



Job Situation

Product test lab. Small shared office. Computer, phone, fax. Co-operation and some teamwork. Reporting to Quality Control Manager.

Weekly Hours of Work

40

Overtime

Monthly Salary

\$3,400

Student Loan – Owing

\$7,000

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$185

Duties

Operate test equipment. Run tests on components, parts and systems. Compare results to specifications. Prepare test result reports.

Prospects

Supervisory positions. Quality assurance technologist.

Job Title

Product Tester

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

9483

Job Description

Product Testers usually have a background as production workers or fabricators and know the products they are testing inside out. They are good at micro measurements. A healthy scientific curiosity, a methodical approach, and an appreciation for quality and fine workmanship are all appropriate to the product test lab. Most of the duties are routine. Your section takes a small percentage of all the components that come off the production lines and bring them to the test lab for routine tests.

Testing equipment for these items is permanently set up in the lab to locate circuit and wiring faults, shorts and component defects. When you hit a faulty piece you tag it and set it aside. When the batch is done you send the good ones back into the system, write up the batch report and send it on to the quality control manager along with the defective pieces. Tests like these are run constantly on every product your facility produces and this work keeps you busy most days.

Sometimes there are problems that aren't obvious until the equipment has been in use for a while and the company hears of it through customer complaints or a bad review in a magazine. Then the routine work stops and it's battle stations for the testers as they run special tests to find the problem. This detective work brings the testers together as a team and creates a bit of excitement in the lab, especially if the tests result in a major design or process change.

Product testing can also require the design of special tests or equipment for new or experimental products and you then become a partner in the design process, perhaps making recommendations to the design engineers. A product tester with good communications skills can move into quality control management or consulting in related fields.