



Buyer I/II

DEFINITION

Under general supervision (Buyer I) or direction (Buyer II) from the Purchasing Officer or a Senior Buyer in absence of the Purchasing Officer, prepares and processes Invitations for Bids (IFBs), Requests for Proposals (RFPs), Requests for Quotations (RFQs), and Purchase Orders for the procurement of materials, equipment, supplies, and professional and other services, commonly used by the District; determines specification requirements and identifies vendor pool; reviews specifications and evaluates bids received; monitors contracts and purchase orders and expedites delivery; assists with designated general service functions; and performs related work as required.

DISTINGUISHING CHARACTERISTICS

Buyer I is the entry level in the professional Buyer series. Under general supervision within a framework of established policies and procedures, incumbents learn to and perform routine to moderately difficult professional buying tasks. As experience and proficiency are gained, assignments become more varied and complex and the level of independent action increases within established guidelines. Assignments are given in specific terms and are subject to frequent review while in progress and upon completion by a Purchasing Officer or Senior Buyer in absence of the Purchasing Officer, except where tasks are well defined by established standards, policies and procedures. There is some latitude for independent judgment.

This classification is distinguished from the experienced, journey-level Buyer II class by the routing nature and limited complexity of work assignments and the level of supervision received. The Buyer I and II classifications are flexibly staffed. Upon recommendation of the immediate supervisor and approval by the department manager, incumbents in this class may advance to the Buyer II classification after a minimum of two (2) years at the first level, obtaining the specified education or certification, and with demonstrated proficiency to meet the job requirements of the Buyer II classification.

Buyer II is the experienced, journey-level in the professional Buyer series. Under direction within a framework of established policies and procedures, incumbents are fully competent, with a high level of accuracy, to perform the full range of assigned tasks. Assignments are given in general terms and are subject to review upon completion a Purchasing Officer or Senior Buyer. There is significant latitude for independent judgment and action in well-defined areas of work.

This classification is distinguished from the Senior Buyer, which is an advanced journey-level class responsible for the most complex procurement activities and program analysis. This classification is further distinguished from the Purchasing Officer, which is a supervisory class responsible for staff performance and the efficient and effective operation of a centralized procurement function.

TYPICAL DUTIES

TYPICAL EXAMPLES OF DUTIES MAY INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

- Organizes, plans, and writes RFQs, IFBs, RFPs and addenda, contract language, and amendments; reviews requirements for reasonableness, recommends and applies the appropriate procurement strategy, determines method of compensation and reimbursement, develops terms and conditions, and solicits provisions with the assistance of subject matter experts.
- Conducts or assists pre-bid meetings and public bid openings as required.
- Conducts administration of assigned District-wide contracts such as vending machines, office supplies, and copier maintenance.
- Reviews available funds and purchase requisitions for completeness; evaluates the method of procurement to be used; determines specification requirements and identifies vendor pool.
- Researches, secures, compares, and evaluates information regarding source of supply, price, quality, availability, terms and conditions, and related information for varied materials, supplies, services, and equipment.
- Issues purchase orders to procure designated types of commodities and equipment; based on District policy, prepares revisions to purchase orders when requirements change, or costs exceed original order; authorizes purchase orders with values up to the amount authorized by District policies and procedures.
- Monitors contracts and orders and expedites delivery; reconciles discrepancies between invoices and purchase orders; arbitrates disputes between end users and vendors.
- Interviews sales representatives and maintains contact with vendors; updates list of vendors for bidding purposes; attends product demonstrations and obtains samples and literature regarding potential products and vendor capabilities and confers with end users.
- Audits Cal-Card transactions to ensure they are in accordance with District policy.
- Maintains records, source information, and purchasing reference files; prepares correspondence and other written materials.
- Coordinates record retention and property disposition requirements and executes those dispositions.
- Professionally and tactfully explains policies and procedures to individuals seeking to procure materials, services, and/or supplies; helps ensure compliance with purchasing policies and procedures approved by the ACWD Board of Directors; ensures that risks related to services and supplies are identified and controlled by methods such as obtaining Material Safety Data Sheets, ensuring compliance with insurance requirements, and by attending required staff training.

- Sets up, maintains, and inputs data into the District's computerized procurement system; performs procurement website administration; prepares and publishes department reports and provides administrative support to the department.
- Performs other related work as required.

REQUIREMENTS

Any combination of education and experience that would likely provide the required knowledge, skills, and abilities is qualifying. A typical way to obtain the knowledge, skills, and abilities would be the equivalent of:

Education and Experience:

Possession of a high school diploma or its equivalent; and

Buyer I: Two (2) years of full-time purchasing experience. An associates degree or higher may be substituted for purchasing experience.

Buyer II: Two (2) years of full-time experience equivalent to that of a Buyer I within the District and **possession of** either 1) a Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, **or** 2) certification as a Certified Public Procurement Buyer, Certified Professional Procurement Officer, or Certified Purchasing Manager.

Knowledge, Skills, and Abilities:

Knowledge of: principles, practices, and methods of purchasing in the public sector; the Uniform Commercial Code and other applicable laws and regulations; materials, equipment, and supplies commonly used in a water utility; sources of supply, marketing practices, and pricing methods; basic financial record keeping, contract management, and inventory control principles and procedures; business English and basic mathematics; modern office practices, methods, and computer equipment and applications related to the work, including word processing, database, and spreadsheet software.

Skill and Ability to: purchase items of the right quantity and quality, from the right source in a cost effective and timely manner; clearly and accurately express the needs of District to a wide spectrum of vendors; evaluate bids; reconcile discrepancies, expedite transactions, and follow up on purchasing matters; interpret, apply, and explain District purchasing policies; make accurate mathematical calculations; organize work and utilize good time management techniques to meet critical deadlines; react with a sense of urgency and work independently within procedural guidelines to solve purchasing problems; read and interpret policies, procedures, drawings, and specifications; maintain detailed and accurate records; operate modern office equipment including computer equipment and specialized software applications programs; communicate clearly and concisely, both orally and in writing; establish, maintain, and foster positive and effective working relationships with those contacted in the course of work.

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Working Conditions/Physical Requirements:

The essential functions of this classification are performed in a controlled-temperature office and require the ability to: sit for extended periods of time in front of a computer screen; use finger dexterity and hand strength to perform simple grasping and fine manipulation; use a telephone and operate a computer and other office equipment on a daily basis; speak and hear in person and on the phone; see sufficiently to perform assignments; and intermittently twist or bend to reach equipment or supplies surrounding desk and walk about District administrative complex to obtain information; and frequently lift items weighing up to 20 pounds and occasionally up to 55 pounds.

Revised: 03/2025

Approved: 
Human Resources/Risk Manager