

PROGRAM TECHNICIAN SERIES

REPORT OF FINDINGS

OCTOBER 1996

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

State policy prescribes the responsibilities of the agencies and the Human Resource Services Division (HRSD) regarding the allocation of positions to classifications. These responsibilities were further defined during the last legislative session. House Bill 2192 amended ORS 240.215(2) to include the following:

"The allocation of positions within the various operating agencies to the classifications in the classification plan shall be performed by the agency appointing authority with post-audit review by the division. Agencies shall allocate positions to the available class that most accurately describes the work based upon the assigned duties, authorities and responsibilities. If a position is found to be misallocated, the agency shall change the allocation of the position to the proper class for the work, whether or not the assigned duties have changed since the previous allocation decision."

This audit was conducted pursuant to this new legislation, and to [State Policy 30.000.01](#). The Program Technician classification series was selected for review. It contains two levels.

As of August 1996, there were 655 positions with incumbents in 51 state agencies in this classification series. A sample of 36 positions in 17 agencies was reviewed. These reviews included an analysis of the current position descriptions, interviews with the incumbents and their supervisors, and consideration of any additional information submitted by agencies. The following findings were made:

- Fourteen positions (39%) were correctly allocated.
- Seven positions (19%) should be allocated to the Program Representative series.
- Fifteen positions (42%) should be allocated to a classification or series other than either the Program Technician or Program Representative series.
- Sixteen of the position descriptions (44%) were not signed and/or dated by one or more of the required signatories.

Due to the high percentage of misallocations (61%) to the series, it has been recommended that the Classification Unit of the Human Resource Services Division undertake a classification review.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Conclusion:

Twenty-two of the 36 audited positions (61%) in the Program Technician series were found to be misallocated. Of these, seven positions (32%) should have been classified in the Program Representative series. The remaining fifteen positions (68%) were matched to other classifications.

Recommendations:

Each of the affected agencies has been separately advised of the misallocations, and of their responsibility to initiate corrective action consistent with considerations regarding represented or unrepresented employees. Corrective action may include such alternatives as reclassification of the position or the realignment of duties, authority and responsibilities.

It is recommended that appointing authorities review position allocations periodically and correct any allocation errors as required by [State Policy 30.000.01 \(Position Management\), Section \(1\)\(e\)](#). This process is accomplished by some agencies at the time of the annual performance appraisal, and is a specific "check-off" item for supervisors at the time of the performance review. This ensures that a position description review is made at least annually. We recommend that agencies adopt a similar practice, if one is not now in place.

It is recommended that agencies incorporate a position impact review into any plan for reorganization or other evolution that may affect assigned duties of positions as prescribed by [State Policy 30.000.01, Section \(1\)\(d\)](#) of the policy prescribes that planning should be accomplished regarding the impact on position classifications before modifying duties, authorities and responsibilities.

Conclusion:

The percentage of misallocations in this series (61%) is considerably higher than in any of the prior classification reviews of other class series. Seven positions that should have been allocated to the Program Representative series were misallocated to the Program Technician series by seven different agencies. The remaining fifteen misallocations included a wide variety of appropriate classifications. The conclusion of the audit team is that this is due, in part, to the characteristics of the class specifications for the Program Technician and Program Representative series.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that a classification review be undertaken by the HRSD Classification Unit of the Department of Administrative Services for both of these class series. A subsequent audit is in progress for the Program Representative series, which may validate this recommendation.

Conclusion:

Sixteen of the Position Descriptions (44%) were not signed and/or dated in accordance with State Policy 30.000.01.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that agencies establish internal procedures, if not currently existing, to ensure that position descriptions are reviewed at periodic intervals. At minimum, descriptions should be reviewed annually as part of the employee performance review process. They should be reviewed for completeness and accuracy and to assure that all signatures are in place.