REHS/RS Solid and Hazardous Waste Practice Test (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

Table of Contents

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

1. Composting materials can originate from which source?

A. Sewage sludge

B. Plastic bottles

C. Glass

D. Metal

2. In an environment containing 15% oxygen, what type of respirator is required?

A. A standard air-purifying respirator

B. A simple cloth mask

C. One that pumps oxygen into the mask

D. A filter with only organic vapor cartridges

3. Which act primarily regulates the production and use of chemical substances that may present an unreasonable risk to health or environment?

A. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

B. Clean Water Act

C. Toxic Substances Control Act

D. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

4. Which of the following statements best describes the purpose of hazardous waste management recordkeeping?

A. It demonstrates regulatory compliance, enables audits, and ensures traceability from generation to disposal.

B. It is primarily for marketing purposes.

C. It has no regulatory relevance.

D. It only documents disposal fees and vendor information.

5. Containers used in site clean-up operations must be marked and labeled in accordance to whom's regulations?

A. OSHA Only

B. EPA Only

C. OSHA, EPA, and DOT

D. FDA

6. Does added moisture used in maceration increase or decrease handling and haul costs of solid waste?

- **A. Increases**
- **B. Decreases**
- **C. Has no effect**
- **D. Depends on moisture content**

7. Which of the following best describes a TSDF's role?

- **A. A facility that treats, stores, or disposes of hazardous waste under permit and regulatory oversight**
- **B. A facility that handles nonhazardous waste only**
- **C. A municipal landfill without a permit**
- **D. A household hazardous waste drop-off center**

8. According to the EPA, only what percent of the waste stream can be recovered economically?

- **A. 40 percent**
- **B. 56 percent**
- **C. 60 percent**
- **D. 70 percent**

9. Trichloroethylene is commonly used in which industry?

- **A. Dry cleaning**
- **B. Beverage production**
- **C. Pharmaceutical distillation**
- **D. Textile dyeing**

10. Who must perform hazardous waste determination under RCRA?

- **A. The generator or facility handling the waste**
- **B. The transporter**
- **C. The end-user of the product**
- **D. The local fire department**

Answers

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

Explanations

1. Composting materials can originate from which source?

A. Sewage sludge

B. Plastic bottles

C. Glass

D. Metal

Composting relies on microorganisms breaking down organic waste into a stable soil amendment. Sewage sludge is the organic solids produced by wastewater treatment and, when properly treated to meet safety standards, can be blended into compost or used as a biosolid soil amendment. The other options are inorganic materials that do not biodegrade in a compost pile—plastic bottles, glass, and metal—which should be recycled or disposed of separately rather than composted.

2. In an environment containing 15% oxygen, what type of respirator is required?

A. A standard air-purifying respirator

B. A simple cloth mask

C. One that pumps oxygen into the mask

D. A filter with only organic vapor cartridges

In an environment with only 15% oxygen, the air is oxygen-deficient, so a respirator must supply breathing gas rather than rely on ambient air. A respirator that pumps oxygen into the mask provides its own source of oxygen, making it the safe choice in this situation. Standard air-purifying respirators rely on ambient oxygen and cannot guarantee enough O2 delivery when the surrounding air is so low. A simple cloth mask offers little protection, and a filter with only organic vapor cartridges does not supply oxygen or protect against general inhalation hazards in an oxygen-deficient space.

3. Which act primarily regulates the production and use of chemical substances that may present an unreasonable risk to health or environment?

A. Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act

B. Clean Water Act

C. Toxic Substances Control Act

D. Resource Conservation and Recovery Act

Focuses on regulating chemical substances themselves when they may pose an unreasonable risk to health or the environment. The Toxic Substances Control Act gives the EPA authority to require testing and data on chemicals, evaluate their risks, and take action to limit or ban their production or use if there is an unreasonable risk. This risk-based approach applies to both new chemicals before they enter commerce and many existing ones as new information emerges. By contrast, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act (CERCLA) centers on cleaning up contaminated sites after releases; the Clean Water Act targets discharges into waterways and overall water quality; and the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) governs how hazardous waste is generated, stored, treated, transported, and disposed of.

4. Which of the following statements best describes the purpose of hazardous waste management recordkeeping?

A. It demonstrates regulatory compliance, enables audits, and ensures traceability from generation to disposal.

B. It is primarily for marketing purposes.

C. It has no regulatory relevance.

D. It only documents disposal fees and vendor information.

Recordkeeping for hazardous waste is about proving you followed the rules and can trace every amount of waste from creation to final disposal. It includes details like waste type and codes, quantities, accumulation start and end dates, storage conditions, transport manifests, treatment or disposal destinations, and final disposition. This creates a chain of custody that regulators audit to verify proper labeling, storage time limits, and shipping and treatment compliance. While disposal fees or vendor information might be part of the records, they do not establish regulatory compliance or traceability.

