



INTERNATIONAL  
CODE  
COUNCIL

# National Contractor/Trades Examination Information Bulletin

**PUBLISHED November 30, 2021**

*This edition supersedes all previous bulletin editions*

*This bulletin answers most questions raised by examination candidates. Please read it carefully.  
You will find it a useful reference throughout your registration and examination process.*

## **International Code Council Vision**

Creating safe, affordable, and sustainable buildings and communities.

## **International Code Council Mission**

Provide the codes, tools, and resources that members rely on,  
building safety professionals turn to, and manufacturers and the public trust.

***Information contained in this bulletin is deemed accurate as of the time of posting.***

***Contents are subject to change at any time.***

***For the most updated information, visit the [Exam Catalog](#).***

1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233), ext. 5524  
customersuccess@iccsafe.org  
[www.iccsafe.org/contractor](http://www.iccsafe.org/contractor)

## About Code Council Contractor/Trades Testing

The International Code Council's Contractor/Trades examination program is an independent testing program designed to provide licensing agencies with information regarding qualified contractors and trades professionals. Participating in the Code Council examination program does not guarantee that a licensing agency will award you a license. However, the Code Council examination program serves as an independent appraisal of your competency in the construction field, and your test results may be used by licensing agencies to satisfy the requirements for testing.

The International Code Council is not a licensing agency. If you want to become licensed in a city, county, or state that participates with the Code Council, that jurisdiction will require you to take and pass a Code Council examination. Upon successful completion of the examination, contact the jurisdiction for any other requirements in order to become licensed.

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## General Information and Frequently Asked Questions

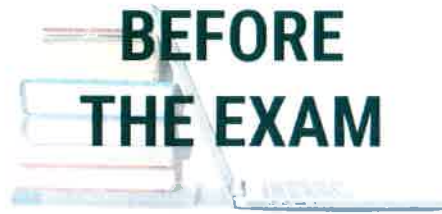
The purpose of this bulletin is to provide you with information regarding how to schedule and take your contractor/trades examination. Prior to scheduling a test with this program, you should first consult with your local or state licensing agency to determine which examination you should take. Some agencies may also require you to meet certain prequalification criteria prior to testing. You should therefore start your testing process by determining what test your local agency requires of you.

This bulletin is designed to follow the testing process from the initial application for testing up until the time when testing results are provided.

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**Note:** Examination requirements, including registration/scheduling, dates, locations, fees, and references are subject to change. Please make sure that you have the most current information before registering for/scheduling any examination. For up-to-date information on Code Council examinations, visit the [Exam Catalog](#) or call 1-888-ICC-SAFE (422-7233). For fastest service, for general questions, dial 0; for specific information on your certification, dial ext. 5524.



## Before Purchasing an Exam

### What examination do I need to take?

As requirements for employment differ from jurisdiction to jurisdiction, the Code Council cannot recommend specific examinations to you. We strongly encourage you to contact the jurisdiction in which you wish to work for more information on their specific exam requirements for licensure.

### How do I know if pre-approval is required for me to test?

Some licensing agencies may require you to apply through them prior to testing with ICC, while others may not. Please contact your local licensing agency or review the appropriate National Contractor/Trades Examination Information Bulletin on the Code Council's [website](#).

### How often can I test?

You must wait 10 days before retaking a failed exam. It is strongly recommended that you allow time to study the approved references before registering to test a second time.

### What examination methods are available?

The Code Council offers two different testing methods.

- **Pearson VUE** - Traditional, computer-based testing occurs at test sites administered by Pearson VUE frequently at over 350 sites across the nation. To locate test sites in your area, visit the [Pearson VUE](#) website for an updated listing of sites. Be aware that test sites are subject to change.
- **Proctored Remote Online Testing Option (PRONTO)** - is available any time; 24/7, 365 days/year. You can take your exam at your convenience on your home or office computer through a cloud-based testing system called PRONTO, offering secured online proctored exams. You will need a webcam and computer with working audio capability. For more information on PRONTO, click [here](#).  
\*\*\*Currently limited to specific exam titles; additional exams to become available 2022.

Visit the [Exam Catalog](#) for information on which testing method is available for your exam.

### What references or code books are the exams based on?

The approved references for each exam are listed in the Examination Outlines section of this bulletin. For the most up-to-date bulletin information, visit the [Exam Catalog](#).

