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PDD Prep Exam 2024 (module 2) Questions & Answers 2024/2025

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NCARB PDD Exam Syllabus Topics:

Topic	Details

Topic 1	• Project Manual & 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.
Topic 2	• 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 3	• 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.:
Topic 4	• 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.
Topic 5	• Integration of Building Materials & 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.

NCARB ARE 5.0 Project Development and Documentation Exam Sample Questions (Q45-Q50):

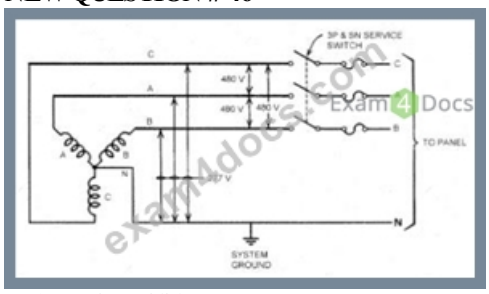
NEW QUESTION # 45
In which of the following locations in concrete masonry should a control joint be placed?

- A. At changes in wall height
- B. In the center of window openings
- C. At each corner of the foundation wall
- D. At the first course of masonry walls

Answer: A

Explanation:
Control joints in concrete masonry walls are designed to accommodate movement caused by thermal expansion, moisture changes, and settlement.
Control joints should be placed at locations of stress concentration, such as changes in wall height, changes in wall thickness, or at large wall expanses.
They are not placed at the first course of masonry (which is typically reinforced and anchored to the foundation).
They are generally not placed at window corners or in the center of window openings but rather at planned intervals or changes in geometry.
Placing a control joint at changes in wall height allows movement without cracking.
References:
NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Materials and Assemblies chapter
Masonry design and control joint placement per ASTM standards
Masonry construction manuals (e.g., NCMA TEK)

NEW QUESTION # 46



Refer to the exhibit.
What set of conductors should the building fluorescent Lighting be connected to?

- A. C,N
- B. C, A, B
- C. A, B
- D. C,A,N

Answer: A

Explanation:
Understanding the Diagram
The diagram shows a 480Y/277V three-phase, four-wire wye-connected system with a neutral (N) and system ground.
* 480 V = Voltage between any two phase conductors (line-to-line)
* 277 V = Voltage between any one phase conductor and neutral (line-to-neutral) Fluorescent Lighting Voltage Requirements
* Standard commercial fluorescent lighting systems are typically designed for 277 V operation in the U.S.
(in buildings with a 480Y/277V system).
* To achieve 277 V, you connect one phase conductor (A, B, or C) to Neutral (N).
* This is a single-phase line-to-neutral connection.
Which Conductors to Use?
* In the given options, the correct pair must give 277 V.
* C, N # 277 V line-to-neutral # Correct for fluorescent lighting.
* Other options produce different results:
* A, B = 480 V (line-to-line) - too high for fluorescent ballasts.
* C, A, B = all three phases - used for three-phase loads, not lighting.
* C, A, N - would give two circuits, but includes extra phase unnecessarily for single-phase lighting.
NCARB ARE 5.0 PDD Study Guide References:
* Content Area: Electrical Systems - Power Distribution and Circuiting for Lighting
* Source References:
* Electrical Systems for Architects - Fluorescent lighting voltage selection
* MEEB (Mechanical and Electrical Equipment for Buildings) - Chapter on Electrical Service and Lighting Systems
* NEC (National Electrical Code) - Voltage to ground for wye-connected systems Key Point:
For a 480Y/277V wye system, fluorescent lighting should be connected from any phase to neutral for 277 V operation.

NEW QUESTION # 47
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.
Which modification is required?

- A. Add exit sign at door number 15.
- B. Add access panel for shut-off valves.
- C. Relocate supply and return air diffusers.

Answer: B

Explanation:
At 50% CDs with early PEMB coordination and compressed schedule, typical cross-discipline clashes in corridors involve above-ceiling valves/dampers that lack required access from a public space. Plumbing and mechanical codes require accessible, labeled access panels for isolation/shut-off valves (and similar devices) located in concealed spaces so they can be serviced without disrupting operations-critical here because farm work must continue during construction/operation.
Exit sign at door #15 (A) depends on egress analysis; not a generic coordination issue.
Relocate diffusers (B) is a comfort/layout decision, not a compliance coordination issue unless they conflict with lights/sprinklers.
PDD refs: IMC/IPC provisions for access to valves and equipment in concealed spaces; Division 08/10 access panels; ARE 5.0 PDD-Coordination of MEP with architectural ceilings and corridors.

