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CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENTS TECHNOLOGIST PROGRAM

CDT EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE

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Construction Specifications Institute Construction Documents Technologist Sample Questions (Q115-Q120):

NEW QUESTION # 115

What governs Division 01 specifications and general requirements?

- A. The construction drawings
- B. Part I general
- C. Divisions 02-49
- D. The general conditions of the construction contract

Answer: D

Explanation:

In CSI practice, Division 01 - General Requirements is written to coordinate with, expand, and supplement the Conditions of the Contract (i.e., the General and Supplementary Conditions). It does not stand on its own; it is governed by and must remain consistent with the General Conditions, which are higher in the contract document hierarchy.

The usual contract-document structure is:

- * Agreement
- * General Conditions (baseline rights, responsibilities, and procedures)
- * Supplementary Conditions (modify/extend general conditions)
- * Division 01 - General Requirements (administrative and procedural details)
- * Divisions 02-49 (technical specifications)

Division 01 then sets detailed project procedures "in accordance with" the Conditions of the Contract. For example, a construction management plan in your files refers to requirements being governed by a Division 01 specification ("Section 01 32 00, Project Schedule Specification Outline"), which provides project- specific procedural detail building on the contract conditions.

So:

- * The General Conditions establish the baseline contract obligations.
- * Division 01 must follow and not contradict those conditions.
- * Technical divisions (02-49) further detail materials and execution, again within the framework set by the Conditions of the Contract and Division 01.

Therefore, the Division 01 General Requirements are governed by the general conditions of the construction contract, making Option C correct.

CSI-aligned references (no URLs):

- * CSI Construction Specifications Practice Guide - chapters on "Conditions of the Contract" and "Division 01 - General Requirements."
- * CSI Project Delivery Practice Guide - sections on the hierarchy of contract documents and coordination between Conditions and specifications.

NEW QUESTION # 116

An electrical engineer completes a set of electrical drawings and specifications for a project, except for the site electrical work which is indicated on the civil drawings. Which of the following is the intent of the contract documents?

- A. The electrical engineer does not need to control how the work is to be assigned to subcontractors.
- B. The civil contractor is to place the concrete bases and the electrical contractor is to install the site lighting.
- C. The civil contractor is to place the concrete bases and the site lighting, with the electrical contractor making the final connections.
- D. The general contractor needs to coordinate the work and verify that the electrical subcontractor bids the site electrical.

Answer: A

Explanation:

CSI's core principle is that contract documents describe the work results required, not the internal means, methods, or subcontracting arrangements of the contractor. The contractor (or construction manager) is responsible for:

- * Determining how the work will be divided among trades and subcontractors.
- * Coordinating different trades to achieve the required results shown on the drawings and described in the specifications.

Design professionals (architects and engineers):

- * Organize the documents by disciplines and work results (e.g., civil, architectural, electrical), not by subcontractor or trade contract structure.

* Are not responsible for dictating which subcontractor performs which portion of the work; that is the contractor's role.

Given that:

* Site electrical work appears on civil drawings, but the electrical engineer has also prepared electrical documents for the building systems.

* The intent of the contract documents is still to describe what must be installed and how it must perform, not which subcontractor does it.

The only option that aligns with CSI's stated roles and responsibilities is:

D). The electrical engineer does not need to control how the work is to be assigned to subcontractors.

Why the other options are not the "intent" of the documents:

* A. The civil contractor is to place the concrete bases and the electrical contractor is to install the site lighting. This presumes a specific trade split based on drawing origin. CSI emphasizes that the contractor determines trade assignments, not the drawings themselves.

* B. The civil contractor is to place the concrete bases and the site lighting, with the electrical contractor making the final connections. Again, this dictates trade assignments. The documents may show coordination between civil and electrical work, but do not prescribe how contractors must divide their subcontracts.

* C. The general contractor needs to coordinate the work and verify that the electrical subcontractor bids the site electrical. While coordination of work is indeed a contractor responsibility, the phrasing here implies that the documents intend to direct which subcontractor must price which work package. CSI's standpoint is that the contractor is free to structure subcontract bids as they see fit, as long as the required work is provided in accordance with the contract.

Thus, the intent of the contract documents is to define the required end results, not to assign work scopes among subcontractors.

Option D correctly reflects that intent and the design professional's role.

Relevant CSI-aligned references (no URLs):

* CSI Project Delivery Practice Guide - roles and responsibilities of owner, design professional, and contractor; explanation that contractor controls means, methods, and subcontracting.

* CSI Construction Specifications Practice Guide - distinction between describing work results and assigning work trades.

