

# FDNY CoF Low PSI Oil Burner Operator P-99 Practice Test (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

- 1. Periodic boiler inspections must include a check on what aspect?**
  - A. Only the boiler itself**
  - B. Boiler and chimney connections**
  - C. All fuel types and storage**
  - D. Only operational logs**
- 2. Which valve is provided for safety if the pressure becomes too great?**
  - A. Safety relief valve**
  - B. Main control valve**
  - C. Back Pressure Relief**
  - D. Flow control valve**
- 3. What is the function of a pressure relief valve in an oil burner system?**
  - A. Prevent excessive pressure buildup**
  - B. Regulate the temperature of the burner**
  - C. Control the flow of air**
  - D. Increase the fuel supply**
- 4. What is the primary reason for using a secondary combustion air supply?**
  - A. To lower the noise level of the burner**
  - B. To enhance combustion efficiency and reduce emissions**
  - C. To increase oil flow**
  - D. To maintain temperature control**
- 5. What does the high temperature safety control monitor in an automatic burner?**
  - A. The efficiency of the oil combustion**
  - B. Temperature changes in the storage tank**
  - C. Prevent overheating of the burner and associated components**
  - D. Environmental temperature**

- 6. Which device is responsible for transforming liquid fuel into vapor for combustion?**
- A. Oil burner**
  - B. Combustion chamber**
  - C. Heat exchanger**
  - D. Venturi tube**
- 7. Which component ignites the oil-air mixture in an oil burner?**
- A. Burner fan**
  - B. Oil pump**
  - C. Ignition electrode**
  - D. Fuel nozzle**
- 8. What should a burner operator do if they notice persistent flickering in the flame?**
- A. Continue monitoring without change**
  - B. Immediately shut down the burner**
  - C. Adjust the thermostat settings**
  - D. Inspect for air drafts or fuel supply issues**
- 9. What circulates the oil throughout the system?**
- A. Pump**
  - B. Return line**
  - C. Suction line**
  - D. Filtering mechanism**
- 10. What can cause the burner flame to flicker?**
- A. Excessive soot buildup**
  - B. Improper air-to-fuel ratio**
  - C. Low oil pressure**
  - D. Faulty ignition system**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Periodic boiler inspections must include a check on what aspect?**

**A. Only the boiler itself**

**B. Boiler and chimney connections**

**C. All fuel types and storage**

**D. Only operational logs**

Periodic boiler inspections are crucial for ensuring safety and efficiency in boiler operations. Inspections must encompass various aspects of the boiler system, including the connections between the boiler and the chimney. These connections are critical because they play a vital role in venting combustion gases safely out of the building. A failure in this area can lead to dangerous situations, such as gas leaks or carbon monoxide buildup, which can pose serious health risks to occupants. Furthermore, checking the boiler and chimney connections allows inspectors to identify any obstructions, corrosion, or structural issues that could impair the safe operation of the system. This comprehensive approach helps ensure that all components linked with the combustion process are functioning correctly and safely, thus minimizing any potential hazards. In contrast, focusing solely on the boiler itself ignores the importance of the entire system, while checking only operational logs does not address the physical condition of the heating equipment. Additionally, considering all fuel types and storage, while essential for overall operational safety, is not specifically tied to the immediate concerns of boiler and chimney functionality during a routine inspection.

**2. Which valve is provided for safety if the pressure becomes too great?**

**A. Safety relief valve**

**B. Main control valve**

**C. Back Pressure Relief**

**D. Flow control valve**

The safety relief valve is specifically designed to protect a system by releasing pressure when it exceeds a predetermined limit. This function is crucial in preventing potential damage to pipes, tanks, and other components that could result from over-pressurization. When pressure builds up beyond a safe threshold, the safety relief valve opens and allows excess pressure to escape, thereby maintaining safety in operation. In contrast, the main control valve regulates the flow and pressure as part of normal operation but does not directly address safety concerns related to excessive pressure. The back pressure relief valve serves to maintain a certain pressure within a system but is not specifically designed for the safety of relieving excessive pressure. The flow control valve's primary purpose is to manage the flow rate, not pressure levels, and thus does not offer safety measures against high-pressure situations.

