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Chemistry laboratory technician

Description

Chemistry laboratory technicians work in a laboratory where they examine the composition and properties of chemical compounds and materials, carries out different laboratory procedures, and conducts laboratory analyses. They carry out these activities using many different measuring instruments, laboratory appliances and devices. It is important to carry out appropriate preparatory work for examinations and it is also important to properly handle the measuring instruments so as to ensure that precise measurements are achieved. Working in an accurate, systematic, and hygienically immaculate manner is of critical importance for ensuring good performance. That is why it is necessary to maintain good hygiene in the laboratory, store the material in a proper manner, carry out disinfection and sterilisation of all equipment, and observe the occupational safety and environmental protection policies. Chemistry laboratory technicians are exposed to different substances and smells; it is therefore necessary that they wear proper protective equipment. Based on the samples that are taken, chemistry laboratory technicians implement the requested measuring activities, chemical reactions, etc., and based on those they develop reports and define the examination findings, and carry out production control. Their fields of work vary: chemistry laboratory technicians may work in chemistry laboratories, biochemical laboratories (where they carry out biological measuring), or in metal, textile, rubber, or food industry laboratories (where they carry out chemical/technological processes and measuring).

Chemistry laboratory technicians have abundant specialist knowledge in the fields of chemistry, physics, and laboratory technique. It is important that they are dexterous and have good sight, as well as that they are thorough, persistent, cautious, and organised. Considering that these are detailed examinations that involve different processes, chemistry laboratory technicians often work in multidisciplinary teams, with people who have different professions, particularly if these are research teams and the work is done in research and development centres.

Desirable traits/requirements

- Manual dexterity
- Good sight and visual acuity
- Being good with colours and shapes
- Being able to work well in a team and being flexible
- Being precise
- Being patient
- Responsibility and reliability
- Being organised

Positive aspects:

- The chemistry laboratory technician's job is versatile and exciting. It includes the implementation of different examinations and the use of many different measuring instruments and equipment. Chemistry laboratory technicians arrive to new and important discoveries.

Negative aspects:

- Some measuring and experiments require longer time and many repetitions. Even small deviations in your work may lead to adverse effects. Depending on the workload, you may be required to work overtime.

Career path/field of work

In order to do the chemistry laboratory technician's job, you need to finish a four-year secondary vocational school.

Chemistry laboratory technician works in different fields – in laboratories within research centres, or institutes for natural sciences, or in process industry, material industry, or any other industry where chemistry examinations take place.