

# NEHA Hazardous Waste Practice Exam (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. What does the acronym "EPA" stand for?**
  - A. Environmental Protection Agency**
  - B. Energy Policy Association**
  - C. Environmental Policy Agency**
  - D. Emergency Preparedness Authority**
  
- 2. What is a Small Quantity Generator (SQG)?**
  - A. A waste generator producing less than 100 kilograms of hazardous waste per month**
  - B. A waste generator producing between 100 and 1,000 kilograms of hazardous waste per month**
  - C. A waste generator producing more than 1,000 kilograms of hazardous waste per month**
  - D. A waste generator producing more than 10,000 kilograms of hazardous waste per month**
  
- 3. Which of the following best describes hazardous waste treatment methods?**
  - A. Exclusively incineration**
  - B. Only chemical neutralization**
  - C. A variety of methods including incineration, treatment, and disposal**
  - D. Only physical removal**
  
- 4. What is the purpose of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA)?**
  - A. To promote hazardous waste shipment**
  - B. To emphasize waste minimization and stricter standards for hazardous waste management**
  - C. To eliminate hazardous waste entirely**
  - D. To encourage recycling of solid waste**
  
- 5. What are Treatment Methods in the context of hazardous waste management?**
  - A. Techniques used for disposing of waste in landfills**
  - B. Processes to convert hazardous waste into a less hazardous form**
  - C. Methods for transporting waste to treatment facilities**
  - D. Equipment utilized in the safe storage of hazardous materials**



- 6. What does the term "waste minimization" refer to?**
- A. Strategies to increase waste disposal capacity**
  - B. Strategies to reduce the amount and toxicity of hazardous waste generated**
  - C. Strategies to recycle more waste materials**
  - D. Strategies to incinerate hazardous waste**
- 7. Should household hazardous waste disposal bids be evaluated solely on price?**
- A. True**
  - B. False**
- 8. What is a "characteristic waste"?**
- A. A waste with no hazardous traits**
  - B. A waste that exhibits one or more hazardous traits**
  - C. A waste produced in agriculture**
  - D. A waste that is easy to dispose of**
- 9. What is a common consequence for failing to comply with hazardous waste regulations?**
- A. Public community surveillance**
  - B. Civil and criminal penalties**
  - C. Prohibition of future waste generation**
  - D. Mandatory recycling programs**
- 10. What is defined as a "corrective action" under RCRA?**
- A. Actions to prevent the generation of hazardous waste**
  - B. Actions to clean up releases of hazardous waste into the environment**
  - C. Actions to monitor hazardous waste storage**
  - D. Actions to recycle hazardous materials**

## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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## 1. What does the acronym "EPA" stand for?

- A. Environmental Protection Agency**
- B. Energy Policy Association**
- C. Environmental Policy Agency**
- D. Emergency Preparedness Authority**

The acronym "EPA" stands for Environmental Protection Agency. This agency is a vital part of the United States federal government and is responsible for enforcing regulations related to environmental protection, including air and water quality, hazardous waste management, and chemical safety. The EPA plays a crucial role in ensuring compliance with environmental laws, conducting research, and promoting sustainable practices to safeguard human health and the environment. Understanding the function and responsibilities of the EPA is essential for anyone studying environmental science, hazardous waste management, or public health, as it directly relates to the regulation of hazardous materials and waste management practices.

## 2. What is a Small Quantity Generator (SQG)?

- A. A waste generator producing less than 100 kilograms of hazardous waste per month**
- B. A waste generator producing between 100 and 1,000 kilograms of hazardous waste per month**
- C. A waste generator producing more than 1,000 kilograms of hazardous waste per month**
- D. A waste generator producing more than 10,000 kilograms of hazardous waste per month**

A Small Quantity Generator (SQG) is defined as a waste generator that produces between 100 and 1,000 kilograms of hazardous waste per month. This classification is important because it determines the regulatory controls and obligations that facilities must adhere to in managing their hazardous waste. The distinction of SQGs is crucial for compliance with environmental regulations, as these generators must meet specific requirements, which are less stringent than those for larger generators of hazardous waste. Understanding this definition sets the foundation for how businesses manage their waste, including preparation, storage, and the necessary reporting to environmental authorities. Other classifications exist outside of this range; those producing less than 100 kilograms per month are categorized as Conditionally Exempt Small Quantity Generators, while those generating more than 1,000 kilograms are classified as Large Quantity Generators. The specific thresholds and regulations ensure that hazardous waste is managed safely while allowing smaller operations some flexibility in compliance requirements. Each of these categories plays a significant role in the framework of hazardous waste management regulation.

