



#### Job Situation

Small shared office, computer, phone. Mostly in plant. Tools, instruments, machines. Some teamwork. Reporting to Service Manager.

#### Weekly Hours of Work

40

#### Overtime

#### Monthly Salary

\$2,400

#### Student Loan – Owing

\$8,000

#### Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$115

#### Duties

Maintain and service equipment and instrumentation. Instruct operators in the proper use of equipment. Complete maintenance reports. Maintain service files. Make recommendations and suggestions to service manager.

#### Prospects

Supervisory or management positions.

#### Job Title

## Service Technician, Control Instrumentation

#### National Occupational Classification (NOC)

2243

#### Job Description

The smooth running of a large processing or manufacturing facility is as automatic as possible to save on wages and human error. Specially designed instruments control the big machinery, “telling” it where to cut or when to fold. These instruments are specific to particular machinery and the settings are specific to a particular product. Specially trained service technicians install, adjust, calibrate, and maintain these instruments.

Generally you have a regular routine, following a maintenance schedule to check and adjust the equipment, repairing or replacing worn or faulty components. You talk with the operators and other maintenance staff to find out if there are problems or irregularities. If there is an unforeseen problem the pressure is on while the whole processing line waits for you to find the glitch. You have to decide whether the part can be fixed right away or sent away.

When a new product line is being initiated, you are part of the team that sets up and fine-tunes the process. You translate the product designer’s specifications into numbers that the instruments can relate to the machinery, so that the little juice box ends up with the hole for the straw in the right position. This requires an understanding of the large machinery as well as the controlling instrumentation.

Service technicians talk to a lot of people in the course of a day and you must be able to explain technical concepts to non-technical people. There are maintenance logs to maintain, inventory to keep up-to-date, and reports to write. You keep up with the latest advances in your field and make sure that management is aware of them. Sometimes you are asked to submit recommendations. Good technicians save their companies time and money, and you contribute to the safety and efficiency of the workplace.