**3. What is the function of a pressure relief valve in an oil burner system?**

- A. Prevent excessive pressure buildup**
- B. Regulate the temperature of the burner**
- C. Control the flow of air**
- D. Increase the fuel supply**

The function of a pressure relief valve in an oil burner system is to prevent excessive pressure buildup. This component is crucial for maintaining safe operating conditions within the system. In the event that pressure exceeds a predetermined level, the pressure relief valve automatically opens to allow fluid to escape, ensuring that the system does not reach a dangerous level of pressure. This helps protect the equipment from potential damage and reduces the risk of accidents such as explosions or ruptures that could result from overpressurization. In contrast, other options like regulating the temperature of the burner, controlling the flow of air, or increasing the fuel supply are not roles of the pressure relief valve. Temperature regulation typically involves thermostats or temperature sensors, airflow is managed through dampers or fans, and fuel supply control falls under the responsibility of fuel metering devices. Thus, the primary and defining role of the pressure relief valve is indeed to safeguard against excessive pressure conditions.

**4. What is the primary reason for using a secondary combustion air supply?**

- A. To lower the noise level of the burner**
- B. To enhance combustion efficiency and reduce emissions**
- C. To increase oil flow**
- D. To maintain temperature control**

The primary reason for using a secondary combustion air supply is to enhance combustion efficiency and reduce emissions. In an oil burner system, the primary combustion air is typically mixed with fuel to create an optimal burning environment. However, additional or secondary combustion air can be introduced to ensure that there is an adequate supply of oxygen for complete combustion of the fuel. This extra air helps to achieve a more efficient burn, which in turn converts more of the fuel into usable energy. When fuel burns more completely, it reduces the production of harmful byproducts, such as unburned hydrocarbons and carbon monoxide, thus decreasing emissions. Improved combustion efficiency is beneficial not only for environmental reasons but also for operational efficiency, as it can lead to better heat output and reduced fuel consumption. Utilizing secondary air can also help to maintain a stable flame and improve the overall performance of the burner, which is crucial for maintaining safe and effective operations. Therefore, the inclusion of a secondary combustion air supply plays a vital role in optimizing the combustion process within oil-burning equipment.

**5. What does the high temperature safety control monitor in an automatic burner?**

- A. The efficiency of the oil combustion**
- B. Temperature changes in the storage tank**
- C. Prevent overheating of the burner and associated components**
- D. Environmental temperature**

The high temperature safety control is a critical component of an automatic burner system designed to ensure safe operation. It primarily functions to monitor the temperature of the burner and its associated components. This safety device is crucial for preventing overheating, which could potentially lead to equipment damage or hazardous conditions. By maintaining temperatures within acceptable limits, it protects the integrity of the burner and ensures that operation remains safe and efficient. Monitoring temperature changes in the system is essential for avoiding failures and accidents. If the temperature rises too high, the safety control can activate shut-off mechanisms to prevent further operation until the issue is resolved. This capability is fundamental to maintaining safety in an oil-fired burner operation, where excessive heat can pose serious risks. Thus, the correct choice reflects the purpose of the high temperature safety control in safeguarding the operational aspects of the burner.

**6. Which device is responsible for transforming liquid fuel into vapor for combustion?**

- A. Oil burner**
- B. Combustion chamber**
- C. Heat exchanger**
- D. Venturi tube**

The device responsible for transforming liquid fuel into vapor for combustion is the oil burner. An oil burner is specifically designed to atomize the liquid fuel, creating a fine mist that mixes with air, allowing for more efficient combustion in the combustion chamber. This atomization process is crucial because it enhances the surface area of the fuel, facilitating better mixing with air and improving combustion efficiency. In addition, while other devices play important roles in the overall heating system, they do not specialize in the vaporization process. The combustion chamber is where the actual burning occurs, the heat exchanger is responsible for transferring heat from the combustion process to the surrounding environment or to a fluid for heating purposes, and the Venturi tube is involved in creating a vacuum that aids in fuel delivery but does not transform the liquid fuel itself. Therefore, the oil burner is the most appropriate choice for vaporizing liquid fuel in preparation for combustion.

