

HAZMAT CDL Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide



Everything you need from our exam experts!

This is a sample study guide. To access the full version with hundreds of questions,

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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. Don't worry about getting everything right, 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, and take breaks to retain information better.

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.

7. Use Other Tools

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!

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Questions

- 1. In what situation are hazardous material shipping papers not required to be on the driver?**
 - A. When the materials are less than 100 pounds**
 - B. When at a stop for servicing**
 - C. When materials are not classified as hazardous**
 - D. During personal use**
- 2. What hazardous material is considered dangerous when wet?**
 - A. Sodium**
 - B. Battery Fluid**
 - C. Anthrax Virus**
 - D. Uranium**
- 3. Under what condition can you drive a placarded vehicle near an open fire?**
 - A. Always stop to assess the situation**
 - B. You should always avoid stopping**
 - C. You can drive near if you are experienced**
 - D. When safety measures are outlined**
- 4. In an emergency involving hazardous materials, what is a critical responsibility for those in the area?**
 - A. Distributing food and water**
 - B. Prevent contact with the material**
 - C. Taking photos for insurance**
 - D. Recording the incident**
- 5. What must the shipper do regarding placards?**
 - A. Attach them to the shipment**
 - B. Supply them**
 - C. Verify their accuracy**
 - D. Design them**

- 6. A hazardous material with a class number of 1 indicates what type of risk?**
- A. Low Risk**
 - B. Medium Risk**
 - C. High Risk**
 - D. Negligible Risk**
- 7. What can't nitric acid be loaded above?**
- A. Another product**
 - B. A classification division chart**
 - C. Both A and B**
 - D. A separate container**
- 8. What steps are taken to communicate hazards to shippers and carriers?**
- A. Regular training exercises**
 - B. Implementation of safety gear**
 - C. Usage of hazard warning labels and shipping papers**
 - D. Annual vehicle inspections**
- 9. If an X or RQ is in the HM column of a shipping paper entry, what does it indicate?**
- A. The shipment is not regulated**
 - B. The shipment contains a non-hazardous material**
 - C. The shipment is regulated by hazardous materials regulations**
 - D. The shipment requires special handling**
- 10. If you are hauling Division 4.3 materials, what must you do before approaching a railroad-highway crossing?**
- A. Notify the railroad company**
 - B. Stop and check for trains**
 - C. Speed through to clear the intersection quickly**
 - D. Continue without stopping**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. In what situation are hazardous material shipping papers not required to be on the driver?

- A. When the materials are less than 100 pounds**
- B. When at a stop for servicing**
- C. When materials are not classified as hazardous**
- D. During personal use**

Shipping papers for hazardous materials are a crucial component of transporting these materials safely and legally. They provide detailed information about the contents of a shipment, which is essential for emergency responders in the event of an incident involving hazardous materials. The correct answer is that hazardous material shipping papers are not required when materials are not classified as hazardous. If a substance does not meet the criteria for being classified as hazardous, the stringent regulations that govern the transport of hazardous materials, including the requirement for shipping papers, do not apply. This means that when a material is deemed non-hazardous, both the regulatory requirements and the associated documentation, such as shipping papers, can be bypassed. In other scenarios, such as when materials weigh less than 100 pounds, the requirement for shipping papers may not always be waived based solely on weight; it depends on the material's classification. Stopping for servicing does not excuse a driver from having the shipping papers on hand, as they need to be ready to provide this information at any time. During personal use, if the materials remain classified as hazardous, shipping papers would still be necessary regardless of the use case.

2. What hazardous material is considered dangerous when wet?

- A. Sodium**
- B. Battery Fluid**
- C. Anthrax Virus**
- D. Uranium**

Sodium is considered dangerous when wet because it is a highly reactive metal that can ignite spontaneously upon contact with water. When sodium interacts with water, it undergoes a vigorous chemical reaction, producing sodium hydroxide and hydrogen gas. The hydrogen gas can ignite and explode, creating significant hazards. This characteristic makes sodium particularly dangerous in environments where it may come into contact with moisture. The other materials listed do not share this specific property regarding reactivity with water. Battery fluid can be corrosive but doesn't pose the same immediate explosive risk when wet. The anthrax virus is a biological hazard, but it does not have a hazardous reaction with water. Uranium is a radioactive material but is not particularly reactive with water under normal conditions. This distinction highlights the unique nature of sodium concerning its dangers when wet.

