



MASSACHUSETTS  
FEDERATION OF  
BUILDING OFFICIALS

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In the Massachusetts Retirement System:

Group 1 refers to general employees like clerical, administrative, and technical workers (municipal building inspectors)

Group 2 signifies employees in certain hazardous occupations (state building inspectors)

## **Justification for Classifying Municipal Building Inspectors Under Group 2 Retirement**

Municipal building inspectors play a vital role in protecting public safety through the enforcement of building codes, zoning regulations, and safety standards. While currently classified under Group 1 for retirement purposes, their responsibilities and working conditions justify their reclassification to Group 2.

### **Key Responsibilities of Municipal Building Inspectors**

1. **On-Site Inspections in Hazardous Environments** – Municipal inspectors regularly enter active construction sites, unfinished structures, and buildings with potential structural deficiencies. These environments expose them to significant physical hazards, including falls, unstable materials, and exposure to hazardous substances.
2. **Emergency and Unsafe Structure Response** – Inspectors are often required to assess fire-damaged, collapsed, or otherwise unsafe structures, sometimes in coordination with fire departments or emergency responders. This places them in physically demanding and dangerous situations similar to those faced by Group 4 employees.
3. **Physical Exertion and Demands** – The job requires climbing scaffolding, ladders, and navigating confined spaces to conduct thorough inspections. Unlike office-based administrative roles, municipal inspectors face daily physical challenges that contribute to long-term wear and tear on the body.
4. **Public Safety Enforcement** – Just like state building inspectors (who are classified in Group 2), municipal inspectors serve as enforcers of public safety regulations. They ensure compliance with life-safety codes, fire protection systems, and structural integrity standards, mitigating risks that could endanger the public.

### **Why Municipal Inspectors Should Be Reclassified as Group 2**

- **Comparable Risk to State Inspectors** – Since state building inspectors qualify for Group 2 due to the physical and hazardous nature of their work, municipal inspectors—who perform similar duties—should receive the same classification.
- **Frequent Exposure to Dangerous Conditions** – Their regular presence in unsafe structures, ongoing construction zones, and emergency-response inspections put them at significant risk of injury.
- **Recognition of Physical and Safety Demands** – The job requires extensive movement, lifting, and exposure to hazardous conditions that meet the criteria for roles traditionally classified under Group 2.

Given the physical risks, safety responsibilities, and direct involvement in hazardous environments, municipal building inspectors should be reclassified under Group 2 to ensure their retirement benefits reflect the demands and risks of their profession.

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*To Protect the Safety of the Citizens of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts*