

**COMPETENCY MODEL FOR
WASTEWATER TREATMENT LABORATORY MANAGER
7840**

The following competencies have been identified as those that best separate superior from satisfactory job performance in the class of **WASTEWATER TREATMENT LABORATORY MANAGER**. (Numbers refers to the order of competencies in the Competency Bank.)

- 3. Judgment and Decision Making
- 8. Safety Focus
- 20. Job Knowledge
- 33. Interpersonal Skills
- 42. Resolves Conflict
- 47. Written Communication
- 49. Project Management
- 53. Leadership
- 59. Strategic Planning

On the following pages are descriptions of each competency, including a definition, the level of the competency required for the class (*italicized, bolded, and underlined*), examples of behavioral indicators, and satisfactory and superior performance levels.

3. JUDGMENT AND DECISION MAKING – Accurately assesses situations, seeks new information if necessary, and applies all available information to reach sound conclusions/formulate effective response.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Training and guidelines needed to respond to immediate situations within very specific function are provided (or supervisor available to assist).
- Level 2: General information and guidance to assist in responding to a variety of situations across a range of circumstances are provided.
- Level 3: **Little guidance available for responding to a wide range of complex situations with far-reaching and/or enduring consequences.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Effectively responds to atypical situations.
- Asks questions or otherwise obtains additional relevant information to make a decision.
- Formulates a decision and necessary actions based on available facts.
- Correctly infers appropriate response based on information provided and existing policies, personal experience, and/or consultation with others.
- Discusses conclusions/possible responses with others before taking action as necessary.
- Considers impact of decisions on all affected parties.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Correctly assesses routine and unusual situations and reaches appropriate conclusions for actions needed. Obtains additional information and/or consults with others as necessary.

Superior

Evaluates new situations accurately to establish an appropriate response or plan of action. Recognizes the impact on all affected parties, as well as the possible ramifications and/or repercussions of setting a precedent.

8. SAFETY FOCUS – Performs work in a way that minimizes risk of injury to self or others.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Maintain awareness of unsafe conditions and actions to avoid injury.
- Level 2: Follow safety rules/procedures; avoid known hazards in the work environment.
- Level 3: **Carefully follow safety rules and procedures and consistently use all necessary safety equipment.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Wears seat belt.
- Ensures safe physical work environment by taking actions such as eliminating unstable stacks of materials, closing drawers so filing cabinets will not tip over, and keeping pathways clear of tripping hazards.
- Reviews safety procedures before beginning each job with known hazards.
- Follows safety procedures while performing work even when it takes more time.
- Uses safety equipment such as goggles, gloves, and earplugs as required or warranted.
- Frequently checks safety equipment for proper condition and operation.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Maintains awareness of personal safety to avoid injury or property damage during all work activities.

Superior

“Safety first.” Places avoidance of injury or property damage above all other job requirements. Mentions the need to follow safe work practices to co-workers. Actively seeks ways to avoid injury.

SAFETY FOCUS AREA

1. Knowledge of safety rules, procedures, and practices related to laboratory work, including CAL/OSHA regulations, sufficient to ensure a safe working environment.

20. JOB KNOWLEDGE – Knows information required to perform a specific job. Includes both widely available courses of study (for example, chemistry, human resources management, graphic arts) and City-specific information (parking regulation and ticketing practices; purchasing procedures; provisions of the City Charter).

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Knowledge is concrete, factual, and/or procedural and may be defined by the organization. Situations in which it is applied are quite consistent.
- Level 2: **Knowledge is substantive and may be defined by an external trade, field, or profession. Situations in which it is applied vary and, as such, require breadth and depth of understanding.**
- Level 3: Knowledge is abstract, conceptual, and/or complex and may be supported by a well-defined academic discipline or authoritative sources (e.g., laws, ordinances, government guidelines/regulations/codes). Situations in which it is applied may vary greatly or be novel.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Performs work correctly/avoids technical (job content related) errors.
- Answers technical questions about work accurately.
- Asks few technical questions about the performance of routine work activities.
- Offers advice (“coaching”) to new employees regarding their work.
- Develops training programs for other employees.
- Sought out as a source of information by others.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Sufficient job knowledge to perform work correctly independently. Answers technical questions about work correctly.

