

AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC

DEFINITION

Repairs automobiles, light trucks, light buses, and other gasoline, diesel, alternative-fueled, and hybrid-powered equipment and learns, through on-the-job training, to repair heavy-duty buses, trucks, and other gasoline, diesel, alternative fueled, and hybrid-powered equipment.

TYPICAL DUTIES

Performs journey-level mechanic duties on passenger automobiles, small trucks and buses, and other alternative-fueled, hybrid-powered, and internal-combustion equipment, such as air compressors, forklifts, riding mowers, sweepers, and skiploaders, including:

- Diagnosing sources of trouble or failure in automotive equipment, including those with electronic components.

- Grinding valves, replacing piston rings, fitting bearings, aligning rods, repairing clutches, overhauling differentials, balancing wheels, repairing or replacing mufflers and other exhaust-system parts, repairing or replacing electronic components, servicing and repairing pollution-control devices, removing install engines, and adjusting and repairing transmissions.

- Adjusting and repairing carburetion, fuel injection and ignition systems, including tuning and timing engines and setting and adjusting voltage regulators, generators, and alternators.

- Adjusting and repairing steering and suspension systems, replacing brake shoes or pads, and servicing hydraulic brake systems.

- Lubricating engine and chassis, components, replacing hoses, and performing maintenance inspections.

- Replacing or repairing locks, seat-adjustment mechanisms, and other components items.

Assists in the repair of and learns to perform the mechanical repair of heavy duty equipment, including diesel-powered trucks and buses, involving air brakes, hydraulic loading systems, and heavy duty application transmissions.

Operates garage equipment, including meters, analyzers, gauges, hydraulic lifts, jacks, grinders, etc.

Performs simple electric arc and metal inert gas (MIG) acetylene welding.

Road tests vehicles.

Cleans tools, equipment, and the work area.

May change and repair tires, fill fuel tanks, change oil, replace filters, and other service equipment.

Performs related duties as assigned.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS AMONG RELATED CLASSES

An Automotive Mechanic performs mechanical repairs on automobiles and other light duty gasoline-powered equipment and assists in repairing heavy-duty equipment.

An Automotive Mechanic (Bus-Truck) repairs and maintains heavy-duty buses and trucks, passenger automobiles and other automotive equipment.

A Garage Assistant services and makes minor repairs to automotive equipment.

SUPERVISION

General supervision is received from an Assistant Garage Supervisor or a Garage Supervisor. Work direction may be received from an Automotive Mechanic (Bus-Truck) while assigned to assist in repair of heavy-duty equipment. Work direction may be exercised over a Garage Assistant or a Garage Attendant.

CLASS QUALIFICATIONS

Knowledge of:

- Principles of automotive mechanics, electrical systems, and emission controls
- Operation of testing equipment, including meters, gauges, and analyzers
- Alternative fuels including compressed natural gas (CNG), propane, and liquefied natural gas (LNG)
- Preventive maintenance requirements of automobiles
- Automotive repair tools, including their proper use and care
- Safety practices in the use of garage equipment and the performance of repair work on electrical and fuel systems
- Basic arithmetic

Ability to:

- Operate and adjust brake grinding equipment, motor analyzers, valve refacers, hand-set grinders, drill presses, welding equipment, synchronograph equipment, smog emission equipment and hydraulic presses
- Use and read precision instruments such as micrometers and dial indicators
- Read manuals and specifications and select proper parts from catalogs
- Diagnose malfunctions by reading instruments and hearing improper operation
- Work cooperatively with other employees
- Comply with regulatory District specifications and industry safety standards
- Learn to make repairs of heavy-duty equipment
- Use a computer and associated peripheral equipment

Special Physical Requirements:

- Safely lift and carry automotive parts and equipment weighing at least 50 pounds
- Crawl under vehicles and stretch to reach components requiring repair or replacement
- Ability to stand, walk, bend, and kneel
- Ability to work in an environment exposed to mechanical moving parts, fumes, and airborne articles
- Adequate color perception to distinguish various parts
- Normal or correctable hearing and visual acuity to diagnose and repair
- Normal sense of smell to detect burning parts

ENTRANCE QUALIFICATIONS

Education:

Graduation from high school or equivalent evidence of educational proficiency.

Experience:

Completion of a formal apprenticeship in automotive mechanics or four years of experience in the repair of passenger automobiles, buses, or trucks, including at least three of the following: engine, transmission and differential, front suspension, brake, and electrical emission diagnostic equipment. Experience as a Power Equipment Mechanic with the Los Angeles Unified School District may be substituted for the required experience on a year-for-year basis.

Special:

A valid California Driver License is required, and a Class A or B license is preferable.
Must furnish a rollaway tool box and hand tools of the trade up to 1-1/4 inch.

SPECIAL NOTE

All employees in these classifications are subject to the Federal Highway Administration (FHWA) regulations for drug and alcohol testing as required by the Omnibus Transportation Employee Testing Act of 1991.

This class description is not a complete statement of essential functions, responsibilities, or requirements. Entrance requirements are representative of the minimum level of knowledge, skill, and/or abilities. To the extent permitted by law, management retains the discretion to add or change typical duties of a position at any time, as long as such addition or change is reasonably related to existing duties.

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JPK