### Are the examinations open book?

Most Contractor/Trades exams are open book. Refer to the Examination Outlines section of this bulletin for open/ closed book requirements for specific exams. For the most up-to-date bulletin, visit the [Exam Catalog](#). Additional policies governing the use of references can be found later in this bulletin.

### **What type of question format will be included in the examination?**

Test questions are in four-option, multiple-choice format, with one answer on each question scored as correct. Due to the rigorous psychometric processes used by the Code Council in exam development, questions do not follow patterns (e.g., "the most common answer is 'B'").

### **Can't I just look up all of the answers in the books?**

Because of the time constraints, you will not have time to look up all of the answers. For those answers you must look up, you must be VERY familiar with the references to avoid wasting time searching for information. First impressions are often the most accurate, but you may change your answers if time allows.

### **How long are the examinations?**

The length and allowed time vary depending upon the subject matter. To get the most updated information on examinations, visit the [Exam Catalog](#).

### **Should I guess if I don't know the answer to a question?**

There is no guessing penalty, so it is to your advantage to answer every question. Remember to base your answers on the listed references for each exam, not solely on long-time field practices.

### **What score do I need to pass the test?**

Most Contractor/Trades examinations require a candidate to answer at least 70 percent of their questions correctly in order to pass the exam. **The Master Electrician examination requires 75 percent of the questions to be answered correctly to pass.** Particular licensing agencies may require a passing score of higher than 70. It is important that you carefully read the relevant bulletin or contact the licensing agency for information regarding their minimum passing requirement.

### **When will I receive my results?**

Results for examinations taken electronically are available immediately after completion of the examination.

### **Do I have to be a computer whiz?**

Candidates are not required to have any computer knowledge to take the examination.

- **Pearson VUE** - before you begin your test, you may take up to 15 minutes to practice with the sample questions. Timing of the examination does not begin until you look at the first question of the actual examination. You will be allowed to change your answers, mark answers for review, go back to skipped questions and, time permitting, review your test.
- **PRONTO** - a Tutorial exam is available upon exam purchase. Log in to your [myICC](#) account and go to Pronto Dashboard.

### **How do I pay for my exam?**

- **Pearson VUE** - Examination fees must be paid by credit card, debit card (issued through VISA or MasterCard) or electronic check at the time a reservation is made, NOT at the test center. Candidates who do not have or do not wish to use a credit card, debit card, or personal checking account may choose to prepay their examination fees using a voucher. Vouchers can be purchased online at [ICC Contractors Vouchers](#) by credit card, either singly or in volume. To redeem a voucher as payment when scheduling a test, simply indicate "voucher" as the payment method and provide the voucher number.

- **PRONTO** – Examination fees must be paid by credit card, debit card or voucher.
  - If you have a [myICC](#) account, log in and access the [Exam Catalog](#).
  - If you do not have a myICC account, start [here](#) and create one prior to purchase.

**All exam vouchers are pre-paid, non-refundable, and non-returnable.** Vouchers expire twelve (12) months from the date they are issued, and voucher expiration dates cannot be extended. The exam must be taken by the expiration date printed on the voucher.

## After Purchasing an Exam

### How do I schedule/register for an exam?

It is your responsibility to read the Examination Information Bulletin for important information on examination requirements, procedures, and references allowed during the examination administration.

For **computer-based testing** through Pearson VUE you may schedule an examination online at [PearsonVUE](#). Follow the directions under "Contractor/Trade Licensing."

You may also schedule an examination over the phone by contacting Pearson VUE at 1-877-234-6082, following the scheduling procedures listed in this bulletin.

Code Council certification examinations are administered nationally, Tuesday through Saturday (exceptions noted below). Testing sessions are generally held at 8:00 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. Some test centers are open daily, while others are open on specific days of the week. In some locations, exams are administered on a monthly basis. Pearson VUE offices are closed in observance of the following holidays:

- |                               |                    |  |
|-------------------------------|--------------------|--|
| • New Year's Day              | • Independence Day | • Thanksgiving<br>(including the following Friday) |
| • Martin Luther King, Jr. Day | • Labor Day        | • Christmas Day                                    |
| • Memorial Day                | • Veteran's Day    |  |

You must have the following information available at the time you are registering for a Code Council computer-based examination:

- Exam ID and title. Exam IDs and titles can be found in this bulletin
- Your full name, address, and home and work telephone numbers
- Jurisdiction/state in which you wish to be licensed
- Selected examination date and location of the area you desire to take the exam
- Your credit card or payment information

For **PRONTO**, go to the ICC PRONTO web portal at [pronto.iccsafe.org](http://pronto.iccsafe.org) to register and pay for an exam.

