

**TITLE OF GROUP OF CLASSES: PRINCIPAL FORENSIC SCIENTIST**  
**TITLE OF CLASSES IN GROUP:**

	<b>Class Code:</b>	
<b>SEROLOGY</b>		<b>02729401</b>
<b>TOXICOLOGY</b>		<b>02729402</b>
<b>CHEMISTRY</b>		<b>02729403</b>
<b>RACING CHEMISTRY</b>		<b>02729404</b>
	<b>Pay Grade:</b>	<b>32A</b>
	<b>EO:</b>	<b>B</b>

**CLASS DEFINITION:**

**GENERAL STATEMENT OF DUTIES:** To be responsible for directing the technical operations of a forensic laboratory in the area of specialization indicated by the title of the class of position; and to do related work as required.

**SUPERVISION RECEIVED:** Works under the general direction of a superior with considerable latitude for the exercise of independent judgement and initiative; work is reviewed through written reports for and consultation.

**SUPERVISION EXERCISED:** Assigns, instructs, trains and reviews the work of technical and other laboratory staff members.

**ILLUSTRATIVE EXAMPLES OF WORK PERFORMED:**

To be responsible for directing the technical operations of a forensic laboratory in the area of specialization indicated by the title of the class of position:

**Serology** - the systematic analysis and interpretation of sexual assault evidence including body fluids and stains; blood groupings, species and sex determination, and other forensic serological examinations as required; or,

**Toxicology** - the analysis of post-mortem biological specimens for drugs and poisons contributing to cause of death; analysis of biological specimens for levels of alcohol and drugs capable of impairing motor vehicle operation; and other forensic toxicological examinations as required; or,

**Drug Chemistry** - the identification of drugs and chemical contraband in confiscated pills, powders, paraphernalia, pharmaceuticals, foods and beverages and other specimens as required; or,

**Racing Chemistry** - the examination of specimens obtained from participants in athletic and pari-mutuel events for performance altering substances; the interpretation of findings and other forensic examinations as required.

To perform the most complex and difficult examinations and analyses in the area of specialization.

To be responsible for ensuring that experimental laboratory work is performed in an efficient, effective and timely manner.

To carry out original research projects.

To be responsible for seeking solutions to laboratory testing problems in order to improve existing problems in order to improve existing procedures and methods.

To provide technical assistance to attorneys, medical examiners, and law enforcement personnel in order to explain the capabilities and limitations of scientific analyses; to interpret and define laboratory results in court as an expert witness.

To maintain a secure chain-of-custody of evidence in order to ensure that its evidentiary value is preserved while under the jurisdiction of the forensic laboratory unit.

To prepare reports on the results of tests, examinations and research projects.

To attend meetings and seminars and to make scientific presentations.

To evaluate equipment and procedures within the laboratory and make examinations for improvement when appropriate.

To do related work as required.

## **REQUIRED QUALIFICATIONS FOR APPOINTMENT:**

**KNOWLEDGES, SKILLS AND CAPACITIES:** A thorough knowledge of the principles and practices and laboratory techniques as applied in the area of specialization; the ability to apply such principles, practices and techniques in the making of the most complex and difficult technical tests and analyses for forensic purposes; a thorough knowledge of the Rhode Island criminal justice system; the ability to assign, train, supervise and review the work of technical and other laboratory staff; the ability to appear and testify in court as an expert witness; the ability to maintain a secure chain of custody of evidence; the ability to establish and maintain effective working relationships with criminal justice agencies; and related capacities and abilities.

## **EDUCATION AND EXPERIENCE:**

Education: Such as may have been gained through: graduation from a college of recognized standing with specialization in Chemistry or a related Biological Science and possession of a Master's Degree in the area of specialization indicated by the title of the class of position or a related field; and

Experience: Such as may have been gained through: employment in a responsible capacity involving the making of complex forensic examinations in the area of specialization, as well as responsibility for the supervision of technical subordinate laboratory staff.

Or, any combination of education and experience that shall be substantially equivalent to the above education and experience.

Class Created: February 28, 1988

Editorial Review: 3/15/03