

DSA Project Inspector Examination

The DSA Project Inspector Examination evaluates your proficiency in interpreting and understanding construction documents, as well as your familiarity with the construction, inspection, and testing standards outlined in the California Building Standards Code. While the sample questions provided here will not appear on the actual examination, they serve as a representative overview of the types of questions you may encounter and the areas of knowledge necessary for success.

The list below identifies a recommended reference list. DSA will provide these references to examinees for the various examination sections.

DSA Project Inspector Examination Reference List

- The 2022 version of California Code of Regulations, Title 24, Parts 1, 2, 4, 5, 6, 9, 10 and 12. When applicable, the references below are those editions recognized by the 2022 version of Title 24 (refer to Title 24, Part 2, Chapter 35).
- AISI S240: North American Standard for Cold-Formed Steel Structural Framing.
- American Institute of Steel Construction (AISC), Steel Construction Manual, 15th Edition (includes AISC 360 Specification for Structural Steel Buildings; Specification for Structural Joints Using High-Strength Bolts by the Research Council on Structural Connections; AISC 303 Code of Standard Practice for Steel Buildings and Bridges).
- American Welding Society (AWS) D1.1, Structural Welding Code – Steel.
- American Concrete Institute (ACI) 318, Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete and Commentary.
- The Masonry Society (TMS) 402 and 602, Building Code Requirements and Specification for Masonry Structures.
- American Wood Council (AWC) National Design Specification (NDS) for Wood Construction; NDS Supplement (Design Values for Wood Construction).
- American Wood Council (AWC) Special Design Provisions for Wind and Seismic (SDPWS).
- American Wood Preserver’s Association (AWPA) Standard U1 Use Category System: User Specifications for Treated Wood.
- West Coast Lumber Inspection Bureau (WCLIB) Lumber Grading Rules, Std. No. 17, 2018.
- National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 13, 70 (provided in the exam in lieu of part 3), and 72.
- American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) A6, A615, A706, C94, F1667.

DSA Project Inspector Exam Sample Questions

(Answers on last page)

The sample questions are organized into the following sections: Structural, Architectural (including Access and Fire & Life Safety), Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing (MEP), and Administrative (including inspector duties and responsibilities).

Administrative

1. The project inspector identifies a complex detail on the DSA-approved plans that they are not able to comprehend. What should the project inspector do in this situation?
 - A) Promptly contact the responsible design professional(s) for interpretation and instructions.
 - B) Promptly report this issue to the school district.
 - C) Collaborate with contractor to determine how to interpret the design professional(s) intent as shown in the DSA-approved plans and specifications.
 - D) Promptly report this issue to DSA.
2. Per Title 24, Part 1, the project inspector shall notify DSA:
 - A) when construction work is restarted after being stopped for more than one month.
 - B) 48 hours prior to the first placement of foundation concrete
 - C) 48 hours prior to completion of foundation trenches
 - D) All of the above.

Architectural

3. Which of the following is NOT regulated by the code for exterior insulation and finish systems?
 - A) Special inspection.
 - B) Wind resistance.
 - C) Color and finish resistance to ultraviolet fading.
 - D) Rain resistance.

4. Runners for suspended acoustic tile ceiling systems shall be attached to surrounding walls as follows:
 - A) two adjacent walls.
 - B) two opposite walls.
 - C) may not be attached to walls.
 - D) all four surrounding walls.

Mechanical/Electrical/Plumbing (MEP)

5. When openings are required to be protected in a 1-hour exterior wall, the minimum fire door and fire glazing rating is ____ minutes.
 - A) 30
 - B) 45
 - C) 60
 - D) 90
6. On DSA projects, all 125-volt, single phase, 15- and 20-ampere receptacles shall have ground-fault circuit-interruption protection for personnel except at the following location:
 - A) Outdoors
 - B) Kitchens
 - C) Rooftops
 - D) Electrical Rooms
7. Industrial appliances that utilize gas fuel can discharge flue gases directly into:
 - A) a large and "well ventilated" space.
 - B) a masonry chimney.
 - C) a Category II appliance.
 - D) the atmosphere, as long as an air intake is not within 10-feet of the discharge.

Structural

8. How can the project inspector identify a ASTM A615, Grade 60 reinforcing bar based on the markings on the bar?
 - A) Grade 60 bars have 'high strength' stamped into them.
 - B) Grade 60 bars have 'S' stamped into them.
 - C) Grade 60 bars have 1 continuous longitudinal line through at least five deformations offset from the center of the bar side.
 - D) Grade 60 bars have 'W' stamped into them.

9. When is structural steel delivered to a project site NOT required to be tested?
- A) When it is not part of the lateral-force-resisting system.
 - B) When the minimum yield stress is less than 36,000 pounds per square inch by design.
 - C) When grade is readily identifiable from markings and certified mill test records.
 - D) When it is provided by an AISC approved fabricator.
10. For a plywood shear wall, what is the minimum width of any piece of plywood?
- A) 12"
 - B) 24"
 - C) 48"
 - D) No minimum requirement, as long as all edges of all panels are supported and fastened to framing members or blocking.

DSA Project Inspector Examination Sample Question Answers

1. Answer: A *Code Ref: 4-342(b)2*
2. Answer: D *Code Ref: 4-342(b)5*
3. Answer: C *Code Ref: CBC 1407*
4. Answer: A *Code Ref: ASTM E580 5.2.3, IR 25-2*
5. Answer: B *Code Ref: CBC, Table 716.1(2) and 716.1(3)*
6. Answer: D *Code Ref: CEC 210.8 (B)*
7. Answer: A *Code Ref: CMC 802.2.5*
8. Answer: C *Code Ref: ACI 318 20.2.1.3, ASTM A615 section 19*
9. Answer: C *Code Ref: Table 1705A.2.1 (3b&d), 2202A.1*
10. Answer: D *Code Ref: CBC 2306.3, SDPWS 4.3.7.1 #1*