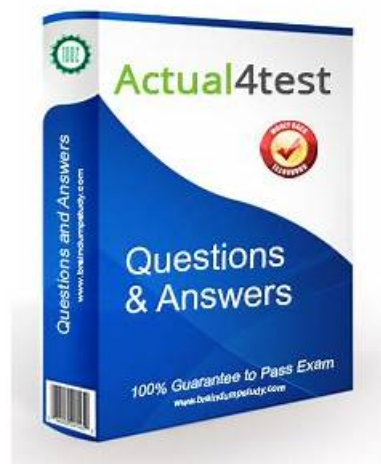


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## NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Topic 1	<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>
Topic 2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Codes &amp; Regulations:</b> 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 3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Construction Documentation:</b> 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 4	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Integration of Building Materials &amp; Systems:</b> 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 5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• <b>Project Manual &amp; Specifications:</b> 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>

## NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q74-Q79):

### NEW QUESTION # 74

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.

The client wants to add rooftop access for residents. Roof access features include:

Adding a vegetated roof system

Installing an elevated paver patio system

Limiting access to 50 residents at any time

What should the architect do to accommodate this revision? Check the four that apply.

- A. Consult elevator manufacturer
- B. Revise exterior elevations
- C. Consult structural engineer
- D. Provide additional roof details
- E. Provide an exterior exit stair
- F. Contact civil engineer

**Answer: B,C,D,E**

Explanation:

Interpreting the Scenario

The owner is requesting rooftop access for residents, featuring a vegetated (green) roof, an elevated paver patio, and occupancy limited to 50 people. These revisions introduce new design requirements triggered by building codes (means of egress, structural loads, architectural representation) and coordination challenges across disciplines.

Why Each Selected Option is Required

\* Revise Exterior Elevations

\* The addition of a rooftop terrace and vegetated roof changes the building's exterior appearance- its massing, parapets, materials, and possibly guardrail heights. These design changes must be reflected in the architectural drawings used for permit issuance and construction.

\* Provide an Exterior Exit Stair

\* Under the International Building Code (IBC) and general egress requirements, an occupied rooftop (used by people for recreation or amenities) must be safely accessible and egressed.

Occupied roofs require a stairway-an exterior exit stair-rather than just a hatch or ladder ICC+6NYC+6The Building Code Forum+6NYC+4lapeyrestair.com+4NYC+4. This ensures the rooftop can serve as a legal means of egress.

\* Provide Additional Roof Details

\* Adding a vegetated roof system and a paver patio involves multiple layers (waterproofing, root barrier, drainage, structural substrate, pavers, possibly amenity loading, edge details, guardrails).

The project manual and construction documents must include these specific details to ensure proper assembly and water protection.

\* Consult Structural Engineer

\* Vegetated roofs and paver patios introduce significant dead loads (soil, plants, saturated weight) and live loads (maintenance personnel, occupants). The structure must be verified to support these loads. Per green roof design standards, structural capacity must be evaluated early in the design process NYC. Consulting the structural engineer ensures safety and code compliance.

Why Other Options Do Not Apply

\* E. Consult elevator manufacturer

\* There's no indication that elevator access is required or available. Current code triggers elevator access only in specific scenarios (e.g., occupant loads exceeding certain thresholds combined with accessibility requirements). This project doesn't suggest such a need.

\* F. Contact civil engineer

\* The rooftop change pertains to architectural detailing, structural capacity, and life safety-not site-wide civil issues like grading, stormwater, or utilities. While the vegetated roof may affect overall stormwater management, primary concerns still fall under architectural and structural domains. Typical ARE scope categories engage the geotech/environmental or landscape professional-not necessarily the civil engineer-unless broader site infrastructure is impacted.

### NEW QUESTION # 75

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

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

In a tropical climate, the interior is cooler and drier than the hot, humid exterior. The vapor drive is from outside to 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 # 76

Refer to the exhibit.

In the diagram shown, what is the purpose of the pressure relief valve?

- A. Allow for thermal expansion of water
- B. Regulate water pressure fluctuation
- C. Vent the tank of accumulated air
- D. Relieve negative pressure when draining the tank

**Answer: A**

Explanation:

Understanding the Diagram

The diagram shows a water heater (WH) with labeled connections and valves.

Item 2 is the ASME pressure relief valve, piped to 6 inches above the finished floor.

Purpose of the Pressure Relief Valve in a Water Heater

- \* When water is heated, it expands.
- \* In a closed plumbing system, this expansion increases pressure inside the water heater tank.
- \* If the pressure rises above a safe limit, it can damage the heater, piping, or even cause an explosion.
- \* The temperature and pressure relief valve (T&P valve) automatically opens to discharge water when pressure or temperature exceeds safe limits, relieving the pressure caused by thermal expansion.

Why Other Options Are Incorrect:

- \* A. Regulate water pressure fluctuation - Pressure regulation is done by a pressure-reducing valve, not a relief valve.
- \* B. Vent the tank of accumulated air - Air elimination is done with air vents or bleeders, not the T&P valve.
- \* D. Relieve negative pressure when draining the tank - Negative pressure prevention uses vacuum relief valves, not T&P valves.

NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References:

\* Content Area: Plumbing Systems - Equipment and Safety Components

\* Source References:

\* Plumbing Engineering Design Handbook - Water Heater Safety Devices

\* Architectural Graphic Standards - Water Heater Installation Details

\* MEEB (Mechanical and Electrical Equipment for Buildings) - Plumbing Chapter: Safety valves in hot water systems

\* Code Reference:

\* International Plumbing Code (IPC) Section 504.6 - T&P relief valve requirements for water heaters Key Point:

The ASME-rated relief valve's main role is to protect the water heater and piping by relieving excessive pressure due to water expansion from heating.

### NEW QUESTION # 77

A construction detail for a window sill shows metal flashing terminating behind the exterior cladding. Which principle is being demonstrated?

- A. Thermal bridging
- B. Air barrier continuity
- **C. Water management**
- D. Structural redundancy

**Answer: C**

Explanation:

Proper flashing is critical for water shedding and moisture protection. Flashing behind the cladding allows water to drain outward-addressing ARE Objective 3.3: Evaluate construction details for moisture control.

#### NEW QUESTION # 78

The walls of typical light wood-frame buildings can most economically be made resistive to lateral shear forces, without major alteration to the existing structure, through the use of which one of the following?

- A. Wood gusset plates
- **B. Plywood sheathing**
- C. Moment-resistive connections
- D. Exterior board sheathing run horizontally

**Answer: B**

Explanation:

For light wood-frame buildings, the most economical way to develop lateral shear capacity-often without major structural alteration-is to add/upgrade wood structural panel (plywood/OSB) shear walls fastened to studs and plates per nailing schedules. This provides diaphragm and wall/shear resistance with minimal added framing.

A). Moment connections in wood are labor-intensive and uncommon in light framing.

C). Horizontal board sheathing provides limited shear compared to plywood.

D). Gusset plates do not create a continuous shear diaphragm/wall.

PDD refs: AWC SDPWS (wood shear walls & diaphragms); ARE 5.0 PDD-Structural systems for lateral loads in light-frame construction; IBC Ch. 23.

#### NEW QUESTION # 79

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