



Job Situation

Product test lab for electronics. Small office. Computer, fax, phone. Co-operation and work alone. Reporting to General Manager. Regular hours.

Weekly Hours of Work

35

Overtime

Monthly Salary

\$3,500

Student Loan – Owing

Student Loan – Monthly Payment

\$105

Duties

Consult with consumers and manufacturers. Design test procedures. Set up testing equipment. Run tests, recording results. Supervise some technical staff. Report to board meetings. Write reports for publication.

Prospects

Management positions. Consulting. More specialization.

Job Title

Quality Assurance Technologist

National Occupational Classification (NOC)

1233

Job Description

As the quality assurance technologist for a consumer organization, you have limited resources, but a strong commitment to your job. You've already decided that you will scrounge up some secondhand equipment from industry when the opportunity presents itself. Meanwhile you have all the basics to test electronics and microelectronics for continuity, circuit and wiring faults, component defects, and the gear to do "burnins" or life tests on components. It's not high-tech gear, but it does the job.

You are working with another former tester from industry who does testing on all the mechanical components, and between the two of you the products that come your way get a complete going over. The work interests you greatly because you can do comparisons between manufacturers. Sometimes industry sends you products unasked, but your organization prefers to buy them from the same stores as consumers use. Often, you are tipped by a consumer or an anonymous industry worker. Then you and your partner will get a batch of the offending product and check it out.

You keep very complete records as they are part of a long-term study. Sometimes you write reports for manufacturers or the industry in general, and although the marketing departments may not be too happy about them, the quality control people have indicated interest and respect for your organization's standards. Sometimes you write letters to consumers who have sent you questions or beefs about products.

Lately you've been thinking about trying to write an article for one of the big consumer information magazines you used to read. You know that you have become something of an expert in your field and your report writing and word processing skills are now very good indeed. Why not give it a go?