

# 100% Pass Quiz NCARB - PDD - Reliable ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Exam Questions Answers



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## NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integration of Building Materials &amp; Systems: This section of the exam measures the skills of Architectural Designers and focuses on the ability to resolve and integrate various building systems into cohesive project goals. It covers analyzing architectural systems and technologies, determining the size of structural, mechanical, electrical, and plumbing systems, and incorporating specialty systems such as acoustics, lighting, security, and communications. It also evaluates the ability to detail how multiple building systems work together and to coordinate across disciplines to achieve a unified design.</li> </ul>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Construction Documentation: This section of the exam measures skills of Project Architects and addresses the creation and management of project documentation. Candidates are expected to demonstrate knowledge of documenting building design and site features, preparing detailed architectural drawings, and applying industry standards to produce a coordinated set of construction documents. The section also includes understanding how project changes impact documentation and how to communicate these updates effectively to both the design team and the client.:</li> </ul>
Topic 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Project Manual &amp; Specifications: This section of the exam measures the skills of Specifications Writers and emphasizes the importance of developing documentation that goes beyond drawings. Candidates must understand how to identify and prioritize elements needed to prepare, maintain, and refine both the project manual and project specifications. It also assesses the ability to align and coordinate these specifications with the construction documents to ensure consistency and accuracy.</li> </ul>
Topic 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Codes &amp; Regulations: This section of the exam measures skills of Building Code Specialists and examines how codes and regulations apply at a detailed level during documentation. Candidates are expected to demonstrate knowledge of compliance with the International Building Code (IBC) as well as other specialty regulations, as well as how to interpret and apply these standards to ensure design and documentation meet legal and safety requirements.</li> </ul>

Topic 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Construction Cost:</b> This section of the exam measures the skills of Construction Managers and focuses on the financial side of project execution. It evaluates the ability to analyze construction cost estimates to confirm that they align with project design intent and budgetary constraints. Although this is the smallest section, it is critical for ensuring projects remain feasible and economically viable.</li> </ul>
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## >> PDD Exam Questions Answers <<

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### NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q88-Q93):

#### NEW QUESTION # 88

A family-owned apple farm in the Upper Midwest is taking advantage of a change in the local zoning code that added a new Agri-Tourism class in the existing farm zone. This allows the Owner to build a new facility on their existing site. The building will be open to the public and include a brewery, distillery, tap room, and market. The architect is ready to submit the drawings to the Owner for the 50% construction documents review.

To accommodate a compressed construction schedule, the Owner will be utilizing a design-build process. The Contractor has submitted the Pre-Engineered Metal Building (PEMB) shop drawings to the Architect for review, due to the lead time on this critical path item. Once construction begins, farming operations must be able to continue uninterrupted.

Key project information includes:

- \* Brewing and distilling will operate year-round.
- \* Brewery will initially include four fermenting tanks. Owner has requested space for at least two additional tanks. Potential expansion will be based on future sales.
- \* Distillery will produce 16% alcohol, which is classified as a flammable liquid. Fire separations are required.
- \* Tap Room is designed with seating for 300 people, not including exterior patio seating. It will have views to the working orchards and the historic buildings on site.
- \* Tap Room is scheduled to be open from August through November. Owner would like options to extend operating dates based on popularity.
- \* The Market area will feature local farm products and is not conditioned.
- \* Entire building will be fully sprinklered.
- \* Selected building materials are low-maintenance, as requested by the Owner, for durability and to reflect the nature of a working farm.
- \* Mechanical and electrical systems will be hung from the building structure. These loads are included in PEMB shop drawings.
- \* Public water and sewer is not available at the Project Site.
- \* Occupancy sensors are included to reduce utility costs and achieve energy conservation requirements.

The following resources are available for your reference:

- \* Architectural Drawings, including plans, elevations, sections, and schedules
- \* Consultant Drawings, including structural, HVAC, power distribution, and plumbing
- \* PEMB Shop Drawings
- \* Design and Construction Schedule
- \* Specification Excerpts, showing relevant spec sections
- \* IBC and ADA Excerpts, showing relevant code and accessibility sections
- \* After reviewing the documents, the architect discovers a coordination issue in the corridor.

Per the current energy code, the building envelope requirement for walls above grade in this climate zone is R13 + R10c.i. What specification section must be added to the project?

- A. Specification Section 072119: Foamed-In-Place Insulation
- **B. Specification Section 072100: Thermal Insulation**
- C. Specification Section 075419: Polyvinyl-Chloride (PVC)

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

The energy code requirement R-13 + R-10 c.i. (continuous insulation) for above-grade walls necessitates adding/confirming a thermal insulation section that covers both cavity insulation (R-13) and continuous exterior insulation (R-10) (e.g., rigid boards, mineral wool boards). Section 072100-Thermal Insulation is the correct overarching specification.

072119 Foamed-In-Place is a product-specific section and not required unless using SPF as the c.i.

075419 PVC is roofing.

PDD Reference: IECC/ASHRAE 90.1 envelope compliance; CSI Div. 07-Thermal Insulation (072100) including rigid continuous insulation requirements

**NEW QUESTION # 89**

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Ceiling Material	Thickness	SF	SF cost	RT
Cementitious Wood Fiber Panels	1"	448	\$12.64	2.0
Cementitious Wood Fiber Panels	2"	384	\$18.95	1.8
2x2 Acoustical Ceiling Tile	15/16"	900	\$8.81	2.0
Acoustical Sound Board	1"	256	\$18.23	1.6

The owner is concerned about elevated noise levels in the Tap Room when fully occupied. The current design utilizes a 2 x 2 acoustic ceiling tile system installed above the fans. An acoustical engineer recommends noise mitigation through limiting reverberation time (RT) to 2.0 seconds or less in the space. This can be achieved by the provided ceiling material options and their corresponding area.

