



Study Guide for the Lead Inspector/Assessor Certification Exam

California Department of Health Services,
Childhood Lead Poisoning Prevention Branch, Lead-Related Construction Unit

Introduction

The purpose of the certification examination is to determine if the Lead Inspector/Assessor candidates possess the necessary knowledge and abilities associated with performing the Inspector/Assessor job duties. This study guide has been developed to help you prepare for the Lead Inspector/Assessor certification examination.

To register for the Lead Inspector/Assessor certification examination, obtain a registration form from Cooperative Personnel Services (CPS) by calling (916) 263-3644. CPS will provide information regarding examination administration dates, examination locations, exam fees, and special accommodations.

You must take the Inspector/Assessor certification examination prior to applying to the Department of Health Services (DHS) for certification, and you must also meet the DHS requirements for training, education, and experience in order to become certified. You may take the exam as many times as you need to in order to pass. However, you must submit a completed re-examination form, and pay the re-examination fee to be scheduled for a future examination. DHS recommends that you retake the Lead Inspector/Assessor course if you fail the exam three or more times, but this is not a requirement.

If you have further questions regarding your application for certification or the examination requirements, call the Lead-Related Construction Information Line at 1-800-597-LEAD (outside California (510) 869-3953) or visit www.dhs.ca.gov/childlead and click on "Materials and Products"

Examination Content Overview

The Inspector/Assessor certification examination contains 115 questions, all written in the multiple-choice format. Each question has four distinct alternatives from which to choose. None of the examination questions are intended to trick the candidates. Although some of the examination questions may seem to have multiple correct responses, candidates are instructed to choose the one response that is best from among the four alternatives. The Inspector/Assessor certification examination time limits should allow the vast majority of candidates ample time to respond to all of the examination questions.

NOTE: This study guide is specifically for the Inspector/Assessor exams given starting on May 1, 2004. Those taking the exam earlier should use the earlier version of the study guide.

The Inspector/Assessor knowledge and abilities assessed by each of the primary examination content areas are described below. The specific references for each of the knowledge and abilities are also listed below. It is from these references that the Inspector/Assessor certification examination questions will be based.

A. Background Information on Lead and Health Effects of Lead (10 questions)

Questions covering this area require the candidate to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the general adverse effects of lead poisoning, lead exposure, and blood lead levels. A successful candidate should possess the:

Knowledge of what the Scope of Work would consist of for testing purposes. (*HUD Guidelines: Chapter 3, and Appendix 7.1*)

Knowledge of pathways of lead exposure to children and adults (such as hand-to-mouth, inhalation, ingestion, etc.). (*HUD Guidelines: Chapters 1 and 9*)

Knowledge of the type of building components on which lead-based paint was typically applied. (*HUD Guidelines: Chapters 5, 7, and 18*)

Knowledge of the health effects and symptoms of lead exposure in adults and children. (*8CCR 1532.1: Appendix A; and HUD Guidelines: Chapters 1 and 9*)

B. Federal and State Regulatory Requirements (20 questions)

Questions covering this area require the candidate to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the applicable Federal and State regulatory requirements for lead testing and lead in construction activities. A successful candidate should possess the:

Knowledge of DHS Title 17 definitions, certification requirements and Work Practice Standards. (17 CCR 35001 -35050, and 17 CCR 36000- 36100)

Knowledge of Cal/OSHA Lead in Construction Exposure Assessment Requirements. (8CCR 1532.1; HUD Guidelines: Chapter 9, and Appendix 13.4)

Knowledge of the DHS regulatory standards for lead in paint, dust, and soil. (17 CCR 35033, 35035, and 35036)

Knowledge of the EPA regulatory standards for lead in water. (40 CFR Part 141; 22 CCR Chapter 17.5, Section 64670; and HUD Guidelines: Chapter 5)

Knowledge of the DHS reporting requirements for lead hazard evaluations. (17 CCR 36000)

Knowledge of when to apply the HUD requirements and the Federal EPA lead hazard levels (Federally funded/ HUD Housing) and when to use the DHS Title17 requirements and lead hazard levels. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 1; 17 CCR 36000; 40 CFR, Part 745; 24 CFR, Part 35, et al.; and Title X, Section 1018)

C. Risk Assessment (20 questions)

Questions covering this area require the candidate to demonstrate his/her knowledge of how to conduct effective risk assessments. A successful candidate should possess the:

Knowledge of lead hazard screen protocols, and their limitations. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 5)

Knowledge of risk assessment protocols, and their limitations. (HUD Guidelines: Chapters 5, 6, and Appendices 8.1 and 8.2)

Knowledge of the combined risk assessment and lead-based paint inspection protocols, and their limitations. (HUD Guidelines: Chapters 5, 6, and 7, and Appendices 8.1 and 8.2)

