



**Code: 7230**

Family: Construction, Maintenance, and Skilled Labor

Service: Operation and Construction

Group: River, Harbor, and Transportation

Series: Bridge Operation

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## **CLASS TITLE: BRIDGE OPERATOR**

### **CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CLASS**

Under supervision, works a rotating shift and operates electric controls to raise and lower bascule drawbridges to allow the passage of waterway traffic on the Calumet River and the Chicago River, and performs related duties as required

### **ESSENTIAL DUTIES**

- Operates an assigned bridge, or travels from bridge to bridge, in order to raise and lower electrically operated drawbridges to permit passage of waterway traffic
- Activates power source and operates levers on operating console to initiate sequence of steps to release and activate locks to lift bridge to appropriate height and to lower and close bridge
- Operates controls that activate signals and alarms and lower gates to halt street traffic
- Ensures locks designed to secure the bridge in lowered position are properly in place before opening gates for vehicular traffic
- Observes and monitors waterway traffic and communicates with vessels traveling through the river; maintains communication with supervisor during boat runs on Chicago River
- Performs visual integrity checks to ensure bridge sidewalks are free of loose concrete, metal objects and other debris and that lights on bridge are operational
- Visually inspects area around bridge houses to ensure they are properly maintained and secured; informs supervisor of needed repairs
- Maintains records of the number, time, and duration of bridge lifts and of the names and direction of passing vessels
- Prepares incident reports of accidents occurring on drawbridges

**NOTE:** *The list of essential duties is not intended to be inclusive; there may be other duties that are essential to particular positions within the class.*

### **MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS**

#### **Education, Training, and Experience**

- Willingness and ability to perform the duties of the job

#### **Licensure, Certification, or Other Qualifications**

- A valid State of Illinois driver's license is required
- Must have the permanent use of an automobile that is properly insured, including a clause specifically insuring the City of Chicago from accident liability

### **WORKING CONDITIONS**

- Exposure to outdoor weather conditions
- Bridge house
- Must be able to work rotating shifts

## **EQUIPMENT**

- Personal protective equipment (e.g., hard hat, shoes, glasses, gloves, vest, pads)
- Communications equipment (e.g., two-way radio, hand-held radios, Nextel phone calls)
- Operating console and related equipment to lift and lower bascule drawbridges

## **PHYSICAL REQUIREMENTS**

- Ability to walk or stand for extended or continuous periods of time
- Ability to move one's hands and arms to grasp or manipulate objects
- Ability to climb staircases and ladders to access bridge houses

## **KNOWLEDGE, SKILLS, ABILITIES, AND OTHER WORK REQUIREMENTS**

### **Knowledge**

Some knowledge of:

- geographical locations within the City
- navigational rules and regulations
- equipment and materials specific to the operation of drawbridges
- safety procedures and standards specific to the operation of drawbridges

Knowledge of applicable City and department policies, procedures, rules, and regulations

### **Skills**

- ACTIVE LISTENING - Give full attention to what other people are saying, taking time to understand the points being made, ask questions as appropriate, and not interrupt at inappropriate times
- OPERATION AND CONTROL - Control operations of equipment or systems
- OPERATION MONITORING - Watch gauges, dials, or other indicators to make sure a machine is working properly

### **Abilities**

- COMPREHEND ORAL INFORMATION - Listen to and understand information and ideas presented through spoken words and sentences
- SPEAK - Communicate information and ideas in speaking so others will understand
- COMPREHEND WRITTEN INFORMATION - Read and understand information and ideas presented in writing
- RECOGNIZE PROBLEMS - Tell when something is wrong or is likely to go wrong

### **Other Work Requirements**

- INITIATIVE – Demonstrate willingness to take on job challenges
- DEPENDABILITY - Demonstrate reliability, responsibility, and dependability and fulfill obligations

- ATTENTION TO DETAIL - Pay careful attention to detail and thoroughness in completing work tasks
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All employees of the City of Chicago must demonstrate commitment to and compliance with applicable state and federal laws, and City ordinances and rules; the City's Ethics standards; and other City policies and procedures.

The City of Chicago will consider equivalent foreign degrees, accreditations, and credentials in evaluating qualifications.

\* May be required at entry.

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City of Chicago  
Department of Human Resources

Date: August, 2012