

NEW YORK CITY SITE SAFETY MANAGER (SSM) CERTIFICATION PRACTICE TEST (SAMPLE) STUDY GUIDE



SAMPLE STUDY GUIDE WITH LIMITED 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. 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. Chapter 33, Section 3305.3.2.6.3- Where shore height exceeds ____ feet, or when necessary to provide structural stability, diagonal bracing shall be provided.**
 - A. 10 ft
 - B. 8 ft
 - C. 12 ft
 - D. 6 ft

- 2. Whenever the working deck reaches a height greater than ____ stories, at least one elevator must be kept in readiness for the fire department?**
 - A. 5
 - B. 6
 - C. 7
 - D. 8

- 3. Which option correctly states a not-mandated practice for crossing sidewalks with equipment to prevent tripping?**
 - A. Traffic cones must be provided to prevent tripping
 - B. Warning tape must be used to mark the path
 - C. Cord covers must be provided
 - D. Barricades must be used to protect pedestrians

- 4. In the event of a fire, what is the required action for occupants and workers on the construction site?**
 - A. Evacuate immediately without alarms
 - B. Activate alarms, evacuate to designated assembly points, account for personnel, and follow the incident command system
 - C. Ignore alarms if no smoke is visible
 - D. Wait for supervisor to issue orders before acting

- 5. Which role is required during entry into a confined space?**
 - A. A firefighter must be present at all times.
 - B. A supervisor is required to monitor entry.
 - C. A standby attendant is required to monitor entry and assist if necessary.
 - D. No person is required during confined space entry.

- 6. On a two-point suspended scaffold, how many workers are allowed, and what is the exception?**
- A. No more than two workers except an engineer performing inspection can also be on it.
 - B. No more than three workers may be on it at any time.
 - C. Only one worker may be on it unless a supervisor is present.
 - D. Up to four workers may be on it if safety checks are underway.
- 7. For sidewalk sheds that provide protection for buildings 100 feet or higher, the deck shall be designed and constructed to carry a live load of at least _____.**
- A. 200 PSF
 - B. 400 PSF
 - C. 300 PSF
 - D. 600 PSF
- 8. Which ladder practice is NOT recommended?**
- A. Ladders must be properly secured, set at the correct angle, maintain three points of contact, and inspected before use.
 - B. Ladders should be inspected only after a fall occurs.
 - C. Ladders can be used on unstable surfaces without securing them.
 - D. Ladders can be used by more than one person at a time.
- 9. What must be done with defective tools or equipment on a site?**
- A. Continue using defective tools if no immediate failure occurs
 - B. Tag the tool and continue use
 - C. Remove from service, tag out, repair or dispose of, and document the action
 - D. Report to supervisor at end of week
- 10. In NYC, how often must a Site Safety Plan be reviewed and updated during a project?**
- A. Every five years
 - B. Monthly and after any weather event
 - C. Only at project handover
 - D. As required by the DOB; updated whenever project conditions or scope change and when new hazards or methods are introduced

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Chapter 33, Section 3305.3.2.6.3- Where shore height exceeds ____ feet, or when necessary to provide structural stability, diagonal bracing shall be provided.

A. 10 ft

B. 8 ft

C. 12 ft

D. 6 ft

When shore height increases, the risk of sideways movement and instability grows. Diagonal bracing provides a triangulated setup that ties the vertical shores together, stiffening the frame so it can resist lateral forces from loads or earth pressure. The code requires diagonal bracing once the shore height exceeds a specific threshold—ten feet—so that the system stays rigid and safe as it becomes taller and more prone to bowing or tipping. It also allows for bracing to be added whenever needed to maintain stability, even if the height is not quite at that threshold. In practice, braces run diagonally between adjacent shores and crossheads, creating triangles that effectively transfer and distribute loads to the ground, reducing the risk of collapse.

2. Whenever the working deck reaches a height greater than ____ stories, at least one elevator must be kept in readiness for the fire department?

