

California Alarm Company Operator Licensing Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

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Introduction

Preparing for a certification exam can feel overwhelming, but with the right tools, it becomes an opportunity to build confidence, sharpen your skills, and move one step closer to your goals. At Examzify, we believe that effective exam preparation isn't just about memorization, it's about understanding the material, identifying knowledge gaps, and building the test-taking strategies that lead to success.

This guide was designed to help you do exactly that.

Whether you're preparing for a licensing exam, professional certification, or entry-level qualification, this book offers structured practice to reinforce key concepts. You'll find a wide range of multiple-choice questions, each followed by clear explanations to help you understand not just the right answer, but why it's correct.

The content in this guide is based on real-world exam objectives and aligned with the types of questions and topics commonly found on official tests. It's ideal for learners who want to:

- Practice answering questions under realistic conditions,
- Improve accuracy and speed,
- Review explanations to strengthen weak areas, and
- Approach the exam with greater confidence.

We recommend using this book not as a stand-alone study tool, but alongside other resources like flashcards, textbooks, or hands-on training. For best results, we recommend working through each question, reflecting on the explanation provided, and revisiting the topics that challenge you most.

Remember: successful test preparation isn't about getting every question right the first time, it's about learning from your mistakes and improving over time. Stay focused, trust the process, and know that every page you turn brings you closer to success.

Let's begin.

How to Use This Guide

This guide is designed to help you study more effectively and approach your exam with confidence. Whether you're reviewing for the first time or doing a final refresh, here's how to get the most out of your Examzify study guide:

1. Start with a Diagnostic Review

Skim through the questions to get a sense of what you know and what you need to focus on. Your goal is to identify knowledge gaps early.

2. Study in Short, Focused Sessions

Break your study time into manageable blocks (e.g. 30 - 45 minutes). Review a handful of questions, reflect on the explanations.

3. Learn from the Explanations

After answering a question, always read the explanation, even if you got it right. It reinforces key points, corrects misunderstandings, and teaches subtle distinctions between similar answers.

4. Track Your Progress

Use bookmarks or notes (if reading digitally) to mark difficult questions. Revisit these regularly and track improvements over time.

5. Simulate the Real Exam

Once you're comfortable, try taking a full set of questions without pausing. Set a timer and simulate test-day conditions to build confidence and time management skills.

6. Repeat and Review

Don't just study once, repetition builds retention. Re-attempt questions after a few days and revisit explanations to reinforce learning. Pair this guide with other Examzify tools like flashcards, and digital practice tests to strengthen your preparation across formats.

There's no single right way to study, but consistent, thoughtful effort always wins. Use this guide flexibly, adapt the tips above to fit your pace and learning style. You've got this!

Questions

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- 1. For workers on a scissor lift, what is required for fall protection?**
 - A. Hard hat only**
 - B. A full-body harness without lanyard**
 - C. No fall protection is required**
 - D. They must be tied off or protected by guard rails**

- 2. Which term describes monitoring performed by the installing company for its own protected premises or that performs those functions for properties off premises?**
 - A. 1st party/proprietary monitoring**
 - B. 3rd party monitoring**
 - C. 2nd party monitoring**
 - D. Contract monitoring**

- 3. If an ACO license is expired for three years, what is its renewal status?**
 - A. It can be renewed**
 - B. It cannot be renewed**
 - C. It can be renewed with a late fee**
 - D. It requires reapplication as a new license**

- 4. If you want to dispute or contest something BSIS found on your criminal record, how much time do you have for this?**
 - A. 30 days**
 - B. 60 days**
 - C. 45 days**
 - D. 90 days**

- 5. What is the fine if an ACO licensee fails to maintain an accurate record of all firearms used by licensees and employees while on duty?**
 - A. \$5 per violation**
 - B. \$25 per violation**
 - C. \$50 per violation**
 - D. \$75 per violation**

- 6. Class 2 and Class 3 circuits are regulated under which NEC section?**
- A. NEC 725**
 - B. NEC 300**
 - C. NEC 600**
 - D. NEC 500**
- 7. The minimum years of alarm company work experience to obtain an ACO license is?**
- A. One**
 - B. Three**
 - C. Four**
 - D. Two**
- 8. Intruder photoelectric units shall be mounted at what height?**
- A. 6 to 12 inches**
 - B. 60 to 72 inches**
 - C. Not less than 18 inches nor more than 36 inches**
 - D. 12 to 18 inches**
- 9. Which statement about riser cables is true?**
- A. Designed For Outdoor Use Only.**
 - B. Designed For Plenum Spaces.**
 - C. Designed For Non-Plenum Vertical Spaces Such As Between Floors.**
 - D. Not Rated For Fire Retardancy.**
- 10. Which statement about CP-01 standards is true?**
- A. It applies to all new installations in California**
 - B. It is not used in California**
 - C. It is required in some California jurisdictions for new installations or as a remedy for chronic abusers**
 - D. It applies only to existing installations**