**7. Which component ignites the oil-air mixture in an oil burner?**

- A. Burner fan**
- B. Oil pump**
- C. Ignition electrode**
- D. Fuel nozzle**

The ignition electrode plays a crucial role in the operation of an oil burner by providing the spark needed to ignite the oil-air mixture. When the oil and air are properly mixed and delivered to the combustion chamber, the ignition electrode generates a high-voltage spark that ignites this mixture. This initial ignition is critical for starting the combustion process, allowing the burner to produce heat effectively. The burner fan, while important for drawing in air and ensuring proper airflow, does not ignite the mixture. The oil pump is responsible for delivering fuel from the storage tank to the burner but not for ignition. The fuel nozzle atomizes the oil to create a fine mist, which aids in combustion, but it is the ignition electrode that is directly responsible for starting the fire by creating the necessary spark. Thus, the ignition electrode is essential in the combustion system for successfully igniting the oil-air mixture.

**8. What should a burner operator do if they notice persistent flickering in the flame?**

- A. Continue monitoring without change**
- B. Immediately shut down the burner**
- C. Adjust the thermostat settings**
- D. Inspect for air drafts or fuel supply issues**

If a burner operator notices persistent flickering in the flame, it is essential to inspect for air drafts or fuel supply issues. Flickering flames can indicate unstable combustion, which can lead to inefficiencies or potential hazards. Air drafts can cause irregular airflow, disrupting the proper mixture of fuel and air that is necessary for a stable flame. Similarly, issues with the fuel supply, such as blockages or irregular pressure, can also contribute to this flickering. By identifying the root cause of the flickering, the operator can address the situation before it escalates to more serious problems, such as incomplete combustion or even flame-outs. Regular checks for drafts and ensuring that the fuel supply is consistent and unobstructed are critical maintenance practices for safe and efficient burner operation. This proactive approach to troubleshooting is a key responsibility for burner operators to ensure safety and proper functioning of the equipment.

## 9. What circulates the oil throughout the system?

- A. Pump
- B. Return line
- C. Suction line**
- D. Filtering mechanism

In an oil burner system, the component that is primarily responsible for circulating the oil throughout the entire system is the pump. The pump effectively moves the oil from the storage tank through various lines to the burner, ensuring a continuous supply for combustion. While the suction line plays a role in drawing oil into the pump from the tank, it is not the component that circulates the oil throughout the entire system on its own. The return line is involved in returning unused oil back to the tank, and the filtering mechanism is there to filter the oil before it reaches the burner but does not engage in the circulation process itself. Therefore, the pump's function encompasses the necessary movement of oil, making it essential for maintaining the oil delivery and ensuring the proper working condition of the burner. Understanding the role of the pump is vital for anyone operating an oil burner, as it directly impacts the system's efficiency and safety.

## 10. What can cause the burner flame to flicker?

- A. Excessive soot buildup
- B. Improper air-to-fuel ratio**
- C. Low oil pressure
- D. Faulty ignition system

A flickering burner flame is often indicative of an improper air-to-fuel ratio. The air-to-fuel ratio is crucial for achieving efficient combustion in oil burners. If there is not enough air mixed with the fuel, or if there is too much air, it can lead to unstable combustion, resulting in a flame that flickers as the burner struggles to maintain a consistent burn. This may happen due to air supply issues, or if the fuel is not vaporizing properly, both of which can lead to an imbalance that manifests as a flickering flame. While excessive soot buildup, low oil pressure, and a faulty ignition system can all lead to problems with burner performance, they typically result in other symptoms. For instance, excessive soot buildup might lead to a weak flame or smoke, but not necessarily flickering. Low oil pressure can result in flame instability or extinguishment. A faulty ignition system generally leads to failure to ignite or inconsistent startup performance. Properly addressing the air-to-fuel ratio is essential for maintaining a stable and continuous flame, making it the primary cause of flickering in this scenario.