A. 5

B. 6

C. 7

D. 8

The requirement focuses on providing rapid Fire Department access to upper floors on tall construction. As the working height increases, stairs and standard means of access become slower and more difficult for firefighters to use during an emergency. Keeping at least one elevator ready for the Fire Department ensures firefighters can quickly reach upper levels, move equipment, and conduct rescues without delay. The threshold of seven stories is used to balance practicality and safety: once you exceed seven stories, a dedicated, FD-ready elevator becomes necessary, whereas at lower heights stairs and other methods typically suffice. The elevator kept ready is intended for Fire Department use, often with controls available to firefighters and in a standby status until operations conclude.

3. Which option correctly states a not-mandated practice for crossing sidewalks with equipment to prevent tripping?

- A. Traffic cones must be provided to prevent tripping
- B. Warning tape must be used to mark the path
- C. Cord covers must be provided

D. Barricades must be used to protect pedestrians

The main idea here is identifying which measure around crossing a sidewalk with equipment is not required by rules or standards. In many work situations, you want to minimize trip hazards without imposing heavier barriers unless they are actually needed for safety. Barricades provide a strong physical separation and are very effective in limiting pedestrian access to a work area, but they're not a universal requirement for every sidewalk crossing with equipment. Depending on the site, lighter controls—such as traffic cones to delineate the path, warning tape to mark the route, or cord covers to keep cords from creating a trip hazard—will often be sufficient and less disruptive. Because the question asks for a not-mandated practice, stating that barricades must be used describes a protective measure that isn't automatically required in all sidewalk-crossing scenarios. That makes it the option that best fits the prompt. The other measures—placing traffic cones, using warning tape, and providing cord covers—are commonly used to reduce tripping risk and guide pedestrians, but they are more likely to be considered non-mandatory, situational controls rather than absolute requirements, depending on the specific site rules.

4. In the event of a fire, what is the required action for occupants and workers on the construction site?

A. Evacuate immediately without alarms

B. Activate alarms, evacuate to designated assembly points, account for personnel, and follow the incident command system

C. Ignore alarms if no smoke is visible

D. Wait for supervisor to issue orders before acting

The action tested is how to respond to a fire on a construction site: alerts, organized evacuation, accountability, and following the established incident command system. Activating alarms promptly alerts everyone and triggers the site's emergency response, while evacuating to designated assembly points keeps people away from dangers and provides a clear, safe gathering area. Checking personnel afterward ensures that nobody is unaccounted for so responders know where to focus help. Following the incident command system keeps the response structured, with clear roles, communication, and coordination. Moving without alarms delays warning to others; fires can start or grow before smoke is visible, so waiting or ignoring alarms is unsafe. Waiting for a supervisor to issue orders slows the response and can create confusion—emergency procedures are designed so workers act promptly and in a coordinated way.

5. Which role is required during entry into a confined space?

- A. A firefighter must be present at all times.
- B. A supervisor is required to monitor entry.
- C. A standby attendant is required to monitor entry and assist if necessary.**
- D. No person is required during confined space entry.

Standby attendant is the required role because there must be someone outside the confined space who can continuously watch the entrants, maintain communication, and be ready to assist or call for rescue if needed. Hazards inside a confined space can change rapidly, and a person inside cannot always rely on immediate outside help; having someone stationed outside ensures a rapid, coordinated response to any problem, and that entry conditions stay safe for the workers inside. The attendant also enforces permit conditions and can halt entry if alarms or signs of danger occur, maintaining overall safety. The other options don't fit because a firefighter must not be present at all times as a universal requirement, and a supervisor's monitoring role is not the designated rescue/monitoring position defined for confined-space entry. And having no person present is unsafe and not allowed for permit-required confined space entries.

6. On a two-point suspended scaffold, how many workers are allowed, and what is the exception?

- A. No more than two workers except an engineer performing inspection can also be on it.**
- B. No more than three workers may be on it at any time.
- C. Only one worker may be on it unless a supervisor is present.
- D. Up to four workers may be on it if safety checks are underway.