**3. Which of the following best describes hazardous waste treatment methods?**

- A. Exclusively incineration**
- B. Only chemical neutralization**
- C. A variety of methods including incineration, treatment, and disposal**
- D. Only physical removal**

The choice highlights the comprehensive nature of hazardous waste treatment methods. Hazardous waste management involves a variety of strategies that address different types of waste and their respective characteristics. Incineration is indeed a critical method used to reduce the volume and toxicity of waste by burning it at high temperatures, which can destroy hazardous organic compounds. However, the treatment of hazardous waste is not limited to incineration alone; it also includes advanced treatment techniques such as chemical neutralization, which can detoxify specific hazardous substances, and physical methods that may involve separation or filtration. Additionally, disposal is an integral part of hazardous waste management, which can encompass landfill methods specifically designed for hazardous materials. The combination of these varied treatment and disposal methods ensures that hazardous waste is managed in a manner that minimizes its impact on human health and the environment. This holistic approach is fundamental to effective hazardous waste management practices, making the designation of “a variety of methods” the most accurate description.

**4. What is the purpose of the Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA)?**

- A. To promote hazardous waste shipment**
- B. To emphasize waste minimization and stricter standards for hazardous waste management**
- C. To eliminate hazardous waste entirely**
- D. To encourage recycling of solid waste**

The Hazardous and Solid Waste Amendments (HSWA), enacted in 1984 as part of the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA), aim to strengthen the management of hazardous waste and emphasize the importance of waste minimization. This legislation introduced more stringent requirements for waste treatment and disposal, focusing on reducing the generation of hazardous wastes at their source, thereby promoting environmentally responsible practices. By prioritizing waste minimization, HSWA encourages industries to find ways to reduce the amount of hazardous waste they produce, which is a crucial step in protecting public health and the environment. The amendments also set stricter standards for hazardous waste management, ensuring that hazardous materials are handled in a manner that minimizes risks to human health and ecosystems. In contrast to other potential purposes, the HSWA does not advocate for the total elimination of hazardous waste nor does it focus on promoting the shipment of hazardous waste or encouraging the recycling of solid waste as the primary goal. Its specific intent is to enhance regulatory oversight and foster practices that lead to a reduction in hazardous waste production and improved management strategies.

**5. What are Treatment Methods in the context of hazardous waste management?**

- A. Techniques used for disposing of waste in landfills**
- B. Processes to convert hazardous waste into a less hazardous form**
- C. Methods for transporting waste to treatment facilities**
- D. Equipment utilized in the safe storage of hazardous materials**

Treatment methods in hazardous waste management refer to the processes designed to convert hazardous waste into a less hazardous form or to render it non-hazardous. This transformation is critical as it reduces the potential risk of harm to human health and the environment that hazardous waste can pose. Various treatment methods may involve physical, chemical, or biological processes that change the composition or properties of the waste, making it safer for disposal or even reusable. For instance, chemical treatments might neutralize hazardous chemicals, while biological treatments can utilize microorganisms to break down organic waste. The objective is not only to decrease the toxicity of the waste but also to facilitate its subsequent management and disposal, ensuring compliance with environmental regulations. In contrast, the other choices describe different aspects of waste management that do not directly relate to treatment methods. Some involve disposal strategies or transportation logistics, which are essential for handling hazardous waste but do not involve the process of treating the waste itself to make it less hazardous.

**6. What does the term "waste minimization" refer to?**

- A. Strategies to increase waste disposal capacity**
- B. Strategies to reduce the amount and toxicity of hazardous waste generated**
- C. Strategies to recycle more waste materials**
- D. Strategies to incinerate hazardous waste**

The term "waste minimization" specifically refers to strategies aimed at reducing both the quantity and the toxicity of hazardous waste that is generated. This approach is a critical element of sustainable waste management, focusing on prevention rather than treatment. Waste minimization helps to lower hazardous waste disposal costs, reduce the environmental impact, and improve public health by addressing waste at its source, rather than managing it after it has been created. In contrast, increasing waste disposal capacity, recycling more materials, or incinerating hazardous waste do not align with the core goal of waste minimization. While these methods may manage waste after it has been produced, they do not seek to decrease the volume or hazardous nature of the waste generated in the first place. Therefore, focusing on reducing the generation of waste and its potential hazards is what truly embodies the concept of waste minimization.