3. Under what condition can you drive a placarded vehicle near an open fire?

- A. Always stop to assess the situation**
- B. You should always avoid stopping**
- C. You can drive near if you are experienced**
- D. When safety measures are outlined**

The scenario of driving a placarded vehicle near an open fire involves significant safety considerations due to the potential hazards associated with transporting hazardous materials. Stopping near an open fire presents a risk of ignition or explosion, which is why avoiding stopping is crucial under these conditions. When a vehicle is placarded, it indicates the presence of hazardous materials that can react dangerously if exposed to high heat or flames. Therefore, maintaining a safe distance and not stopping minimizes the risk of an incident occurring. This preventative action aligns with safety protocols established for transporting hazardous materials. Understanding these protocols is fundamental for ensuring the safety of the driver, their cargo, and the public. Thus, the guidance to avoid stopping when near an open fire is rooted in prioritizing safety and minimizing risks associated with hazardous materials.

4. In an emergency involving hazardous materials, what is a critical responsibility for those in the area?

- A. Distributing food and water**
- B. Prevent contact with the material**
- C. Taking photos for insurance**
- D. Recording the incident**

In an emergency involving hazardous materials, a critical responsibility for those in the area is to prevent contact with the material. This is essential because hazardous materials can pose significant risks to health and safety, including potential exposure or contamination. Ensuring that personnel and bystanders do not come into contact with the hazardous substance helps to minimize the risk of injury, illness, or environmental damage. Taking proactive measures to prevent contact includes implementing safety zones and using barriers when available. This approach not only protects individuals but also contains the spread of the hazardous material, thereby aiding in overall emergency response efforts. While distributing food and water, taking photos for insurance, and recording the incident may be important in certain contexts, they do not address the immediate health and safety risks that hazardous materials present. Prioritizing the safety of individuals by preventing contact with harmful substances is crucial in any emergency response situation involving HAZMAT.

5. What must the shipper do regarding placards?

- A. Attach them to the shipment**
- B. Supply them**
- C. Verify their accuracy**
- D. Design them**

The shipper is responsible for supplying the correct placards for the transportation of hazardous materials. This is a critical part of ensuring safety during the shipment process. Placards serve as warning signs that indicate the presence of hazardous materials to transporters and emergency responders. By supplying them, the shipper ensures that the appropriate and legally required markings are available to communicate the type and degree of hazard associated with the materials being transported. The shipper must ensure that these placards meet regulations and are adequate for the specific materials in question. While the other tasks related to placards, such as attaching them or verifying their accuracy, are important, the primary responsibility lies in supplying them. This underscores the role of the shipper in the overall supply chain to promote safety and compliance with hazardous materials regulations.

6. A hazardous material with a class number of 1 indicates what type of risk?

- A. Low Risk**
- B. Medium Risk**
- C. High Risk**
- D. Negligible Risk**

A hazardous material classified under class number 1 signifies explosives, which are substances that can undergo rapid decomposition, potentially producing gas and heat, and sometimes resulting in an explosion. This classification inherently carries a high level of risk due to the volatile nature of explosives and their capacity to cause significant harm if not handled or transported properly. The associated risks include severe injury, property damage, and environmental impact. The classification system for hazardous materials is designed to communicate and categorize the level of danger posed by different substances. Class number 1 indicates that the materials within this category require strict regulations for handling, packaging, and transportation to ensure safety. In contrast, lower class numbers or non-hazardous materials pose less severe risks, making the classification extremely critical for those involved in transportation and related industries.