Answers

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1. D
2. A
3. B
4. C
5. B
6. A
7. D
8. C
9. C
10. C

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Explanations

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1. For workers on a scissor lift, what is required for fall protection?

- A. Hard hat only**
- B. A full-body harness without lanyard**
- C. No fall protection is required**
- D. They must be tied off or protected by guard rails**

On a scissor lift, fall protection comes from the platform's guard rails. They are designed to enclose the work area and prevent a fall, so workers must be protected by those guard rails. If the task requires leaning out or moving beyond the rails, a personal fall protection system must be used and tied off to an approved anchor on the lift. A hard hat does not provide fall protection, a harness without a lanyard isn't a complete system, and no fall protection at height is not acceptable.

2. Which term describes monitoring performed by the installing company for its own protected premises or that performs those functions for properties off premises?

- A. 1st party/proprietary monitoring**
- B. 3rd party monitoring**
- C. 2nd party monitoring**
- D. Contract monitoring**

The situation describes monitoring that is done by the installer itself, either for its own premises or for other properties under its control. That is known as first-party or proprietary monitoring. It means the company that installs the system also operates the monitoring center, giving it direct control over the monitoring process and immediate oversight of alarms. This differs from third-party monitoring, where an independent central station handles monitoring for customers and is not owned by the installer. The other terms aren't standard for this setup: second-party monitoring isn't describing the installer's own monitoring, and contract monitoring refers more to a contractual arrangement with another entity rather than the installing company actually running the monitoring.

3. If an ACO license is expired for three years, what is its renewal status?

- A. It can be renewed**
- B. It cannot be renewed**
- C. It can be renewed with a late fee**
- D. It requires reapplication as a new license**

When an ACO license has been expired for a long period, renewal is no longer an option. After a three-year lapse, the licensing rules require starting over with a brand-new license application rather than renewing the old credential. In practical terms, you'd submit a new application, pay the full license fees, and complete any required steps for new licensure (such as background checks or exams) as if applying anew. The idea of renewing with a late fee isn't available after such a long gap, and the license cannot simply be extended or revived as-is. So, the renewal is not possible; a new license application is required.

- 4. If you want to dispute or contest something BSIS found on your criminal record, how much time do you have for this?**
- A. 30 days**
 - B. 60 days**
 - C. 45 days**
 - D. 90 days**

When BSIS flags something on your criminal record, you have a limited window to challenge it. The time allowed to dispute that finding is 45 days from the date you receive the notice. This deadline is about ensuring you have a timely chance to present evidence or request a hearing, so the record can be reviewed before it affects your licensing or employment prospects. Act promptly once you receive the notice. You'll typically need to submit a clear explanation of what you're disputing, along with any supporting documents—for example, case numbers, disposition documents, or corrected records. If you stay within the 45-day window, BSIS can review your dispute and may set up a hearing if needed. Missing the deadline generally makes it harder to overturn the entry as part of the licensing process, so acting quickly is important.

- 5. What is the fine if an ACO licensee fails to maintain an accurate record of all firearms used by licensees and employees while on duty?**
- A. \$5 per violation**
 - B. \$25 per violation**
 - C. \$50 per violation**
 - D. \$75 per violation**

Focusing on accountability for armed personnel, the rule requires an ACO licensee to maintain precise records of every firearm used by licensees and employees while on duty. When this record-keeping is not accurate, the regulation imposes a fine of twenty-five dollars for each violation. This per-violation structure means that each instance of failing to keep or update the records counts separately, so multiple firearms or multiple employees could multiply the penalties. The other amounts don't align with the cited regulatory penalty for this specific record-keeping failure, so twenty-five dollars per violation is the correct figure.