## 7. Should household hazardous waste disposal bids be evaluated solely on price?

A. True

**B. False**

Evaluating household hazardous waste disposal bids solely on price is not advisable because it overlooks several important factors that can impact the overall effectiveness and safety of the waste disposal process. While cost is an important component, other criteria such as the company's experience, compliance with regulations, the safety record of their disposal methods, environmental impact, and the quality of customer service should also be taken into account. For instance, a lower-priced bid may suggest inadequate safety measures or lack of proper licensing, leading to potential legal and environmental issues down the line. Conversely, a higher bid might reflect superior technology, better training for staff handling hazardous materials, or a proven track record of safe and compliant disposal practices. Therefore, to ensure a responsible and effective disposal strategy, a comprehensive evaluation that incorporates various factors beyond just price is essential. This balanced approach helps communities make informed decisions that prioritize safety, compliance, and environmental protection while managing household hazardous waste.

## 8. What is a "characteristic waste"?

A. A waste with no hazardous traits

**B. A waste that exhibits one or more hazardous traits**

C. A waste produced in agriculture

D. A waste that is easy to dispose of

A "characteristic waste" is defined as a type of waste that exhibits one or more hazardous traits, such as ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxic properties. This classification is essential for identifying and managing waste that poses potential risks to human health and the environment. Understanding these characteristics helps in the proper handling, treatment, and disposal of hazardous materials. For example, a waste that is ignitable can easily catch fire, while a corrosive waste can cause destruction of materials it comes into contact with. These traits are crucial for ensuring safety and compliance with relevant regulations regarding hazardous waste management. The emphasis on identifying the characteristics of waste assists in implementing the appropriate protocols for its disposal and treatment to mitigate potential hazards. The other options do not appropriately capture the definition of characteristic waste. A waste with no hazardous traits would not fall under this classification, and a waste produced in agriculture might or might not be hazardous, depending on its composition. A waste being easy to dispose of does not pertain to its characteristics as a hazardous material either. Thus, recognizing the significance of characteristic waste is critical for environmental safety and regulatory compliance.



**9. What is a common consequence for failing to comply with hazardous waste regulations?**

- A. Public community surveillance**
- B. Civil and criminal penalties**
- C. Prohibition of future waste generation**
- D. Mandatory recycling programs**

Failing to comply with hazardous waste regulations can lead to civil and criminal penalties. These penalties are a crucial part of regulatory enforcement designed to ensure that individuals and organizations adhere to safety and environmental standards. Civil penalties often involve fines imposed by regulatory agencies for violations such as improper storage, treatment, or disposal of hazardous waste. On the other hand, criminal penalties can include more severe repercussions, including imprisonment for willful violations that endanger public health or the environment. This framework is critical because it emphasizes the responsibility of generators and handlers of hazardous waste to manage materials properly to prevent harm to individuals and ecosystems. The presence of both civil and criminal penalties serves as a deterrent, reinforcing the importance of compliance with hazardous waste management regulations. It ensures that those who violate these laws face significant consequences, thus promoting accountability in hazardous waste management.

**10. What is defined as a "corrective action" under RCRA?**

- A. Actions to prevent the generation of hazardous waste**
- B. Actions to clean up releases of hazardous waste into the environment**
- C. Actions to monitor hazardous waste storage**
- D. Actions to recycle hazardous materials**

The definition of "corrective action" under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) specifically refers to actions taken to clean up releases of hazardous waste into the environment. When hazardous waste is improperly managed and leads to contamination of soil, water, or air, corrective action is initiated to remediate those releases, ensuring that the environment is restored to a safe, acceptable condition. This process is a critical component of the RCRA framework, as it addresses contamination resulting from past practices of hazardous waste management that may pose risks to human health and the environment. The other choices represent different aspects of hazardous waste management but do not align with the specific definition of "corrective action." For instance, preventing the generation of hazardous waste falls under waste minimization strategies; monitoring hazardous waste storage aligns with oversight and compliance activities; and recycling hazardous materials reflects resource recovery efforts, none of which directly involve cleanup measures for past releases.

## 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](mailto:hello@examzify.com).**

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

**<https://nehahazardouswaste.examzify.com>**

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