# 2026 NCARB PDD Updated Exam Simulator Fee

# NCARB PDD - Questions With Complete Solutions

The role of a specifier? Right Ans - 1. determine the responsibility for structural specs with structure engineer;

coordinating standardized keynotes lists to be used on all drawings with the architect;

obtain a preferred general condition document from the client through the architect;

4. recommending everyone to use BIM;

What are included in the preliminary studies? Right Ans - 1. allowable

2. allowable area and occupant allowance;

3. fire rating requirements;

Percolation rate is used to determine what? Right Ans - To determine whether porous pavement should be used.

Forest Steward Council (FSC) Right Ans - Harvesting tree without violating people's right.

Under what condition can you put storage under stair? Right Ans - If it's protected with a minimum of 1-hour rated construction.

Where should the fire extinguisher cabinet (FEC) located? Right Ans - 48" - 60" AFF, no more than 4" extrusion.

 $\label{thm:controller} Tear-out, Pull-through \qquad Right Ans-Tear-out: shear failure in a bolted connection due to tension at hole;$ 

 $\label{pull-through:pull-thro$ 

ANSI, ASTM Right Ans - ANSI: American National Standard Institute; ASTM: American Society for Testing Material, it's used for testing materials.

Composition of cement Right Ans - Limestone, clay, iron ore, gypsum

Subsystem estimate is used in which phases of design? Right Ans - SD and DD. Subsystem estimates deal with a project's functional units and it enables

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# NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details
Торіс 1	Codes & 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.

Topic 2	<ul> <li>Construction Cost: 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 3	<ul> <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> <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 5	<ul> <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>

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# NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q59-Q64):

# **NEW QUESTION #59**

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

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

#### Answer: D

### 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 #60**

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 owner decides to triple the size of the distillery component of the project to make hand sanitizer and wants to use the Tap Room spaces adjacent to the brewery and distillery for this purpose.

Which of the following must the architect reevaluate and change to accommodate this request? Check the three that apply.

- A. A-03 FLOOR PLAN
- B. A-05 ROOF PLAN
- C. A-01 LIFE SAFETY PLAN
- D. A-04 REFLECTED CEILING PLAN
- E. A-02 SITE PLAN
- F. A-06 EXTERIOR ELEVATIONS

# Answer: A,C,D

# Explanation:

Tripling the distillery and converting adjacent Tap Room areas to production introduces additional hazard (flammable liquids), changes occupancies/occupant loads, and requires updated fire separations and egress.

A-01 Life Safety Plan must be revised for occupancy classification, fire#resistance ratings between uses, travel distances, exit widths/number, and signage.

A-03 Floor Plan must change to show new room uses, rated partitions/doors, openings, and equipment footprints.

A-04 Reflected Ceiling Plan must change for new/relocated rated assemblies at ceilings (e.g., continuity of fire

/smoke barriers), sprinkler/exit sign/FA device locations, and any duct-damper/access changes.

Site (B), Roof (E), and Elevations (F) are not directly driven by the interior use change.

PDD refs: IBC Chs. 3, 5-10 (occupancy, separation, egress), coordination of architectural, fire protection, and MEP on drawings (Division 01).

### **NEW OUESTION #61**

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

## Answer: A

#### 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 #62**

An architect is rehabilitating a historic federal landmark that requires repairs to a garden wall. The existing brick appears to be in good condition; the mortar shows significant signs of deterioration.

Which strategy should the architect propose to repair the damaged wall?

- A. Completely remove deteriorated mortar with electric saws prior to repointing.
- B. Remove loose mortar by hand raking the joints prior to repointing.
- C. Carefully remove all mortar and repoint all joints to achieve a uniform appearance.

### Answer: B

# Explanation:

(PDD) Study Guide References

For historic masonry rehabilitation, the accepted approach (e.g., NPS Preservation Brief 2: Repointing Mortar Joints in Historic Masonry) is to hand#rake deteriorated mortar to a proper depth (typically  $2-2\frac{1}{2}\times$  the joint width or until sound mortar is reached), avoid power#saw removal that can damage historic brick, and match the original mortar in composition, hardness, color, and tooling.

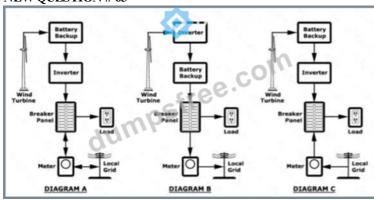
A is incorrect because removing all mortar for a "uniform appearance" is unnecessary and risks damaging sound joints.

B is incorrect because electric saws can chip and over#cut historic brick arrises, violating preservation best practices.

C is correct: careful hand removal of loose/deteriorated mortar followed by repointing with compatible mortar is the recommended method.

PDD References: Historic fabric protection under "Codes/Regulations & Standards-Historic preservation," detailing of masonry repairs in construction documents (Division 04), and QA/QC specifications for repointing.

# NEW QUESTION # 63



Refer to the exhibit.

An architect is developing an electrical diagram to show equipment configuration and flow of electricity for a residential project. The project is integrating on-site wind generation where the utility company does not allow net metering. Which diagram meets the project requirements?

- A. Diagram C
- B. Diagram A
- C. Diagram B

Answer: A

# **NEW QUESTION #64**

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