NEW QUESTION # 48
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.

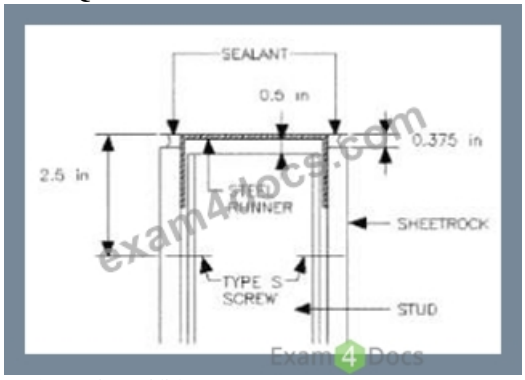
The following resources are available for your reference:
Architectural Drawings, including plans, elevations, sections, and schedules Consultant Drawings, including structural, HVAC, power distribution, and plumbing PEMB Shop Drawings Design and Construction Schedule Specification Excerpts, showing 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 architect is preparing the project manual.
What section should be included?

- A. 006113 Performance and Payment Bond
- B. 015000 Temporary Utilities
- C. 019113 General Commissioning Requirements
- D. 012300 Alternates

Answer: B

Explanation:
Understanding the Context
When preparing the Project Manual in the Project Development & Documentation (PDD) section of the ARE 5.0 exam, you need to determine which specification sections are essential based on project requirements and conditions. The Project Manual organizes administrative and technical specifications into divisions, each serving a specific purpose.
In this case, because construction will occur while farming operations continue uninterrupted-and public water and sewer services are unavailable on site-temporary utilities (such as water, power, and possibly sanitation) are a critical component that must be clearly addressed in the Project Manual. These provisions ensure the contractor understands how to support construction without disrupting farm operations and without relying on permanent utilities.
Why "015000 Temporary Utilities" is Required
Section 01 50 00 - Temporary Utilities (often numbered 015000) is part of Division 01: General Requirements in the Project Manual. It specifies requirements for establishing and maintaining temporary utility services (like water, electric, lighting, heating, cooling, toilets) during construction. It helps ensure the design and construction team address logistical needs amid the distinctive site conditions-namely the absence of public utilities and the necessity of continuous farm operations.
As noted in a design and construction manual resource:
"Section 01 51 00 - Temporary Utilities. This section is generally included in all projects; however, it must be carefully written so as to be applicable to the specific project conditions." This directly supports inclusion of Temporary Utilities in the Project Manual for this project scenario.
Why Other Options Are Not Appropriate
* A. 006113 Performance and Payment BondThese forms pertain to contract security and bonding requirements, which would be located in Division 00 (Procurement and Contracting Requirements), not Division 01. The question focuses on which section should be included in the Project Manual being prepared at this phase; the key imperative here is the temporary utility needs, not bonds.
* B. 012300 AlternatesAlternates allow multiple pricing options for different project scopes, but there is no indication that alternate options (e.g., alternate spaces or functions) are being used in this design.
There's no mention of bidding alternates.
* D. 019113 General Commissioning RequirementsCommissioning provisions (often related to MEP system verification and performance) would only be required if commissioning is part of the project deliverables. The project brief doesn't indicate commissioning deliverables-only that mechanical and electrical systems are supported by the PEMB, and the focus here is continuity of operations and utilities during construction, not commissioning.

NEW QUESTION # 49



Refer to the exhibit.
The construction method shown in the detail should be used to prevent cracking in which of the following situations?

- A. Concrete frame buildings with drywall suspended ceilings
- B. Concrete flat slab buildings with exposed slab ceilings
- C. Structural steel frame buildings with plaster ceilings
- D. Exposed structural steel frame with no partitions to the structure

Answer: A

Explanation:
The detail shows a steel runner with sheetrock and screws, typical for drywall suspended ceiling assemblies.
This construction method is commonly used in concrete frame buildings with drywall ceilings suspended below the structural slab.
It helps prevent cracking by accommodating building movement and separating finish materials from structural movement.
Structural steel frame buildings with plaster ceilings typically have different finish and framing details.
Concrete flat slabs with exposed ceilings have no finish requiring such assemblies.
Exposed steel frames without partitions don't need drywall framing.
Reference:
NCARB ARE 5.0 Review Manual, Materials and Assemblies chapter
Interior finishes and drywall system installation guides (Gypsum Association)

NEW QUESTION # 50
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