7. What can't nitric acid be loaded above?

- A. Another product
- B. A classification division chart
- C. Both A and B**
- D. A separate container

Nitric acid is a highly corrosive and reactive substance that requires careful handling and storage to prevent dangerous reactions. It poses specific risks, particularly when it comes into contact with other materials. Because of its properties, it should never be loaded above another product. Doing so could lead to contamination, unintended chemical reactions, or even dangerous spills if the containers were to leak. Additionally, nitric acid must also adhere to classifications regarding its storage and transport. Loading it above a classification division chart implies that certain safety standards and protocols are not being honored. Therefore, both the requirement not to load it above another product and the consideration of appropriate classifications highlight the necessity for strict adherence to safety guidelines in handling hazardous materials. Overall, the answer reflects the comprehensive safety requirements for transporting nitric acid and the critical importance of preventing conditions that might lead to accidents or hazardous exposure.

8. What steps are taken to communicate hazards to shippers and carriers?

- A. Regular training exercises
- B. Implementation of safety gear
- C. Usage of hazard warning labels and shipping papers**
- D. Annual vehicle inspections

The correct choice is centered on the essential practice of utilizing hazard warning labels and shipping papers to communicate hazards to shippers and carriers. Hazard warning labels are crucial tools that visually alert anyone handling or transporting hazardous materials about the risks associated with them. These labels often use standardized symbols and colors to ensure that the information is immediately recognizable and comprehensible, promoting safe handling. Shipping papers, on the other hand, provide detailed information about the substance being transported, including its classification, quantity, and any specific handling requirements. This documentation is vital because it must accompany the shipment and be available to all personnel involved in its transport. These documents not only outline the hazards but also provide necessary instructions in case of an emergency, thus making it a fundamental step in ensuring safety during the transportation of hazardous materials. While regular training exercises, implementation of safety gear, and annual vehicle inspections are important components of an overall safety program, they do not directly serve the primary purpose of communicating hazards during the shipping and transportation process.

9. If an X or RQ is in the HM column of a shipping paper entry, what does it indicate?

- A. The shipment is not regulated**
- B. The shipment contains a non-hazardous material**
- C. The shipment is regulated by hazardous materials regulations**
- D. The shipment requires special handling**

When an "X" or "RQ" appears in the HM (Hazardous Material) column of a shipping paper entry, it indicates that the shipment is regulated by hazardous materials regulations. This coding signifies that the materials being transported are classified as hazardous, either due to their potential danger to health, property, or the environment, or because their quantity meets or exceeds the reportable quantity (RQ) for a specific substance. The presence of "X" or "RQ" serves as a critical alert to carriers and emergency responders regarding the need for special handling, compliance with specific safety regulations, and the appropriate response in case of an incident. Understanding these designations is essential for maintaining safety standards in transportation and ensuring compliance with federal and state regulations, thereby minimizing risk during the shipping process.

10. If you are hauling Division 4.3 materials, what must you do before approaching a railroad-highway crossing?

- A. Notify the railroad company**
- B. Stop and check for trains**
- C. Speed through to clear the intersection quickly**
- D. Continue without stopping**

When hauling Division 4.3 materials, which are classified as environmentally hazardous substances, it is crucial to ensure safety while approaching a railroad-highway crossing. The correct action in this scenario is to stop and check for trains. This requirement is in place to prevent accidents due to the potential presence of trains, which can pose a significant danger. Stopping allows the driver to take the necessary precautions to observe the tracks for any incoming trains. This step is particularly important given that Division 4.3 materials can pose unique risks, including their ability to produce flammable gases when in contact with water, further emphasizing the importance of vigilance at crossings. The other options do not promote safety or compliance with regulations. While notifying the railroad company may be considered in other contexts, it is not a mandatory action before crossing. Speeding through a crossing is inherently dangerous and ignores the need for caution. Continuing without stopping completely disregards the inherent risks associated with rail crossings and the specific hazards of the materials being transported.

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://hazmatcdl.examzify.com>

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