6. Class 2 and Class 3 circuits are regulated under which NEC section?

- A. NEC 725**
- B. NEC 300**
- C. NEC 600**
- D. NEC 500**

These circuits are power-limited low-voltage control and signaling paths, so the NEC assigns their rules to the section that specifically defines and governs Class 2 and Class 3 circuits. This article sets the limits on voltage and power, and it covers the approved wiring methods, terminations, and overcurrent protections for these circuits. The goal is to keep these circuits safe for handling and common-use devices like alarms, sensors, and controllers, while allowing simpler installation rules than general electrical wiring. Other sections cover different areas: general wiring methods for higher-energy distribution, equipment and sign-related installations, or hazardous-location rules. Those areas aren't tailored to the low-power, control-focused nature of Class 2 and Class 3 circuits, which is why the specific article for power-limited circuits is the correct reference.

7. The minimum years of alarm company work experience to obtain an ACO license is?

- A. One**
- B. Three**
- C. Four**
- D. Two**

The key idea here is knowing what experience is required to qualify as an Alarm Company Operator. The licensing rule sets two years of real-world alarm industry work as the minimum, ensuring the applicant has hands-on exposure to how an alarm business operates—from dealing with monitoring centers and technicians to handling client needs and complying with regulations. This amount of time is long enough to reveal competence in managing daily operations, risk, and safety concerns, without being so long that it becomes burdensome to meet. One year would generally not provide a broad enough view of the business to responsibly run an alarm company, while three or four years exceed the minimum required and aren't necessary to grant licensure. Two years hits the right balance: it verifies practical experience while keeping the licensure process attainable.

8. Intruder photoelectric units shall be mounted at what height?

- A. 6 to 12 inches**
- B. 60 to 72 inches**
- C. Not less than 18 inches nor more than 36 inches**
- D. 12 to 18 inches**

Key idea: where you place an intrusion photoelectric unit affects how reliably it detects a person while avoiding false alarms and tampering. Mounting it between 18 and 36 inches from the floor places the sensing element in the zone where a person walking or passing through a doorway is likely to interrupt the beam or trigger the detector. This height avoids common nuisance triggers from low-lying objects, dust, or pets that occur when the device is mounted too low, and it isn't so high that an average intruder can bypass the sensing path or that the beam isn't intercepted effectively. It also keeps the unit out of easy reach for tampering while still being accessible for maintenance. For these reasons, the recommended range is not less than 18 inches and not more than 36 inches.

9. Which statement about riser cables is true?

- A. Designed For Outdoor Use Only.**
- B. Designed For Plenum Spaces.**
- C. Designed For Non-Plenum Vertical Spaces Such As Between Floors.**
- D. Not Rated For Fire Retardancy.**

Riser cables are rated for vertical runs between floors, such as in shafts or chases, where a fire could quickly move upward. In those non-plenum vertical spaces, the goal is to slow flame spread and limit smoke, so the cables are designed for that specific setting. Plenum spaces, which are air-handling corridors, require even stricter performance (plenum-rated) due to high air flow, so cables intended for plenums are a separate rating and not what riser cables use. Outdoor use is not the defining factor here, and fire-retardant properties are part of the riser rating to meet safety codes. Therefore, the true statement is that riser cables are designed for non-plenum vertical spaces such as between floors.

10. Which statement about CP-01 standards is true?

- A. It applies to all new installations in California**
- B. It is not used in California**
- C. It is required in some California jurisdictions for new installations or as a remedy for chronic abusers**
- D. It applies only to existing installations**

CP-01 standards are local requirements adopted by some California jurisdictions to regulate alarm systems, especially to curb false alarms and control how new installations are set up. The statement that it is required in certain California jurisdictions for new installations or as a remedy for chronic abusers captures the actual use: it isn't a statewide mandate, but a local one, and it serves two purposes in those places—governing new installations and providing remedies for repeated false-alarm offenders. Because CP-01 isn't uniform across the entire state, it won't apply to every new installation statewide. It also isn't limited only to existing installations, which would miss the intended application to new systems and to chronic abusers. In California, some cities or counties implement CP-01 as part of their local alarm-control framework, shaping how new systems are installed and how repeat offenders are addressed.

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Next Steps

Congratulations on reaching the final section of this guide. You've taken a meaningful step toward passing your certification exam and advancing your career.

As you continue preparing, remember that consistent practice, review, and self-reflection are key to success. Make time to revisit difficult topics, simulate exam conditions, and track your progress along the way.

If you need help, have suggestions, or want to share feedback, we'd love to hear from you. Reach out to our team at hello@examzify.com.

Or visit your dedicated course page for more study tools and resources:

<https://caalarmcompanyop.examzify.com>

We wish you the very best on your exam journey. You've got this!

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