## How do I reschedule/cancel my exam?

- **Pearson VUE** - You must notify Pearson VUE two business days before your scheduled examination; an administrative fee will incur. Click [here](#) or call 1-877-234-6082.

Test administrations will be delayed or canceled only in emergencies. If severe weather or a natural disaster makes the test center inaccessible or unsafe, the test administration may be canceled. Call Pearson VUE at 1-800-274-2615 to check weather or other emergency delays.

There are no refunds for examinations not taken. If, on the day you are scheduled to test, you are unable to attend the examination for which you were scheduled, you may be excused without monetary penalty for the following reasons:

- Documented illness, either yourself or immediate family member;
- Death in the immediate family;
- Disabling traffic accident;
- Court appearance or jury duty; or
- Military duty.

Written verification and supporting documentation for excused absences must be submitted to the Pearson VUE Program Coordinator via fax or mail within fourteen (14) days of the original examination date.

Pearson VUE  
c/o Candidate Services  
P.O. Box 8588  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
Fax: 888-204-6291

If you are absent from an examination that you were scheduled to attend, and you did not reschedule or cancel according to the policy, you will owe Pearson VUE the full examination fee for that missed examination.

- **PRONTO** - Exams must be withdrawn prior to the exam start time. Click [here](#) for additional information.

## What if I need testing accommodations?

If you have a disability that prohibits you from taking the examination under standard conditions, you may request special arrangements.

- **PearsonVUE** - Call 1-800-466-0450 or send an email to [accommodationspearsonvue@pearsonvue.com](mailto:accommodationspearsonvue@pearsonvue.com) requesting special testing services.
- **PRONTO** - Complete and submit the [ADA Accommodation Request Form](#)

## How do I access my passed exam results on the ICC website?

Visit [here](#) for the Contractor Exam pass link.



The rules and procedures below are strictly enforced at all Code Council examinations. Following these rules guarantees the security of examination materials, provides reliable test results, and increases the public's trust of certified professionals.

## Identity Verification

All candidates are required to present a government issued photo identification.



The identification must:

- Have the same legal first and last name that matches the exam record,
- Must be valid (not expired)
- Contain a signature

**NOTE:** Proxy testing is a violation of the ICC administrative rules. Candidates who participate in proxy testing may be permanently banned from testing and subject to legal action.

If you are unable to present identification as required by the Code Council, or have questions about what will be allowed, you must call ICC or Pearson VUE prior to your scheduled exam to make other arrangements.

## Candidate Behavior

Candidates are expected to remain professional at all times and treat the proctors with respect.

All ProctorU and PearsonVUE staff are tasked with ensuring examination integrity. They are well-trained and treat candidates with respect, and in turn, expect the same level of respect from candidates. Threatening a proctor or interfering with the administration of an examination at any time may be considered a criminal offense and punishable by law.

**NOTE:** Proctors cannot discuss contents of the exam or reference materials with a candidate.

Proctors have the right to end an examination administration at any time for examination anomalies including, but not limited to, the following behaviors:



- Gives or receives help during an examination
- Creating a disturbance
- Copying or attempts to copy examination questions or answers
- Is found to have prohibited materials (phones, recorders, loose papers, etc.) during the examination
- Talks during the examination
- Becomes belligerent or threatens the proctor, test site administration, or other candidates.



## Agree to ICC Rules

Prior to launching the examination, candidates are required to read and agree to follow all ICC rules, policies, and procedures.

This includes the following:



- [Candidate Agreement](#)
- [Certification Program Rules of Procedure](#)
- [ICC Code of Ethics](#)

## What can I bring to the exam?

### What is Allowed:

- Reference material(s) - please make sure the reference(s):
  - Are bound (either original bound book, three-ring binder, or stapled). Photocopies of copyrighted materials are not allowed.
  - All notes are written in ink or highlighted
  - Any tabs are permanently attached (tabs that can't be removed without destroying the page)
- Magnifying glass
- Eyeglasses, if necessary
- Architects' scale or ruler
- Foreign language/English translation dictionaries
- Battery-operated calculator that is:
  - Nonprogrammable
  - Not capable of storing examination information
  - No ribbon or paper printing capabilities

### What is not Allowed:

- No food or drink (unless approved through testing accommodations)
- Any kind of writing instruments, writing paper, or briefcases

**Note:** PRONTO candidates utilize an on screen "Global Notepad" during their examination. PearsonVUE candidates are supplied with a small whiteboard and a marker. This marker can ONLY be used to write on the white board. Candidates using the marker/pen to write in their reference materials are subject to disciplinary action by the CC.