Superior

Expertise in technical job information sufficient to serve as a resource to others. May develop training manuals/ programs and/or give internal and/or external presentations related to work.

Job Knowledge Areas

1. Knowledge of chemistry, bacteriology, biology, and physics principles sufficient to analyze, interpret, and report results of routine and special laboratory tests and projects and determine whether or not a site or material is safe or if further actions are required to meet federal, state, and local quality requirements.
2. Knowledge of scientific methods and laboratory procedures, techniques, and equipment relating to wastewater, reclaimed water, and industrial waste analysis sufficient to successfully analyze, interpret, and report results of routine and special laboratory tests and projects in accordance with current State, Federal, and local laws and regulations relating to environmental protection and testing.
3. Knowledge of sources of information in fields related to wastewater and reclaimed water laboratory testing sufficient to reduce over-drafted ground and surface water supplies and provide safe and environmentally responsible means of waste disposal.
4. Knowledge of principles of environmental and environmental chemical engineering as applied to conveyance, treatment, and safe disposal of wastewater sufficient to determine the extent and severity of contamination.
5. Knowledge of State, Federal, and local laws and regulations related to environmental protection and testing sufficient to adequately assess test samples for determining the extent of contamination and health risks.

33. INTERPERSONAL SKILLS – Interacts effectively and courteously with others.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Interact with members of the workgroup, supervision, and/or the public in a cordial, service-oriented manner.
- Level 2: Interact across department lines and with appointed City officials, and/or members of the public, at times under adversarial circumstances, in a cordial, respectful manner.
- Level 3: **Interact with appointed and elected City officials, department heads, representatives of external organizations, and/or the media in a cordial, effective manner.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Works well with others toward mutual objectives.
- Does not arouse hostility in others.
- “Disagrees without being disagreeable.”
- Elicits acceptance/cooperation from others.
- Affords all individuals respect, regardless of their role or status.
- Effectively addresses concerns of politicians or others who may have their “own agenda.”

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Behaves in a courteous, respectful, cooperative manner toward co-workers, other City employees, and members of the public.

Superior

Facilitates positive interpersonal relations within/among workgroups and toward members of the public. Adept at finding similarities and grounds for cooperation/mutual benefit.

42. RESOLVES CONFLICT – Acknowledges and takes action to eliminate ineffective/disruptive interpersonal relationships.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Recognize that conflict is inappropriate in the workplace; ensure no personal involvement in conflict or promptly seek elimination if such involvement occurs. May try to avert conflict among co-workers or to eliminate it if it occurs.
- Level 2: **Monitor staff for possible signs of arising conflict and, when noted, immediately intervene to reconcile. Recognize when the differing perspectives of different organizational units become disruptive and address the issues with involved parties or management, as appropriate.**
- Level 3: Recognize that the purposes/objectives of certain entities are inherently at odds and approach interactions with them with sensitivity and facilitates others' doing so as well. Recognize the debilitating nature of emergent conflict among organizational segments and, when noted, immediately intervene to reconcile.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Recognizes when a conflict is emerging or has emerged.
- Mentions the need to resolve conflict to other involved party(ies).
- Brings together parties in conflict and encourages them to resolve/ facilitates resolution.
- Articulates the common objectives of conflicting entities.
- Enlists the participation of conflict resolution specialists when warranted.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Diffuses conflict at work. Uses other means of addressing interpersonal friction, disagreement, or competing goals. Notes and seeks resolve of conflict among others.

Superior

Recognizes interpersonal, intra-organizational, and internal-external organizational interactions with conflict potential, and seeks to avoid. When signs of merging conflict noted, immediately takes steps to eliminate.

47. WRITTEN COMMUNICATION – Communicates effectively in writing.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Write notes/e-mails. Completes forms with some open-ended responses (sentences).
- Level 2: **Write letters, articles/reports, and/or detailed descriptions of activities/occurrences.**
- Level 3: Write lengthy reports, instruction manuals, in-depth analyses/reviews of complex issues and/or articles for publication. Reviews the written work of others.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Writing includes the necessary information to convey the intended message.
- Sufficiently few errors in spelling, punctuation, grammar to not interfere with the intended message or distract the reader.
- Little editing or re-writing needed to produce a final product.
- Composes materials efficiently.
- Information is presented in a well organized manner.
- Tone and degree of formality are appropriate to the purpose and audience.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Writes material that clearly communicates the necessary information; needs little editing.

