

City of Bellingham
Classification Specification

CLASS TITLE	Building Official
DEPARTMENT	Planning and Community Development
UNION:	231
SG:	13
CS:	N
FLSA:	N
EE04CODE:	OA

NATURE OF WORK:

The Building Official exercises the legally mandated authority to administer, enforce and interpret all adopted construction codes. Develops policies and procedures, supervises assigned staff and ensures all permit issuance, inspection and plan examination is performed in conformance to adopted construction codes.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS:

This classification is distinguished from other supervisory and professional positions by unique responsibility for the legally mandated authority to administer, enforce and interpret all adopted construction codes on behalf of the City. The position requires supervisory experience and skills, certification as a Building Official through the International Code Council and thorough technical knowledge. Technical knowledge requirements include thorough knowledge of adopted construction codes and up-to-date knowledge of construction standards and practices.

SUPERVISORY RELATIONSHIPS:

Reports to the Development Services Manager. Works under applicable State, City, and professional regulations, policies, procedures, and guidelines. Supervises assigned staff including Building Plans Examiners and Building Inspectors.

ESSENTIAL FUNCTIONS:

1. Ensures residential and commercial buildings and other structures within the City are permitted and inspected to conform to the various uniform/model and construction code requirements.
2. Plans, directs, coordinates and reviews the work assignments of assigned staff; assesses and monitors workload; identifies and resolves problems.
3. Interprets construction codes. Renders advice, judgments and decisions to staff, developers, builders and the general public.
4. Directs all on-site field building inspections and performs such as needed. Also responsible for resolving unusual or difficult situations regarding inspections and approvals encountered by inspectors and other employees.

5. Directs all structural and non-structural building plan reviews and performs such as needed on all proposed residential, commercial and public building and development projects to ensure compliance with construction code requirements, state laws and municipal ordinances. Approves or disapproves plans, alterations and changes.
6. Under the direction of the Development Services Manager, develops and administers Permit Center operating policies as well as necessary and effective permitting approval requirements and procedures in conjunction with other lead permit review staff.
7. Develops and maintains local modifications to state-mandated building codes; prepares adopting ordinances. Investigates, responds and resolves citizen complaints and referrals from other agencies.
8. Delegates responsibility and authority to assigned personnel as appropriate. Monitors daily work activities to assure the timely and accurate completion of assigned responsibilities.
9. Supervises staff and evaluates work. Makes hiring recommendations, assigns and prioritizes work assignments, conducts performance appraisals, and recommends disciplinary actions. Orients and trains new employees.
11. Makes recommendations on Development Services annual budget. Participates on Permit Center Leadership Team including preparing and prioritizing work program. Develops and completes special projects to promote efficiencies in building permit review process. May participate in Planning and Community Development Department and/or Permit Center long range, strategic planning activities. Prepares and recommends objectives, methodologies and associated schedules.

ADDITIONAL WORK PERFORMED:

1. May represent the City, department and/or Permit Center at professional organizations, conferences, legislative hearings, and other external meetings or proceedings.
2. Performs other related duties of a similar nature or level.

KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS:

Knowledge of:

- A thorough knowledge of complex construction codes and related State and local regulations; structural principals; and construction practices, including building, plumbing, mechanical, electrical, energy, resource conservation, ventilation, accessibility, excavation and grading and fire suppression.
- Knowledge of the Planning and Community Development Department and Permit Center operations and procedures, federal, state, and local pertinent regulations.
- Working knowledge of relevant government and/or community institutions, organizations, procedures, and processes.

Skill in:

- Management skills including skills in leadership and supervision, problem analysis and decision making, planning and organizing, interpersonal sensitivity, management control, and time management.
- Excellent oral communications skills for working with diverse of personnel, public officials, and citizens. Excellent writing skills. Ability to represent the City, department and/or the Permit Center in public meetings.

Ability to:

- Ability to be flexible and adapt as needed.
- Ability to efficiently coordinate a variety of programs and work effectively with other governmental entities, private interests, contractors and citizens.
- Ability to provide clear explanations on procedures and regulations and to deal with contractors, professionals, and the general public with courtesy and tact.
- Ability to identify staff training needs and follow through with such.
- Ability to maintain consistent and punctual attendance.
- Ability and willingness to demonstrate the Public Service Competencies of Service Orientation, Results Orientation, and Teamwork and Cooperation.
- Ability to physically perform the essential functions of the position, including:
 - correctable visual acuity to read a computer monitor and typeset page;
 - fine finger dexterity to manipulate computer keyboard and mouse;
 - communicate verbally, in person and over the phone;
 - ability to traverse difficult and undeveloped terrain.

WORKING ENVIRONMENT:

Work is performed primarily in an office environment. Occasional time is spent in the field performing building inspections as needed. Field work is performed at construction sites in various states of completion, where safety shoes are always required, hard hats are frequently mandatory, and standard safety practices are always expected. Construction projects frequently require climbing ladders, construction stairs, scaffolding and steep sites. Access to under floor areas and attic spaces require bending, kneeling and crawling. Lighting may be limited, movement may be restricted, loud noises may be present, and terrain may be rugged. Sites may be wet and slippery. All weather conditions should be expected. Inspectors should expect to enter and exit their vehicle many times each day. May involve lifting and carrying paper files, large rolls of plans, or boxes of records weighing up to approximately 40 pounds

EXPERIENCE AND TRAINING REQUIREMENTS:

- Bachelor's degree in architecture, engineering, construction management or a related field preferred.
- Ten (10) years of experience in Building Plans Examination, Building Inspection and/or Construction Management required, which must include five (5) years of supervisory experience.

NECESSARY SPECIAL REQUIREMENT:

- ICC certification as a Certified Building Official required within six (6) months from date of hire.
- ICC certification as a Building Plans Examiner, Residential Building Inspector and Commercial Building Inspector required at time of hire.
- Valid Washington State driver's license and good driving record. Candidates must submit a three-year driving record abstract prior to hire.
- Employment contingent upon passing a criminal conviction and local background check.

PREPARED BY: Jeff Thomas
Joint Classification Committee
6/2009

REVIEWED BY: _____
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Director of Planning and
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1/19

JOINT CLASSIFICATION COMMITTEE ADOPTION: June 8, 2009