Knowledge of paint condition classifications as specified by the HUD Guidelines. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 5)

Knowledge of how and when to collect first draw and second draw water samples to determine where the source of lead is located. (HUD Guidelines: Chapters 5 and 16)

D. Lead-Based Paint Inspection (25 questions)

Questions covering this area require the candidate to demonstrate his/her knowledge of procedures used to conduct lead-based paint inspections, including the ability to interpret XRF results. A successful candidate should possess the:

Knowledge of lead-based paint inspection protocols, and their limitations. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 7)

Knowledge of building component nomenclature. (HUD Guidelines: Chapters 7, 11, and 12, and Appendix 7.3)

Knowledge of the procedures for performing an XRF calibration check. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 7, and Performance Characteristic Sheets)

Knowledge of the elements that comprise various lead-based paint testing combinations (according to the HUD Guidelines). (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 7)

Knowledge of substrate classifications (according to the HUD Guidelines). (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 7)

Knowledge of the protocols for the selection and testing of multifamily dwellings. (HUD Guidelines: Chapters 5 and 7)

Knowledge of the minimum room equivalent/testing combinations that are required for single-family and multifamily dwellings. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 7)

Ability to interpret XRF results. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 7 and Chapter 7 Appendices)

E. Clearance Inspection (10 questions)

Questions covering this area require the candidate to demonstrate his/her knowledge of clearance inspection procedures and protocols. A successful candidate should possess the:

Knowledge of clearance inspection protocols, and their limitations. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 15, and Appendix 7.3.)

Knowledge of when and how to perform a visual inspection (prior to clearance dust wipe sampling) to ensure the work was completed, and that no visible dust or debris remains. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 15, and Appendix 7.3)

F. Sampling Protocols and Procedures (20 questions)

Questions in this area require the candidate to demonstrate his/her knowledge of the appropriate methods of testing/sampling for lead as well as the ability to interpret and convert various lead testing results. A successful candidate should possess the:

Knowledge of the appropriate sampling containers to use when collecting paint chip, water, dust wipes, and soil samples. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 5, and Appendices 13.1 - 13.4)

Knowledge of the appropriate sampling tools and supplies to use when collecting paint chip, water, dust wipes, and soil samples. (HUD Guidelines: Chapters 5 and 7, and Appendices 13.1 - 13.4)

Knowledge of the HUD Guidelines sampling protocols. (HUD Guidelines: Chapters 3, 5, 7, 10, and 15, and Appendices 10.0, and 13.1 - 13.4)

Ability to convert from one measurement unit to another (such as ppm to percent by weight). (HUD Guidelines: Appendices 1 and 13, Chapter 7; and 8 CCR 1532.1)

Ability to interpret laboratory testing results. (17 CCR 35033, 35035 and 35036; and HUD Guidelines Chapter 7, and Appendix 1)

G. Abatement Options (10 questions)

Questions covering this area require the candidate to demonstrate his/her knowledge of abatement methods and limitations. A successful candidate should possess the:

Knowledge of characteristics of lead abatement options (such as costs, longevity, procedures, etc.) for interim control measures (designed to last less than 20 years). (HUD Guidelines: Chapters 5, 11, and 17)

Knowledge of characteristics of lead abatement options (such as costs, longevity, procedures, etc.) designed to last more than 20 years. (HUD Guidelines: Chapter 12)

Passing Score Information

Your score on the Inspector/Assessor certification examination will be based on the number of questions you answer correctly. Each test question is worth one point towards your overall score. You will receive an overall score and a separate score for each of the primary examination content areas. You will not be penalized for incorrect answers or guessing, so it is to your advantage to attempt to respond to all of the examination questions.

During the examination, if you feel a test question is inappropriate or problematic, you may document your concerns on the test comment form that will be provided to you at the test site. All candidate comment forms will be reviewed by subject matter experts and occupational testing specialists to determine if they have merit.

A criterion-referenced approach is used for setting the passing score on the Inspector/Assessor certification examination. This approach involves setting the passing score on the basis of minimum standards for competent practice (i.e., job requirements) rather than on relative candidate performance. A panel of Subject Matter Experts is used to determine the minimum standards (i.e., passing scores) for the Inspector/Assessor certification examinations.

Examination Preparation Strategies

To study for the California Lead Inspector/Assessor Certification Exam, you should focus on learning the principles and practices of lead poisoning prevention, as well as gaining a broad understanding of the content areas listed in this study guide. Make sure you fully understand the basic terms associated with each of the examination content areas. The focus of your study should be on the knowledge and abilities relevant to a newly certified Lead Inspector/Assessor. Use the references listed in this study guide to study for the exam.