Superior

Precisely uses words and organizes information in a way that enhances presentation of the message. Virtually no editing needed.

49. PROJECT MANAGEMENT – Anticipates and plans for all aspects of a multifaceted, discrete endeavor to ensure resources are available and actions are taken at proper times for successful completion.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Plan, coordinate, and oversee accomplishment of multi-step projects involving other employees.
- Level 2: Design, plan, coordinate, and manage large, multi-faceted projects involving employees from various segments of the organization representing different perspectives.
- Level 3: **Design, plan, secure approval and resources, and manages large-scale, complex projects involving many employees representing a large number of diverse segments of the organization and perspectives, which may at times be in conflict.**

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Establishes project plans that gain management acceptance.
- Establishes realistic timeline and estimates of resources needed.
- Assembles appropriate team with complementary skills to efficiently execute all portions of a project.
- Secures necessary resources for successful project completion.
- Clearly designates roles/responsibilities/accountability.
- Addresses failure to perform or other problems in a timely and effective manner to minimize negative impact.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Establishes acceptable project plan; assembles team with required skills; establishes personal responsibility/ accountability. Ensures the necessary time and resources are available.

Superior

Designs efficient project plan to maximize benefits and minimize use of resources. Designates precise mix of people to best accomplish the project. Completes on time, with resources allocated.

53. LEADERSHIP – Influences others toward goal accomplishment.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Assume responsibility for operations or a situation when necessary. Direct the actions of others or otherwise ensure required actions are taken. Remain responsible until relieved or situation is resolved.
- Level 2: **Motivate others to continual activity focused on goal accomplishment. Provide clear objectives and articulate individual activities necessary to achieve them; ensure resources necessary to do so are available. Monitor work progress and provide feedback; assess results.**
- Level 3: Articulate a vision, convey it to others, and assign responsibilities (or assure they are assigned) for achieving it. Monitor progress, make adjustments as necessary, and evaluate results.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Evaluates circumstances, determining what needs to be done, and ensuring individual responsibility for performing specific actions is assigned.
- Follows-up to ensure that specific actions have been taken and overall objective has been accomplished.
- Clearly communicates objectives and responsibility/individual actions necessary to achieve them.
- Monitors work in progress, provides feedback to those involved, and makes adjustments to work plans/processes to ensure goal attainment.
- Evaluates completed work for quality, thoroughness, and effectiveness to determine whether re-work or additional work is required to meet intended objectives and to provide learning for future assignments

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Assumes responsibility for work of others when required or necessary. Ensures actions taken to achieve objectives, and evaluates results to determine any follow-up needed.

Superior

Articulates vision/states clear objectives and assigns responsibility/motivates others toward achievement. Monitors progress; gives feedback; evaluates results; ensures follow-up.

59. STRATEGIC PLANNING – Establishes plans in a way that will achieve vision for the future.

Level of Competency Required by Job:

- Level 1: Recognizes that no work organization is static, so identifies how an improved organization would function and develops plans to create such an organization.
- Level 2: **Considers factors in the external environment, best practices, and internal organizational factors to develop a vision for the future; identifies feasible changes/innovations in support of the vision.**
- Level 3: Considers social, economic, legal, and political trends and the “big picture” of the organization to establish a vision for its effective operation in the world of the future.

Examples of Behavioral Indicators:

- Establishes and keeps up-to-date a “strategic plan.”
- Articulates how current trends and anticipated future events are expected to impact the organization.
- Identifies actions the organization can take to accommodate or leverage trends and future events.
- Recognizes that evolution/change will occur, and without an attempt to manage it, that it is unlikely to be in the best interest of the organization.
- Accepts that even when many factors are unknown or their certainty is questionable, that which is known with any degree of certainty can be effectively used to formulate plans.

Performance Levels:

Satisfactory

Considers the future when establishing current day-to-day operational practices. Envisions an improved organization and identifies specific actions to help create it.

Superior

Understands that the larger environment in which the organization exists is influenced by and influences the organization. Notwithstanding uncertainties, formulates a vision and plans to achieve it.