Two-point suspended scaffolds are limited in how many people can be on the platform to prevent overloading and keep movement safe. The standard rule is that no more than two workers are allowed on the scaffold. The only exception is that an engineer performing an inspection can also be on the scaffold to carry out the inspection. This provides the necessary oversight without exceeding the scaffold's load capacity. Outside of that inspection scenario, more than two people should not be on the platform.

7. For sidewalk sheds that provide protection for buildings 100 feet or higher, the deck shall be designed and constructed to carry a live load of at least _____.

- A. 200 PSF
- B. 400 PSF
- C. 300 PSF**
- D. 600 PSF

Live load is the temporary weight the deck must safely support during use, such as people, tools, equipment, and staging materials. For sidewalk sheds protecting buildings 100 feet or taller, the deck must be designed to carry at least 300 pounds per square foot. This 300 PSF minimum covers typical pedestrian traffic plus the possibility of workers and materials on the deck, while allowing a reasonable safety margin for dynamic effects and wind on an elevated protected walkway. Lower values wouldn't provide adequate capacity for tall-building protection, while higher values would be more conservative than necessary for this scenario.

8. Which ladder practice is NOT recommended?

- A. Ladders must be properly secured, set at the correct angle, maintain three points of contact, and inspected before use.
- B. Ladders should be inspected only after a fall occurs.**
- C. Ladders can be used on unstable surfaces without securing them.
- D. Ladders can be used by more than one person at a time.

Ladder safety hinges on catching problems before they lead to a fall and on secure, stable setup. Inspecting a ladder only after a fall means you've already allowed potential damage to go unchecked, which can fail during use. The correct practice is to inspect ladders before each use so you can identify cracks, bent rails, loose rungs, damaged feet, or corrosion and remove any damaged ladder from service. Beyond inspection, ladders must be properly secured and set at the correct angle (about a 4:1 ratio), used with three points of contact, and not overloaded. They should be stable on a level surface and secured at the top or bottom to prevent slipping. Ladders should only be used by one person at a time to avoid overloading and loss of balance. Using a ladder on an unstable surface without securing it is a major risk, and having more than one person on a ladder is unsafe. So the practice of inspecting only after a fall is not recommended because it neglects proactive safety checks that prevent incidents.

9. What must be done with defective tools or equipment on a site?

- A. Continue using defective tools if no immediate failure occurs
- B. Tag the tool and continue use
- C. Remove from service, tag out, repair or dispose of, and document the action**
- D. Report to supervisor at end of week

The core idea is to never use tools or equipment that are defective. When something is found to be defective, it must be taken out of service immediately and handled in a way that prevents anyone from reusing it. That means removing it from active use, placing a clear tag or marker to show it's out of service, arranging for repair or proper disposal, and recording what was done. This sequence protects workers from sudden tool failure, helps keep the job site organized, and creates a traceable record that the issue was addressed. Removing from service stops the hazard right away, and tagging out communicates to everyone that the item should not be used until it's fixed or disposed of. Repair ensures the tool is brought back to a safe, functional condition, while disposal prevents future use of a tool that can no longer be safely repaired. Documenting the action provides accountability and a paper trail for safety audits or inspections. Options that suggest continuing to use a defective tool, or merely tagging it without removing it from use, or waiting to report the issue later, don't stop the immediate danger and fail to meet safety and recordkeeping requirements.

10. In NYC, how often must a Site Safety Plan be reviewed and updated during a project?

- A. Every five years
- B. Monthly and after any weather event
- C. Only at project handover
- D. As required by the DOB; updated whenever project conditions or scope change and when new hazards or methods are introduced**

Keeping the Site Safety Plan current is essential. In NYC, the DOB requires updating the Site Safety Plan whenever project conditions or scope change and whenever new hazards or methods are introduced. This makes sure safety controls reflect the actual site conditions and practices. The other options don't fit because updates aren't on a fixed interval like every five years, and routine monthly updates aren't the standard rule. Waiting until handover would leave the site without accurate safety guidance for the whole project. Weather events can prompt updates if they introduce new hazards, but the formal requirement is updates driven by changes in conditions or scope and new hazards or methods.

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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://nycssm.examzify.com>

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

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