



Certified Coating Applicator (CCA) Written Exam

Exam Preparation Guide

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Introduction

The Coating Applicator written exam is designed to assess whether a candidate has the requisite knowledge and skills that a minimally qualified coating applicator must possess. The 100 questions are based on the coating applicator body of knowledge. A candidate should have working knowledge of surface preparation, cleanliness, environmental conditions, coating mixtures, coating application and safety.

Test Name	AMPP-Certified Coating Applicator Written Exam
Test Code	NACE-CCA-001
Time	150 Minutes*
Number of Questions	100
Format	Computer Based Testing (CBT)
Passing Score	Pass or Fail

**NOTE: Includes 4 minutes for the non-disclosure agreement and 6 minutes for the system tutorial.*

Target Audience

Ideal candidates for coating applicator certification are industrial painters with experience who can prepare a surface and apply coating according to the specification. The Certified Coating Applicator should be able to safely perform the surface preparations, mixing, and coating application competently. The coating applicator exam is intended to certify applicators by assessing key competencies of a painter that are distinguishable from those of a helper.

Requirements

Prerequisite:

None required for written exam
Must pass written exam before taking practical exam

Course Requirements:

None

Core Exam Requirements:

Exam - Certified Coating Applicator Written Exam
Exam - Certified Coating Applicator Practical Exam

Renewal requirements: Recertification application, 1.5 years work experience, 24 hours professional development (8 hours per year) * required every 3 years

**Approval required*

Exam Blue Print

NOTE: At the end of the CBT exam the candidate should log on to their NACE profile to view a bar chart of strengths and weaknesses that correspond to these Domains.

Domain 1- Safety Local and Other Applicable Safety Codes, Practices, Standards, and Regulations Hazard communication (HAZCOM) and safety Data Sheet Working with hand and power tools Personal protective equipment (PPE) Selection and use of respiratory protection Hearing conservation Avoiding heat related injury Safety Directly related to Specific Materials/Equipment Abrasive cleaning (dry methods) Exposure to high pressure lines (Hydraulic/Pneumatic) Exposure to toxic metals Exposure to hazardous substances Exposure to and use of hydrocarbon solvents	24-28 %
Domain 2- Surface Preparation Ensure surface preparation and acceptability for coating application Basics of surface preparation Identify conditions, contaminants and defects Perform visual inspection of substrate Equipment Setup and Operation- Abrasive Blasting Safety equipment Equipment setup-compressor, blast, pot, separators, etc. Equipment operation- all control valves Hose and coupling layout Nozzle management- i.e. if it is worn out replace it Perform surface preparation Solvent cleaning Dry abrasive blast cleaning standards (Visual guides) Power and hand tool cleaning standards	23-27 %
Domain 3- Prepare Coating Protect adjacent surfaces from coating application (overspray) Identify and mix materials Read the coating can label Confirm manufacturer pack/kit sizes Record batch numbers Mix coating per PDS procedure Follow application procedures	9-13 %

Domain 4- Apply Coating Prepare equipment Equipment setup and adjustment Identification of types of equipment Inspect/maintain/store required PPE Put on PPE Execute method of application Apply coating per PDS In-process measurement and monitoring Overspray control-atomization, containment, holding gun properly not to spray to far beyond surface Requirements for maintenance coating (overcoating) Acceptable environmental conditions-i.e. understand abnormal paint conditions- rain fog Clean up Prepare unused coating for disposal-i.e. make sure it is not put down a drain or sprayed in the grass Store equipment Clean work area Personal hygiene	36-40%
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Types of Questions

Description of Questions

The questions on this closed book exam consist of multiple-choice questions where some questions may have 'select all that apply' and you will need to select more than one answer choice, as well as matching items. The questions are based on the knowledge and skills required in the coating applicator industry.

Sample Questions

The sample questions are included to illustrate the formats and types of questions that will be on the exam. Your performance on the sample questions should not be viewed as a predictor of your performance on the actual test.

1. Solvent cleaning is best used to remove what contaminant?
 - A. Rust
 - B. Grease
 - C. Old Paint
 - D. Soluble Salts

2. Which of these is a multicomponent material? **SELECT ALL THAT APPLY**
- A. Alkyd
 - B. Epoxy
 - C. Latex
 - D. Polyurea
 - E. Vinyl
3. What is the proper spray equipment to apply a Vinyl Ester lining to the interior of a tank?
- A. Conventional pot with agitator
 - B. Conventional air spray pot
 - C. Plural component airless
 - D. Airless pump

Answer Key:

1. **B**

Reference: SSPC-SP 1 Solvent Cleaning (2015)

2. **B & D**

Reference: Product Data Sheet (PDS)

3. **C**

Reference: Product Data Sheet (PDS)

Preparation

Available Training

Industrial Coating Application (ICA) eCourse (*not required*)

Standards

ANSI/NACE No. 13/SSPC-ACS-1 Standard Practice (Industrial Coating and Lining Application Specialist Qualification and Certification)

NACE No. 1/SSPC-SP 5 White Metal Blast Cleaning (RP0494-2006)

NACE No. 2/SSPC-SP 10 Near White Metal Blast Cleaning (RP0594-2006)

NACE No. 3/SSPC-SP 6 Commercial Blast Cleaning (RP0694-2006)

NACE No. 4/SSPC-SP 7 Brush Off Blast Cleaning (RP0794-2006)

NACE No. 6/SSPC-SP 13 Surface Preparation of Concrete (RP0397-2003)

NACE No. 8/SSPC-SP 14 Industrial Blast (RP0299-2006)

NACE No. 10/SSPC-PA 6 Fiberglass-Reinforced Plastic (RFP) Linings Applied to Bottoms of Carbon Steel Aboveground Storage Tanks (RP0202-2006)

NACE No. 11/SSPC-PA 8 Thin-Film Organic Linings Applied in New Carbon Steel Process Vessels (RP0103-03)

NACE No. 12/AWS C2.23M/SSPC-CS 23.00 Specification for the Application of Thermal Spray Coatings (Metallizing) of Aluminum, Zinc, and Their Alloys and Composites for the Corrosion Protection of Steel (2003)

SSPC-PA 1 Shop, Field, and Maintenance Coating of Metals (2016)

SSPC-PA 2 Procedure for Determining Conformance to Dry Coating Thickness Requirements (2015)

SSPC-SP 1 Solvent Cleaning (2015)

SSPC-SP 2 Hand Tool Cleaning (2004)

SSPC-SP 3 Power Tool Cleaning (2004)

Suggested Study Material

Local and International safety rules/regulations (i.e. OSHA, ISO, etc.)

Reference Material Provided During Exam

Safety Data Sheet (SDS)

Product Data Sheet (PDS)

What to expect on test day

Arriving at the Pearson Test Center

When you go to the Pearson Testing Center, there are a few things you should know. Please visit this link for information you should know before you go.

<https://home.pearsonvue.com/test-taker/security.aspx>

Computer-Based Test Demonstration

Once you are in the testing room and at the computer, you will start with agreeing to the non-disclosure agreement and have a brief tutorial of using the system. Please visit this link for a demonstration of the computer based exam. You will have the opportunity to practice answering a variety of questions to help you get familiar with how it all works.

<https://wsr.pearsonvue.com/demo/>