* CSI CDT Body of Knowledge - contract document intent vs. contractor's responsibility for dividing the work.

NEW QUESTION # 117

Modifications to the contract documents after execution of the owner-contractor agreement include which of the following?

- A. Supplemental instructions, work change directive, and addendum
- B. Field order, construction change directive, and request for information
- C. Addendum, change order, and request for information
- D. Change order, construction change directive, and field order

Answer: D

Explanation:

Under CSI's project delivery and contract administration framework, once the owner-contractor agreement is executed, the contract documents can only be modified through specific instruments defined in the Conditions of the Contract (General and Supplementary Conditions). These recognized formal modifications include:

* Change Orders - Written instruments signed by owner, contractor, and usually the architect/engineer (A/E) that change the contract sum, contract time, or both, and possibly scope.

* Construction Change Directives (CCD) (sometimes called Work Change Directives) - Written orders issued typically by the owner or A/E directing a change in the work before agreement has been reached on an adjustment in contract sum or time. They are later converted into a change order once costs/time are agreed.

* Minor changes in the work - Often issued by the A/E as field orders or supplemental instructions, used for small changes that do not affect contract time or sum.

Different standard forms use different names ("Architect's Supplemental Instructions," "Field Order," "Work Change Directive"), but CSI's CDT content treats these as the recognized post-execution modification mechanisms to the contract documents.

Now, look at the choices:

* Addendum is used to modify the bidding documents before the owner-contractor agreement is signed, not after.

* Requests for Information (RFIs) are used to clarify contract documents, not to modify them; an RFI alone does not change the contract.

Option A is the only one that contains the combination of change order and construction change directive, plus a commonly used term (field order) for a minor change in the work. These three together align with the CSI-recognized instruments for modifying the contract documents after execution.

Why the other options are incorrect:

* B. Field order, construction change directive, and request for information - Missing a change order, which is the primary and most formal method of modification. An RFI is not a modification instrument.

* C. Addendum, change order, and request for information - Addendum is pre-contract; RFI is not a modification instrument; only the change order is correct here.

* D. Supplemental instructions, work change directive, and addendum - While "supplemental instructions" and "work change directive" can be instruments of modification, combining them with addendum (pre-contract) means this set does not correctly describe modifications after execution.

Therefore, A. Change order, construction change directive, and field order best matches the CSI-defined post-execution modification tools.

NEW QUESTION # 118

When preparing their bid, a contractor organizes their costs into different categories. The following items are examples of which type of cost?

- * Permits and inspections
- * Mobilization and startup
- * Jobsite safety and security procedures, including personnel
- * Administrative costs attributable to the work
 - A. Construction
 - B. Insurance
 - C. Overhead
 - D. Contingency

Answer: C

Explanation:

Comprehensive and Detailed Explanation From Exact Extract (CSI-based)

CSI's estimating and bidding guidance divides project costs into:

- * Direct (construction) costs - labor, materials, equipment directly incorporated into the work.
- * Indirect costs / Overhead - project overhead (jobsite-specific) and home-office overhead.
- * Contingencies and profit.

The items listed in the question are classic examples of project (jobsite) overhead costs:

- * Permits and inspections - required to enable the work but not physically part of the building.
- * Mobilization and startup - moving equipment, setting up trailers, temporary utilities.
- * Jobsite safety and security procedures - safety staff, fencing, lighting, etc.
- * Administrative costs attributable to the work - site management staff, office supplies, communications.

These are necessary to execute the project but are not directly installed in the construction work, so they are categorized as overhead, making Option C correct.

Why others are incorrect:

- * A. Construction - refers to direct, installed work (concrete, steel, finishes, etc.), not these support functions.
- * B. Contingency - covers unknowns and risks; it is separate from known overhead items.
- * D. Insurance - is a specific cost category (builder's risk, liability, etc.), distinct from the listed overhead activities, even though it may sometimes be grouped in "General Conditions" in a detailed estimate.

Relevant CSI references:

- * CSI Project Delivery Practice Guide - chapters on cost planning and estimating.
- * CSI CDT Body of Knowledge - sections on types of project costs (direct, indirect/overhead, contingency, profit).

NEW QUESTION # 119

There are over 3,500 different grades of steel. The amount of carbon, level of impurities, and additional elements all contribute to what grade steel is classified as in building projects. Therefore, which of the following is the method of specification writing used to limit lengthy descriptions of materials?

- A. Performance
- B. American National Standards Institute (ANSI)
- C. Reference standard
- D. Descriptive

Answer: C

NEW QUESTION # 120

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