



CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



GENERAL BUILDING (B)

Content of the Examination

The General Building (B) Examination is divided into five major sections:

1. Planning and Estimating (15%)

- Scope of work and code compliance
- Design and construction error identification
- Shop drawings, plans, and specifications
- Field inspection performance
- Coordination of project
- Cost estimation for materials, equipment, and labor

2. Framing and Structural Components (20%)

- Subfloor and wall framing
- Roof framing
- Seismic hardware requirements and installation
- Siding and stucco
- Decks and stairs

3. Core Trades (30%)

- Plumbing
- Electrical
- HVAC
- Concrete
- Earthwork and surveying
- Insulation, acoustical, and weatherproofing
- Roofing

4. Finish Trades (20%)

- Painting, staining, coating, and interior wall covering
- Tile and stone
- Floor covering
- Cabinetry and millwork
- Plaster, drywall, and ceilings
- Windows, skylights, and doors
- Landscaping

5. Safety (15%)

- Personnel safety
- Transportation and traffic control
- Environmental safety

Percentages are approximate

Test Policy

This is a closed-book examination. No reference materials may be used during the examination.

Test Strategy

This is a multiple-choice examination with four choices per question. Examination questions are written to provide only one BEST answer. Some questions require mathematical computation. A calculator will be provided.

There is no penalty for guessing. If you are unsure about a particular question, it is better to answer the question than to leave the question blank.

Plenty of time is provided to answer all examination questions. Read each question and its four choices completely and carefully before selecting the BEST possible answer.

Sample Questions

Below are three typical examination questions. The correct answer is marked with an asterisk (*).

1. According to the California Residential Code, what is the MINIMUM allowable width of a residential hallway?
 - a. 44 inches
 - b. 40 inches
 - c. 36 inches*
 - d. 32 inches
2. What is the volume of a cylinder if the diameter equals 3 feet and the length equals 12 feet?
 - a. 36.00 cubic feet
 - b. 84.78 cubic feet*
 - c. 226.08 cubic feet
 - d. 339.12 cubic feet

3. What is the MOST likely cause of a severe crack in a foundation?
 - a. Inadequate soil preparation*
 - b. Inadequate form preparation
 - c. Pouring on a hot day
 - d. Excessive soil in the footings

All questions are written and reviewed by licensed contractors who are actively working in the trade

Resources

Publisher information for reference books and code is provided below. Other sources for reference books may be found online.

California code books can be viewed online:
www.dgs.ca.gov/bsc

2025 California Building Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.

PHONE: (800) 786-4452

INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

2025 California Electrical Code.

California Code of Regulations, Title 24. BNI Publications, Inc.

PHONE: (888) 264-2665

INTERNET: www.bnibooks.com

2025 California Energy Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.

PHONE: (800) 786-4452

INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

2025 California Fire Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.

PHONE: (800) 786-4452

INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

2025 California Green Building Standards Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.
PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

2025 California Mechanical Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).
PHONE: (909) 472-4100
INTERNET: iapmo.org

2025 California Plumbing Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Association of Plumbing and Mechanical Officials (IAPMO).
PHONE: (909) 472-4100
INTERNET: iapmo.org

2025 California Residential Code. California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.
PHONE: (800) 786-4452
INTERNET: www.iccsafe.org

North American Architectural Woodwork Standards. Woodwork Institute, Architectural Woodwork Institute, and Architectural Woodwork Manufacturers Association of Canada.
PHONE: (916) 372-9943
INTERNET: woodworkinstitute.com

California Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices, 2014 Edition, Revision 4. State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).
PHONE: (916) 654-2852
INTERNET: dot.ca.gov/manuals

California Vehicle Code. State of California Department of Motor Vehicles.
INTERNET:
leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/codes.xhtml

Fundamentals of Building Construction: Materials and Methods. Wiley.
PHONE: (877) 762-2974
INTERNET: www.wiley.com

Modern Carpentry. Goodheart-Willcox.
PHONE: (800) 323-0440
INTERNET: www.g-w.com

Olin's Construction Principles, Materials, and Methods. Wiley.
PHONE: (877) 762-2974
INTERNET: www.wiley.com

State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2025. California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.
PHONE: (877) 626-2666
INTERNET: www.mancomm.com
VIEW ONLINE:
www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm

Publisher information is current as of 3/26