

THE NCIDQ EXAM COVERS:

BUILDING CODES AND STANDARDS

The NCIDQ Exam is the industry standard for interior design certification and ensures candidates who pass the exam are well qualified to protect the health, safety, and welfare of the public through practice. Each of the exam's three sections covers myriad subjects essential to the protection of the public, including the ability to understand and apply building codes and standards, including relevant sections of the International Building Codes. Here you will find details and insight on what building code topics are covered in each section of the exam, as well as sample practice questions created by subject matter experts that help create the NCIDQ Exam.

IDFX

The **Fundamentals Exam** covers topics relating to life safety elements and ability to understand and analyze code required information. Topics assessed include, but are not limited to:

- Identification and requirements of egress components
- Accessible building features and facilities, routes, entrances, and fixtures, wayfinding signage
- Code-required signage complying with IBC, egress requirements, accessibility laws as well as wayfinding
- Identification of occupancy classification and use designation

IDPX

The **Professional Exam** tests candidates' knowledge of building codes and standards. Some topics assessed in this exam section are:

- Applying the IBC to determine change of occupancy, size of rentable area, and other project requirements
- Permit requirements
- Area measurement terminologies and methods as defined in BOMA
- Applying knowledge of different reference standards such as ASTM, ANSI, UL which govern the performance of different building components during distress
- Applying knowledge of building codes and standards, including ADA, IBC, OSHA

PRAC

The **Practicum Exam** is a scenario-based exam, where candidates must read and apply codes and standards. Some topics that are covered in this exam section are:

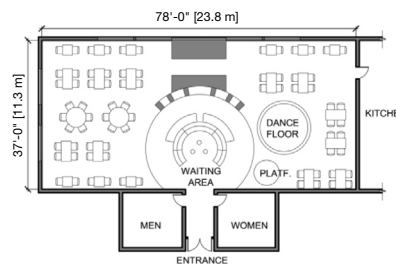
- Understanding how building codes will impact the change of occupancy, size of rentable area, and other project requirements
- Occupant load calculations
- Building construction classification and required fire rating
- Fire walls, fire barriers, fire partitions, smoke partitions, rated floor assemblies, vertical openings, shafts, and opening protections
- Interior finish classification standards
- Identification, and requirements of different egress components
- Accessible building features and facilities, routes, entrances, and fixtures, wayfinding signage
- Emergency lighting requirements, and energy usage and design
- Coordination with mechanical, electrical, and plumbing drawings to identify conflicts with design
- Area measurement terminologies and methods as defined in BOMA

Below are some sample practice questions, written by CIDQ subject matter experts, that show how the NCIDQ Exam assesses candidates' knowledge of building codes and standards.

Analyzing the preliminary floor plan of a restaurant with an occupancy load of 192, what code violation **MUST** be addressed to move on to a schematic floor plan?

- (A) An additional exit is required
- (B) A ramp is required to access Dining Area
- (C) Corridor to bathrooms must be a minimum of 48" [1200 mm] wide
- (D) Kitchen traffic to Dining Area cannot cross main traffic

Answer Key: A



OCCUPANT LOAD FACTORS	
DINING ROOM SEATING	11 SF [1.0 m ²]/PERSON
DANCE HALLS	3 SF [900 mm ²]/PERSON
EXIT CAPACITY	.2 SF [50 mm ²]/PERSON

Which of the following is a coordinator of voluntary standards development?

- (A) UL
- (B) ASTM
- (C) ANSI
- (D) ASHRAE

Answer Key: C

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