

**Frequently Asked Questions  
Medical Examinations/Evaluations for the  
U.S. Customs and Border Protection Agriculture Specialist Position**

**General Information**

**Why is a medical examination performed?**

The job duties of the U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) Agriculture Specialist (CBPAS) involve sensitive national security concerns and require a high degree of responsibility, including a responsibility toward the public. A medical/physical examination is performed as a condition of employment to ensure an individual is medically, physically, and mentally capable of performing the full range of essential job functions, duties, and tasks required of the position, safely and efficiently.

**Who pays for the medical/physical exam?**

All medical/physical examinations and evaluations ordered or offered by CBP will be paid for by the Agency. This includes medical exams for candidates tentatively selected for the CBPAS position and for employees that may be required to undergo a fitness for duty evaluation or return to work examination/evaluation after an on-the-job injury or disease. Under certain circumstances, CBP may offer a medical examination when the Agency needs additional medical documentation to make an informed management decision. This may include situations where an individual requests a change in duty status, assignment, or working conditions due to medical reasons.

Candidates and employees are responsible for paying for physical examinations and evaluations conducted by a private physician or practitioner when the medical documentation is used for the person's purpose. For example, expenses related to supplying medical documentation to support a special benefit or treatment (e.g., absence from work or reasonable accommodation) or to demonstrate the nature and stability of a medical condition beyond what is obtained during an examination provided by CBP, would be the responsibility of the employee or candidate tentatively selected for the position.

**Do I have to take and pass a physical fitness test as part of the pre-employment process?**

A physical fitness test is not required for the Agriculture Specialist position.

**Does the CBPAS position have specific vision and hearing standards?**

Yes. The following job-related vision and hearing standards have been established for the CBPAS position:

**Vision**

1. Distant Visual Acuity: Must be at least 20/30 or better in the best eye with or without correction.

Note: Individuals who have undergone refractive eye surgeries/procedures (e.g., photorefractive laser surgery, keratoplasty, LASIK) *may be* qualified provided they have no post-operative adverse complications and they meet the vision requirements.

2. Near Vision: Must be 20/30 or better, with or without corrective lenses, on the Snellen eye chart used by eye care professionals and others to measure visual acuity.
3. Color Vision: Must be able to distinguish colors (i.e., red, green, yellow, blue, orange, purple, pink, brown, black, white, and gray). Use of an X-chrome lens *is not* acceptable.
4. Visual Fields: A minimum of 140 degrees in the horizontal meridian.

### **Audiometric (Hearing)**

With or without the use of hearing aid,

1. The hearing level in each ear *must not* exceed 40 decibel (dB) for the average of the following frequencies: 500, 1,000, 2,000, and 3,000 Hertz (Hz).
2. The difference in hearing level between the better ear thresholds and worse ear thresholds *may not* exceed 15dB for the average of 500, 1,000, 2,000, 3,000 Hz.
3. The difference in hearing level between the better ear and worse ear *may not* exceed 30dB at 4,000 or 6,000 Hz.

### **Are there medical/physical conditions that are not acceptable?**

Medical suitability determinations are made on a case by case basis. Any medical or physical condition(s), disease(s), or use of medication(s) that may interfere with safe, reliable, and efficient performance of the essential job duties (including training requirements), or could result in endangering the health and safety of the individual or others would be unacceptable for employment to the CBPAS position. In addition, any condition that is not well stabilized or may result in sudden or subtle incapacitation or recurrence, or any condition that cannot be ruled out, may preclude the individual being found medically eligible for the position.

## **Information Specific to Candidates for the CBPAS Position**

### **How will I know where to go for my medical exam?**

Candidates are generally contacted by the medical contractor to schedule the date, time, and location of their physical exam within approximately four weeks after receipt of their tentative selection letter. Every effort is made to identify a medical site within a reasonable driving distance from the person's residence or duty location.

### **What happens if I do not complete the medical examination?**

Candidates that do not complete the medical examination will be removed from consideration for the position of CBPAS.

### **What do I need to bring to the exam?**

Candidates will receive medical history forms from the CBP national medical contractor that must be completed and brought to the preplacement examination. Additionally, it is requested that candidates bring Veterans' Administration disability rating information, corrective lens prescriptions, and any necessary items for the removal of contact lenses during the vision examination. Candidates should also avoid exposure to noisy environments for at least 14 hours prior to having their hearing tested.

### **How will I know if I pass the medical exam?**

Candidates can contact the CBP Minneapolis Hiring Center (MHC) for the status of their tentative selection and will receive written notification that they meet or do not meet the medical qualification standards.

### **What happens if I don't pass the medical exam?**

Candidates found to be medically ineligible for the position are provided the opportunity to request a waiver of the medical standard for consideration by the Waiver Review Board.

### **How can I get a copy of my medical/physical examination?**

Copies of the medical/physical examination must be requested through the Freedom of Information Act (FOIA). FOIA contact information can be obtained by e-mailing the MHC at [MHCFOIAPACongressional@cbp.dhs.gov](mailto:MHCFOIAPACongressional@cbp.dhs.gov).