5. Containers used in site clean-up operations must be marked and labeled in accordance to whom's regulations?

A. OSHA Only

B. EPA Only

C. OSHA, EPA, and DOT

D. FDA

The moveable label on containers at a site cleanup must meet multiple federal requirements because labeling serves different purposes along the path from on-site handling to off-site transport. OSHA covers the workplace aspect, ensuring workers see hazards and precautions on containers through Hazard Communication/GHS labeling. EPA covers hazardous waste management under RCRA, requiring proper labeling of hazardous waste containers to ensure safe storage and handling. DOT covers transportation, requiring correct labeling when hazardous materials are shipped off-site under the Hazardous Materials Regulations. Because all three areas apply to different parts of the process, the regulations come from OSHA, EPA, and DOT. FDA doesn't regulate this aspect of site cleanup labeling.

6. Does added moisture used in maceration increase or decrease handling and haul costs of solid waste?

A. Increases

B. Decreases

C. Has no effect

D. Depends on moisture content

Adding moisture during maceration increases the weight of the waste. Transport costs are largely driven by weight, so heavier loads require more fuel, may incur over-weight penalties, and can lead to more trips. While maceration helps with handling by breaking up solids, the added water raises the overall mass and often the volume, pushing handling and haul costs upward. So the cost tends to rise with added moisture.

7. Which of the following best describes a TSDF's role?

A. A facility that treats, stores, or disposes of hazardous waste under permit and regulatory oversight

B. A facility that handles nonhazardous waste only

C. A municipal landfill without a permit

D. A household hazardous waste drop-off center

A TSDF is a facility that treats, stores, or disposes of hazardous waste under a permit and regulatory oversight. This means it operates under specific RCRA requirements that govern how hazardous waste is handled, with design, operating, and closure standards to prevent releases to air, soil, and water. The permit and oversight ensure proper management for processes that change waste characteristics, temporarily contain waste, or ultimately dispose of it in a regulated way. Other descriptions don't fit because they either involve nonhazardous waste only, lack the required permit and regulatory controls, or serve as simple household hazardous waste drop-off sites that do not function as an authorized hazardous waste treatment, storage, or disposal facility.

8. According to the EPA, only what percent of the waste stream can be recovered economically?

A. 40 percent

B. 56 percent

C. 60 percent

D. 70 percent

The main idea here is what portion of the waste stream can be recovered in a way that makes economic sense today—where the costs of collection, sorting, and processing are offset by the value of the recovered materials. The EPA's estimate is about 56 percent, meaning just over half of what we throw away can realistically be recovered and sold as recyclables under current technology, markets, and waste-management practices. This takes into account factors like contamination, logistics, processing costs, and market demand, not just whether something is technically recyclable. So 56% reflects real-world economic viability, rather than a purely technical potential. The other figures are simply different approximations and not the EPA's current economic recoverability value.

9. Trichloroethylene is commonly used in which industry?

A. Dry cleaning

B. Beverage production

C. Pharmaceutical distillation

D. Textile dyeing

Trichloroethylene is a solvent prized in dry cleaning because it dissolves oils and greases from fabrics effectively and evaporates cleanly, allowing fabrics to be cleaned without water causing shrinkage or dye issues. In dry cleaning, you want a solvent that can remove oily soils while leaving textiles intact, and trichloroethylene historically fit that role well. The other industries rely on different cleaning or processing solvents and methods that prioritize food safety, pharmaceutical purity, or dyeing chemistry, so they don't typically use trichloroethylene.

10. Who must perform hazardous waste determination under RCRA?

A. The generator or facility handling the waste

B. The transporter

C. The end-user of the product

D. The local fire department

The requirement rests with the entity that generates or handles the waste. Under RCRA, the generator must determine whether the waste is hazardous before it leaves the site, using knowledge of the waste's makeup and characteristics. This involves checking if the waste is listed as hazardous (the listed F-, K-, P-, or U-lists) or if it exhibits one or more hazardous characteristics (ignitability, corrosivity, reactivity, or toxicity as determined by tests like TCLP). Once a determination is made, the waste must be managed accordingly, with proper labeling, accumulation, and shipping. The transporter isn't the one who decides if the waste is hazardous; their role is to move it following packaging, labeling, and manifest requirements. The end-user would only be the one making the determination if they are the generator of the waste themselves. The local fire department does not determine hazardous waste status under RCRA.

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://rehsrssolidhazardouswaste.examzify.com

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