

National Home Inspector Certification Council

NHICC NATIONAL HOME INSPECTOR EXAM - CRITERIA & POLICY V2022

The NHICC National Home Inspector Exam for the National Certification Program is based on meeting the following criteria:

1. **Objective** – prepared primarily as a multiple-choice style exam for home inspection based on **175 questions** with multiple choice and true/false responses per question. In addition, short essay type questions that focus on **defect recognition photographs** are also included. A portion includes **Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics** questions. All questions are applicable to the skills specified in the current version of the National Occupational Standards. Participants have a maximum of **3 hours** to complete the exam.
2. **Question Database** – There are over 1300 questions in our database categorized by specific residential building systems and related subsystems. Similar questions related to every question that would be released on the exam taken by the participant have also been developed to allow variation and for exam retakes.
3. **Questions and Answers** – The exam questions are specifically worded so that there is only one single most correct answer.
4. **Recommended Exam Program Design** – Identification of the learning objectives in relationship to the National Occupation Standards that need to be included in the exam.

The Core Areas - included is based on the NOS – (National Occupational Standards) version 2014. A copy of the current DACUM Blocks is included in this document and defined as a “general area of competence”.

1. Block A: Manages Inspection Process (Communication)
2. Block B: Exteriors – (Structure and Building Envelope)
3. Block C: Interiors – (And Envelope)
4. Block D: Heating & Air Conditioning
5. Block E: Plumbing
6. Block F: Electrical
7. Block G: Life & Safety Systems

Exam Formation - Based on earlier surveys “Importance and Criticality” ratings were obtained from sources such as the National Home Inspectors Exam (NHIE) and a DACUM review held in London Ontario for Canadian Home Inspectors that was released in 2014. These offer the following guidelines for determining the delineation for number and domain of questions on the exam. In addition, many of the questions are based on examination questions utilized in several college level Home Inspection education programs that have been evaluated for approximately the past 20 years. The exam is closed book, and no reference materials permitted.

Exam Type – The exam is available based on an online format exam management system.

Practice Tests Quizzes - A series of Practice Tests Quizzes is provided upon payment and approval to the NHICC. They are free along with several informational courses on the website.

Exam participants will be issued a username and password for their personal access.

Email: info@nationalhomeinspector.org

Website: www.nationalhomeinspector.org

NHICC Exam Centre: <https://nhiexam.ca>

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Domain	Block	Exam Percentage
Inspection Methods	A	20
Building Systems	B, C, D, E, F, G	50
Reporting	A, B, C, D, E, F, G	20
Ethics & Professional Practice	A	10

Pass Grade – Minimum of 70% score is deemed a baseline pass for the NHICC – National Home Inspector Exam unless the exam pass grade is required to be higher such for Alberta.

Scheduling Exams - To schedule an exam the participants must contact the NHICC to register prior to their intended date of when they want to take the exam. There is no guarantee of a set time or date for the Exam until all the required forms are properly completed.

Potential NHICC Applicants are required to complete a Background Review Application Form if they plan on pursuing their certification with the NHICC.

Note: All exams are proctored by an NHICC NHI or approved NHICC Examiner.

Exams are primarily conducted via Skype and or Facetime, typically between 8 am Eastern time to start and 5 pm Pacific as last booking start time. Weekends are typically not available.

Forms are available on the NHICC primary website previously noted.

Exam & Proctoring Criteria:

- ✓ This is a closed book exam with no assistance from others or other sources.
- ✓ Exam participant will be provided with an exam access code to start the exam.
- ✓ Exam participant must always maintain live audio and video connection during the exam.
- ✓ Exam participant must provide valid proof for identification prior to start of the exam.
- ✓ Exam participant may return to any previous questions during the exam up until final submission of the exam.
- ✓ Exam participant must follow all/any instructions on screen to successfully submit their exam.
- ✓ The maximum time for completion of the exam is 3 hours.
- ✓ Grades will generally be finalized with 24 hours after the exam. This is based on the non-graded defect recognition questions that must be manually graded by the proctor.

Proctors are required to adhere to the following:

- ✓ Will mute their microphone and turn off their video during the exam so not be a distraction.
- ✓ Will not answer to any specific exam question during the exam.
- ✓ Simply invigilate and oversee the exam.

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