What should the architect recommend that will minimize additional project costs while providing the recommended acoustical solution?

- A. Retain current ceiling cloud layout and a 2 x 2 acoustic ceiling tile system and add acoustical sound board above.
- B. Retain current ceiling cloud layout and a 2 x 2 acoustic ceiling tile system but remove the fans.
- C. Revise design using only one ceiling cloud and cementitious wood fiber panel system (2" in thickness).
- D. Revise design using only one ceiling cloud and cementitious wood fiber panel system (1" in thickness).

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

1. Problem Summary

- \* Goal: Reduce reverberation time (RT) in the Tap Room to 2.0 seconds or less.
- \* Current design: 2' x 2' acoustic ceiling tile system (RT = 2.0 seconds) installed above fans.
- \* Constraint: Minimize additional project cost.
- \* Recommendation from acoustical engineer: Use materials to achieve target RT without redesigning the space.

2. Review of Table Data

Material

RT

SF

SF Cost

Cementitious Wood Fiber Panels (1")

2.0

448

\$12.64

Cementitious Wood Fiber Panels (2")

1.8

384

\$18.95

2x2 Acoustical Ceiling Tile (15/16")

2.0

900

\$8.81

Acoustical Sound Board (1")

1.6

256

\$18.23

3. Interpretation of RT Values

- \* Current 2x2 Acoustic Ceiling Tile: RT = 2.0 seconds # meets the target exactly.
- \* However, fans may reduce the acoustic performance by reflecting or scattering sound, so supplemental absorption may be needed.
- \* Adding Acoustical Sound Board (RT = 1.6) above the existing tile system will improve absorption and lower RT below 2.0 seconds.

4. Cost & Constructability

- \* Retaining the current ceiling layout and simply adding a layer above is:
- \* Least disruptive to current design.
- \* Avoids redesign of the ceiling cloud layout.
- \* Minimizes schedule impact (critical for design-build with compressed schedule).
- \* Replacing with wood fiber panels (1" or 2") would require removal of existing tile, redesign of suspension, and higher cost/SF.

5. Why Other Options Are Incorrect

- \* A. Remove fans: This addresses air movement, not RT. Removing them does not guarantee RT improvement and conflicts with HVAC design intent.
- \* B. One cloud + 1" wood fiber panels: Reduces coverage area and may not meet RT goal; also costly and disruptive.
- \* C. One cloud + 2" wood fiber panels: Even more costly, same redesign problem as B.
- \* D. Retain tiles and add sound board above: Achieves RT < 2.0, minimal disruption, cost-effective vs. full replacement # best option.

6. NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References

- \* Content Area: Building Systems Integration - Acoustics
- \* Reference Sources:
- \* Architectural Graphic Standards - Acoustic material properties
- \* Mechanical and Electrical Equipment for Buildings (MEEB) - Room acoustics and reverberation control
- \* ASTM C423 - Sound Absorption and Sound Absorption Coefficients by the Reverberation Room Method

**NEW QUESTION # 90**

In an air-conditioned space in a tropical environment, roof insulation is being applied above a structural deck. In order to avoid problems related to condensation, where should the vapor barrier be installed?

- **A. Below the insulation**

- B. Above the insulation
- C. Below the ceiling
- D. Below the structural deck

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

In a tropical climate, the interior is cooler and drier than the hot, humid exterior. The vapor drive is from outside # inside, so the vapor retarder must be installed on the warm/moist side of the assembly, which is below the insulation when the insulation is above the roof deck. This prevents moist exterior air from reaching cooler surfaces inside the insulation where condensation could occur. PDD Reference: Psychrometrics & vapor drive principles, PDD "Thermal & Moisture Protection-Placement of vapor barriers," ASHRAE Handbook recommendations.

#### NEW QUESTION # 91

Which document is the most appropriate location for specifying the finish material for casework?

- A. General Conditions
- **B. Project Manual - Division 06**
- C. Construction Drawings
- D. Outline Specifications

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

Division 06 (Wood, Plastics, and Composites) of the Project Manual contains detailed specifications for finish carpentry and casework materials. This aligns with ARE Objective 2.1: Evaluate project manual sections for technical accuracy.

#### NEW QUESTION # 92

Before construction documents are complete, the owner requests a review of the timeline allowed for ASIs, RFIs, RFPs, and change orders as defined in the project manual.

Which section of the project manual is relevant to this request?

- A. Supplementary Conditions
- B. Section 01 35 16 Alteration Project Procedures
- C. AIA Document A201
- **D. Section 01 26 00 Contract Modification Procedures**

**Answer: D**

Explanation:

The owner's request for review of ASIs (Architect's Supplemental Instructions), RFIs (Requests for Information), RFPs (Requests for Proposals), and change orders relates to contract modifications.

Section 01 26 00 in the project manual typically covers Contract Modification Procedures, including timelines and processes for handling these changes.

AIA Document A201 is the general conditions but does not detail specific timelines.

Supplementary Conditions modify A201 but usually don't detail these timelines.

Section 01 35 16 is specific to alteration projects, not general contract mod procedures.

Reference:

NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Project Management chapter

CSI MasterFormat and project manual organization guides

#### NEW QUESTION # 93

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