

BOABC LEVEL III EXAMINATIONS

The Level III exams are numbered as follows:		
Exam 6	Large Building Health & Safety	Two-hours, open book, 50 questions
Exam 7	Classifications & Construction	Two-hours, open book, 50 questions
Exam 8	Plan Review Strategies	Two-hours, open book, 50 questions with plans
Exam 9	Life Safety Systems	Two-hours, open book, 60 questions
Exam 10	Fire Protection	Two-hours, open book, 60 questions

EXAM CONTENT OUTLINES

The exam outline shows the content areas which exam questions are related to and the number of questions included on the exam for each content area. The exam outline is based on an analysis of the job tasks for each exam category. Questions are referenced to the current British Columbia Building Code.

(EXAM 6) - LEVEL III - LARGE BUILDING HEALTH and SAFETY (2 Hours, Open-Book, 50 Questions)		
	Content Area	Questions
1.	Health Requirements Room Height, Windows, Safety Glass, Plumbing Facilities, Lighting, Food Premises.	10
2.	Accessible Design Washrooms Water Closet Rooms, Water Closet Compartments, Bath & Shower, Grab Bars	8
3.	Accessible Buildings Specific Requirements, Applications, and Exemptions, and Requirements for Different Occupancies	8
4.	Environmental Separation Environmental Separation Requirements including Heat Transfer, Air Leakage, and Vapour Diffusion, Moisture in the Ground and Surface Water, and Sound Transmission Ratings & Classification	5
5.	HVAC Design and Installation of HVAC equipment and Chimneys and Venting Equipment	7
6.	Service Spaces / Facilities Service Rooms, Vertical Service Spaces Horizontal Service Space	12
	Total	50

(EXAM 7) - LEVEL III - LARGE BUILDING CLASSIFICATION AND CONSTRUCTION (2 Hours, Open-Book, 50 Questions)		
	Content Area	Questions
1.	General Requirements Code Application, Definitions, Plans, Specification, Materials, Documents, Professional Design and Review, Design Requirements	7
2.	Classification and Construction Requirements Major Occupancy Identification, Occupant Load, Types of Construction, Building Height, Size, Major Occupancy Separation, Spatial Separation, Exceptions to Structural Fire Protection	17
3.	Passive Fire Protection Fire Separations and Closures, Fire Stops, Flame Spread Rating, Smoke Development, Firewalls, Fire Resistance Ratings	15
4.	Structural Design Structural Loads, Limit State Design, Dead Loads and Live Loads, Foundations, Requirements for Structural Materials and Special Structures	11
	Total	50

(EXAM 8) - LEVEL III – PLAN REVIEW (2 Hours, Open-Book, 50 Questions)		
	Content Area	Questions
1.	Administrative Requirements Application of Administrative Requirements	2
2.	General Requirements Major Occupancy Identification and Separation, Occupant Load, Types of Construction, Fire Separations and Closures, Fire Stops, Flame Spread Rating, Smoke Development, Firewalls, Fire Resistance Ratings	10
3.	Building Fire Safety and Classification Building Height, Size, Spatial Separation, Fire Alarm and Detection Systems, Standpipe and Sprinkler, Systems, Lighting and Emergency Power, High Buildings, Access to Storeys, Routes, Access	13
4.	Occupant Safety Safety within Floors, Assembly Occupancies, Care and Detention, Residential, Industrial	8
5.	Exiting Exit Types, Number, Location & Fire Escapes, Travel Distance & Distance Between Exits, Exit Width, Height and Capacity, Fire Separation of Exits, Exit Signs, Handrails, Guards, Stairs and Ramps, Doors and Hardware, Emergency Access to Floor Areas/Crossover	10
6.	Vertical Transportation & Service Facilities Vertical Transportation and Service Facilities	2
7.	Health Requirements and Accessible Design Plumbing Facilities, Accessible Design	2
8.	Structural Design Structural Design	1
9.	Environmental Separation Heat, Air, Vapour, Moisture, & Sound Ratings	1
10.	HVAC Design and Installation	1
	Total	50

(EXAM 9) - LEVEL III – LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS		
(2 Hours, Open-Book, 60 Questions)		
	Content Area	Questions
1.	Safety Within Floors Suite Separation, Means of Egress, Door Requirements & Number Egress Doorways, Corridor Requirements, Ramps, Stairways & Exterior Passageways, Handrails and Guards, Exhaust Ventilation, Janitor and Laundry Rooms	11
2.	Assembly Occupancies Fire Separations, Fixed Seats and Fixed Bench Type Seats, Aisles, Doors, and Corridors, Guards and Risers for Stairs, Stages, Outdoor Places of Assembly	8
3.	Care and Detention Fire Separations, Doors and Corridors, Hospitals and Nursing Homes, Areas of Refuge, Contained Use Areas	6
4.	Residential Fire Separations, Storage Rooms, Egress	7
5.	Industrial Repair and Storage Garages and Separations, Multiple Tenant Self Storage, Vestibules	8
6.	Exits Types, Number & Location of Exits, Travel Distance & Distance Between Exits, Exit Width, Height and Capacity, Fire Separation of Exits, Exit Signs, Handrails and Guards, Stairs and Ramps, Doors and Hardware, Fire Escapes, Emergency Access to Floor Areas/Crossover	17
7.	Vertical Transportation Standards, Fire Separations, Elevators	3
	Total	60