- Personal items such as purses, wallets, or watches
- Calculators with print capability and/or that store formulas
- Copying, recording, or photo devices
- No electronic devices other than the device utilized for the examination (unless approved through testing accommodations)



### **How do I request a duplicate pass letter?**

Visit the [ICC Forms Library](#) > General Requests > and complete the [Replacement Result Letter](#).

### **Can my exam score be cancelled?**

The Code Council reserves the right to revoke or withhold any examination scores if, in its sole opinion, there is adequate reason to question their validity. Reasons are:

- Giving or receiving assistance with answers during testing
- Using unauthorized materials during testing
- Failing to abide by the rules presented or directions from the proctor(s)

In cases of examination irregularities which are suspected at testing centers, the scores of the individual(s) involved will not be released unless approved by the Code Council. Additional sanctions may be authorized by the Board, which may include restrictions on retesting for up to three (3) years.

### **How do I change my name and address?**

For Name and Address changes, visit the [ICC Forms Library](#) > General Requests > [Change of Candidate Information Form](#); ICC will advise if additional documentation is needed.

### **How do I make comments about an exam I took?**

Some scores may be rendered invalid because of circumstances beyond the examinee's control, such as faulty examination materials or mistiming. These situations will be investigated; when such occurrences result in cancellation of an examinee's scores, the Code Council will arrange for a makeup examination for the examinees concerned.

To have Code Council Assessment Center staff review comments or challenges on specific exams, exam items, or any issues encountered during your examination, you must submit a Contractor Appeals form to the Code Council.

Our experience shows that the best comments are those that come as soon after the testing process as possible. Include sufficient amount of detail to aid staff in the review of your challenged question(s) or issues related to the exam experience. Following receipt of your challenge, Assessment Center staff will investigate each comment for merit and final determination of approval or denial of your challenge.

You will be mailed a response from Code Council staff within 15 business days from receipt of the form by the Code Council; a request for staff review is based solely upon the most recent examination taken.

**IMPORTANT NOTE: If you retake a failed exam on which you have submitted an appeal, you will forfeit your appeal opportunity for that exam attempt.**

Comment/Challenge forms must be sent to the following mailing or email address:

International Code Council  
ATTN: Candidate Services Coordinator  
900 Montclair Road  
Birmingham, AL 35213  
Email: [appeals@iccsafe.org](mailto:appeals@iccsafe.org)

**G16 Master Electrician**

100 multiple-choice questions

Open book – 5-hour time limit

Pricing

PearsonVUE: \$115

PRONTO: \$115

Content Area	%	Reference
<b>General Knowledge</b> Electrical Theory and General Electrical Load Calculations, Code Definitions and Terms, Plan Reading	6%	2017 <i>National Electrical Code (NEC)</i> Ugly's Electrical Reference (any edition)
<b>Services and Service Equipment</b> Services and Fault Current, Service Load Calculations, Service Equipment & Service Conductors, Transformers, System Grounding and Bonding, Temporary Service Wiring	11%	
<b>Feeders</b> Load Calculations, Equipment Grounding	4%	
<b>Branch Circuits and Conductors</b> Branch Circuit Calculation, Overcurrent Protection, Conductors, Required Outlets & GFCI/ AFCI Protection, Equipment Grounding	19%	
<b>Wiring Methods and Materials</b> Raceway Installations, Underground Wiring Methods, Boxes and Enclosures, Cabinets, Panel boards, & Switchboards, Clearance and Guarding, Flexible Cords and Cables	26%	
<b>Equipment and Devices</b> Luminaires, Receptacles, Switches and Other Devices, Appliances and Other Equipment, Other Utilization Equipment, Heating and Cooling Equipment	13%	
<b>Control Devices</b> Switches, Disconnects and Controllers	4%	
<b>Motors and Generators</b> Motors, Generators	6%	
<b>Special Occupancies, Equipment, and Conditions</b> Special Occupancies, Swimming Pools and Similar Installations Mobile Home and RV Parks, Data Processing Equipment, Miscellaneous Special Equipment Emergency Systems, Signaling and Fire Alarm Systems	11%	