory test procedures for incoming specimens, complete testing, assess results for validity and interpret findings, by the precise review and manipulation of sophisticated parasitology data.</p>	F	175
3	<p><b>INTERPERSONAL COMMUNICATION SKILLS</b> Discretion required to exchange information needing explanation of lab results with doctors, and hospital staff.</p>	C	30
4	<p><b>PHYSICAL COORDINATION AND DEXTERITY</b> Significant coordination and dexterity required to operate microscope and to weigh minute amounts of chemical preparations.</p>	D	22.5
5	<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR WORK ASSIGNMENTS</b> Guided by general laboratory standards, applies accepted work methods in a different way to test biological samples where the parasite being detected may not be readily identified.</p>	E	120
6	<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR FINANCIAL RESOURCES</b> Financial responsibility to sign for goods received such as laboratory chemicals.</p>	A	5
7	<p><b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR PHYSICAL ASSETS/INFORMATION</b> Considerable responsibility to control processes to ensure the quality of information and data identified in laboratory testing.</p>	E	33

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FACTOR NO.	REASON FOR CLASSIFICATION	DEGREE	CLASS. POINTS
8	<b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR HUMAN RESOURCES</b> Responsibility to provide formal training to employees on laboratory procedures.	B	9
9	<b>RESPONSIBILITY FOR WELL BEING/SAFETY OF OTHERS</b> Significant care and attention to identify parasites to aid doctors in making diagnoses.	D	25
10	<b>SENSORY EFFORT/MULTIPLE DEMANDS</b> Intense attention to detail to almost always visually and by touch prepare and process specimens, observe slides using microscope and record observations.	D	18
11	<b>PHYSICAL EFFORT</b> Heavy physical effort to frequently work in an awkward position at fumehood with arms outstretched with minimal opportunity for relief.	E	24
12	<b>SURROUNDINGS</b> Exposure to odours almost always from fecal specimens and laboratory chemicals.	D	9
13	<b>HAZARDS</b> Significant exposure to hazards from frequently working with infectious micro-organisms and toxic chemicals.	D	9

**Total Points: 729.5**

**Level: Range 21**