(EXAM 10) - LEVEL III – FIRE PROTECTION		
(2 Hours, Open-Book, 60 Questions)		
	Content Area	Questions
1.	Fire Alarm and Detection Systems Fire Alarm Requirements, Continuity Fire Alarm System, Types of Fire Alarms, Installation & Testing, Pull Stations, Annunciator & Zone Indication, Fire Detectors, Audibility, and Visual Requirements, Voice Communications, Smoke Alarms	13
2.	Standpipe and Sprinkler Systems Water Supply, General Standpipe & Sprinkler Requirements, Hose Connections, Hose Stations, Fire Department Connections	11
3.	Lighting and Emergency Power Lighting Requirements, Emergency Lighting and Power	7
4.	High Buildings Application, Fire fighters, elevators, Limits smoke movement, Central Alarm and Control Facility (CACF), Venting	10
5.	Building Fire Safety Exceptions to Building Height, Storage garages, Basements and Storage Below Ground, Streets, Multiple Major Occupancies, Automatic Sprinkler Systems, Construction Requirements, Interconnected Floors, and Mezzanines	14
6.	Access Access to Storeys, Access Routes, Roof Access	5
	Total	60

BOABC Level Three Examination – Questions and Answers

Why did the BOABC implement a new Level Three Examination Format in 2009?

The BOABC Business Plan and the policy on examination content are directed at placing examinations, such as Level One, Level Two and the Level Three, under the computerized and scored formats developed with the International Code Council, ICC. BOABC Policy 1.3 states that *“it is also the intent of the BOABC through the development of examinations which are computer generated and marked, to reduce the number of examination papers for level three by combining several content areas”*.

What is the difference between the previous Level Three format and the new Level Three examination format?

Under the previous Level Three examination format, 10 exams had to be taken to complete the Level Three exam. In the new Level Three format, five examinations need to be completed.

If I have completed some exams in the previous Level Three format, how do I complete the Level Three examinations in the new format?

Exams completed in the previous Level Three format are credited towards the new five-exam format. Since the new Level Three format condenses the content into fewer exams, it will result in fewer overall exams that need to be taken. In order to determine which of the new Level Three exams need to be taken, a member should call the BOABC office and speak with the Executive Director or the Office Administrator. The BOABC will confirm the number of exams and the content area a member has completed under the previous format and will discuss what exams are needed to complete Level Three examinations in the new format. [This process was conducted and completed with BOABC members in 2009 and 2010.]

Why are the five Level Three examinations numbered 6, 7, 8, 9 and 10?

The national Alliance of Canadian Building Officials' Association [ACBOA], of which the BOABC is a founding member, recognizes the five-exam Level Three format. Examination Committees made up of practicing Canadian Building Officials from Ontario, Manitoba and British Columbia developed, reviewed and scrutinized the five Level Three examinations with the assistance of ICC testing expertise. The numbering adopted, #6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, conform to the ACBOA/ICC system for numbering and identification. To avoid confusion, the BOABC has also adopted this numbering system for the five-exam Level Three format.

The new Level Three examination format of five exams, Exam #6, 7, 8, 9 and 10, include a comprehensive plan review in Exam #8. Does Exam #8 need to be completed by members who began taking Level Three exams under the previous format?

No. If a BOABC member has paid for examinations under the previous Level Three ten-examination format and has completed any examination under the previous Level Three format, the member will not be required to take Exam #8, the Plan review, in the new Level Three format. However, if a BOABC member is taking a Level Three examination in the five-examination format for the first time and has not taken and/or paid for examinations in the previous Level Three 10 examination format, that member must take the complete Level Three examinations consisting of the five exam format, #6, 7, 8, 9 and 10.

If a member has paid and began taking Level Three exams under the previous format, will there be an additional examination fee to take the new Level Three examinations?

No. Members who have paid the full amount for the ten exam Level Three fee format will not have to pay any additional examination fees to complete examinations in the new Level Three five-exam format. However, if a member takes a Level Three exam in the new format and fails the exam, a fee of \$200.00 plus HST will be charged to take a rewrite of that exam.

What is the fee for a member to take the Level Three examination in the new format?

The examination fee for members to take an examination in the Level Three format, exams #6, 7, 8, 9 and 10 is \$200 plus HST for each exam. Consequently the total cost for the five-exam format would be \$1,000 plus HST. An exam fee for each exam ordered is due when a member registers to take the exam or exams through the BOABC office. \$100 of the exam fee, for each exam, is paid to the ICC for processing the examination.

Why is the time allotted to take a Level Three examination restricted to two hours?

Each Level Three examination consists of 50 or 60 four-option, multiple-choice questions with one answer on each question scored as correct. The examinations are designed to be taken with the most current BC Building Code open book. Exams are timed for two hours to complete. Once the two hours are up, the exam must be turned-in to the examination proctor at the exam sitting location. If time permits and another two hours are allocated in the exam sitting, a candidate could take another Level Three exam, which will also have a two-hour time limit to complete. The exams are designed to provide sufficient time that a candidate with work experience and thorough code knowledge would complete the exam in the time allotted. This follows the BOABC Level One and Two Examinations format, which are also timed, computer generated and scored examinations. Level One and Two exams are four hours in length and contain 125 and 100 multiple-choice questions.

How many Level Three exams can be taken in one sitting?

The BOABC organizes exam sittings in various locations. Examinations are proctored at colleges and universities and at BOABC designated locations at the annual spring Conference and the fall Education Seminar. Testing sessions are organized to accommodate the time to allow for the completion of two Level Three exams in one sitting. However, Level Three candidates must identify and order the examination[s] they wish to take at any exam sitting in advance when they register for the examination with the BOABC office and fill out an exam registration form. The Examination Registration Form can be found on the BOABC web site prior to the exam sittings. Sittings are usually held during the months of April and November annually. Notice of their location and sitting times are advertised at www.boabc.org at least one month in advance prior to the first exam sitting taking place.