Practicum Exam Codes

Beginning with the April 2021 Exam administration, candidates should be familiarizing themselves with the following Chapters/Sections from the International Building Code (IBC) (2018), International Plumbing Code (IPC) (2018) and ICC A117.1 Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities (2009) in preparation for the NCIDQ Exam. These Codes will replace the NCIDQ Exam Building Codes (“Q-Codes”) which will be used with the Practicum exam for the last time during the October 2020 exam administration.

Below are the specific Chapters/Sections from the IBC and related Code books specific to Interior Design, which candidates should familiarize themselves with prior to taking the exam. Candidates will not be tested on all of the content contained in the various Chapters/Sections of the Code books. The Code information needed to answer questions on the Practicum exam will be provided as part of the Case Study Resources or as an Exhibit.

CANADIAN CANDIDATES: A task force comprised of both U.S. and Canadian certificate holders thoroughly reviewed and cross-referenced these codes with those from the National Building Code of Canada (2015). They determined that significant overlap existed between the IBC and Canadian code standards for the content areas being assessed. For purposes of continued evolution and enhanced public understanding of the rigor of the NCIDQ Exam, one set of recognized codes needed to be identified and CIDQ has adopted those listed below. Standardizing on these references for NCIDQ use will provide no distinct advantage to one candidate pool versus another as state and municipal codes in the US often supersede the IBC just as provincial codes are sometimes applied in practice rather than the National Building Code of Canada. These Codes will be provided as a resource within the Practicum Case Study. Ultimately, just as it is currently, Practicum candidates will be tested on whether they can refer to and apply the provided Code information in a question versus memorizing specific Codes.

INTERNATIONAL BUILDING CODE (2018)

CHAPTER 2  DEFINITIONS
CHAPTER 3  OCCUPANCY CLASSIFICATION AND USE
CHAPTER 4  SPECIAL DETAILED REQUIREMENTS BASED ON OCCUPANCY AND USE
CHAPTER 5  GENERAL BUILDING HEIGHTS AND AREAS
CHAPTER 6  TYPES OF CONSTRUCTION
CHAPTER 7  FIRE AND SMOKE PROTECTION FEATURES
CHAPTER 8  INTERIOR FINISHES
CHAPTER 9  FIRE PROTECTION AND LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS
CHAPTER 10  MEANS OF EGRESS
CHAPTER 11  ACCESSIBILITY
CHAPTER 12  INTERIOR ENVIRONMENT
CHAPTER 27  ELECTRICAL
CHAPTER 29  PLUMBING SYSTEMS

INTERNATIONAL PLUMBING CODE (2018)

CHAPTER 4  FIXTURES, FAUCETS AND FIXTURE FITTINGS

SECTION 403  MINIMUM PLUMBING FACILITIES
SECTION 404  ACCESSIBLE PLUMBING FACILITIES
SECTION 405  INSTALLATION OF FIXTURES
SECTION 407  BATHTUBS
\hspace{1cm} 407.4  BATHTUB ENCLOSURE
SECTION 421  SHOWERS
\hspace{1cm} 421.4  SHOWER COMPARTMENTS
\hspace{1cm} 421.5  SHOWER FLOORS OR RECEPTORS
\hspace{1cm} 421.6  GLAZING.
SECTION 426  WHIRLPOOL BATHTUBS
\hspace{1cm} 426.5  ACCESS TO PUMP
\hspace{1cm} 426.6  WHIRLPOOL ENCLOSURE

ICC A117.1  ACCESSIBLE AND USABLE BUILDINGS AND FACILITIES (2009)

CHAPTER 1  APPLICATION AND ADMINISTRATION
CHAPTER 3  BUILDING BLOCKS
CHAPTER 4  ACCESSIBLE ROUTES
CHAPTER 5       GENERAL SITE AND BUILDING ELEMENTS
CHAPTER 6       PLUMBING ELEMENTS AND FACILITIES
CHAPTER 8       SPECIAL ROOMS AND SPACES
CHAPTER 9       BUILT-IN FURNISHINGS AND EQUIPMENT
CHAPTER 10      DWELLING UNITS AND SLEEPING UNITS