Resource Conservation Recovery Act (RCRA) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide

Everything you need from our exam experts!

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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

1. What are the two parts of a RCRA permit?

A. Part A: Administrative; Part B: Substantive

B. Part A: Financial; Part B: Operational

C. Part A: Public comments; Part B: Compliance schedule

D. Part A: Emergency response; Part B: Closure plan

2. Are household hazardous wastes regulated as hazardous waste under RCRA?

A. HHW is never regulated by any program.

B. HHW is always regulated as hazardous waste under RCRA.

C. Household hazardous waste is generally exempt from Subtitle C, though states may regulate HHW through separate programs.

D. HHW is regulated only if shipped across state lines.

3. Which set of hazardous waste characteristics is used to identify hazardous waste under 40 CFR 261?

A. Flammable, Reactive, Corrosive, and Toxic.

B. Ignitable (D001), Corrosive (D002), Reactive (D003), and Toxic (D004–D043).

C. Ignitable, Corrosive, Reactive, and Non-hazardous.

D. Ignitable, Corrosive, Reactive, and Toxic (D004–D043).

4. What is the purpose of groundwater monitoring at TSDFs?

A. To monitor air emissions.

B. To measure groundwater color.

C. To track marine life.

D. To detect releases of hazardous constituents, ensure compliance with permits, and protect water resources.

5. Which of the following is a characteristic used to identify a hazardous waste?

A. Conductivity

B. Viscosity

C. Ignitability

D. Color stability

6. Which statement correctly describes the regulatory focus of 40 CFR 264 compared to 40 CFR 265?

- **A. 264 applies to interim status facilities; 265 applies to permitted facilities**
- **B. 264 applies to permitted facilities; 265 applies to facilities with interim status**
- **C. 264 is for transporters; 265 is for generators**
- **D. 264 is for state agencies; 265 is for federal agencies**

7. What does post-closure care for a TSDF typically include?

- **A. Post-closure is a one-time event with no ongoing requirements.**
- **B. It involves closing the water treatment plant.**
- **C. Post-closure care includes ongoing monitoring and financial assurance.**
- **D. It involves expanding the facility's operations.**

8. The TSD facility citation under RCRA is found at which CFR?

- **A. 40 CFR 262**
- **B. 40 CFR 263**
- **C. 40 CFR 261**
- **D. 40 CFR 264**

9. Cite for the F listed waste?

- **A. 40 CFR 261.31**
- **B. 40 CFR 261.31-32**
- **C. 40 CFR 261.29**
- **D. 40 CFR 261.33**

10. Which labeling is required on LQG hazardous waste containers?

- **A. Marked with "Hazardous Waste" or "H.W."**
- **B. No label is required**
- **C. Only the date is required**
- **D. Label must be "Non-Hazardous"**

Answers

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

Explanations

1. What are the two parts of a RCRA permit?

A. Part A: Administrative; Part B: Substantive

B. Part A: Financial; Part B: Operational

C. Part A: Public comments; Part B: Compliance schedule

D. Part A: Emergency response; Part B: Closure plan

The key idea is that a RCRA permit is split into administrative information and enforceable technical requirements. Part A collects basic, non-operational details about the facility—who owns or operates it, what wastes it will manage, the facility name and location, and the general permit status. Part B contains the actual conditions the facility must follow to operate safely—design and operating standards, waste handling procedures, containment and monitoring requirements, reporting, contingency plans, and plans for closure and financial assurance. The Part B provisions are the legally binding, substantive rules, while Part A is there to identify and categorize the permit and facility. This separation explains why other pairings (like focusing on financial or emergency plans as a separate part) don't align with how permits are actually structured.

2. Are household hazardous wastes regulated as hazardous waste under RCRA?

A. HHW is never regulated by any program.

B. HHW is always regulated as hazardous waste under RCRA.

C. Household hazardous waste is generally exempt from Subtitle C, though states may regulate HHW through separate programs.

D. HHW is regulated only if shipped across state lines.

Household hazardous waste is generally not regulated as hazardous waste under RCRA Subtitle C because the federal program focuses on commercial and industrial generators, not households. Wastes generated by households are treated differently at the federal level, and the collection, handling, and disposal of HHW are typically governed by state or local programs. States may implement their own HHW regulations or programs to collect and manage these materials, ensuring safe disposal even though they aren't subject to the federal Subtitle C requirements. Some HHW items may fall under the universal waste rules, which streamline handling for common hazardous waste categories, but that sits outside the main Subtitle C framework. So, HHW is generally exempt from Subtitle C, though states can regulate HHW through separate programs.

3. Which set of hazardous waste characteristics is used to identify hazardous waste under 40 CFR 261?

A. Flammable, Reactive, Corrosive, and Toxic.

B. Ignitable (D001), Corrosive (D002), Reactive (D003), and Toxic (D004–D043).

C. Ignitable, Corrosive, Reactive, and Non-hazardous.

D. Ignitable, Corrosive, Reactive, and Toxic (D004–D043).

Under RCRA, hazardous waste is identified by four characteristics: ignitable, corrosive, reactive, and toxic. Each characteristic has its regulatory code: ignitable is D001, corrosive is D002, reactive is D003, and the toxicity characteristic covers wastes with toxic constituents listed from D004 through D043 (via TCLP). So the set that matches 40 CFR 261 is the one that names all four characteristics with their proper codes: Ignitable (D001), Corrosive (D002), Reactive (D003), and Toxic (D004–D043). The other options miss the precise regulatory terms or codes (for example, using Flammable instead of Ignitable, or omitting the exact D-numbers), or in one case includes a non-hazardous category, which doesn't align with how hazardous waste is identified under the CFR.

4. What is the purpose of groundwater monitoring at TSDFs?

A. To monitor air emissions.

B. To measure groundwater color.

C. To track marine life.

D. To detect releases of hazardous constituents, ensure compliance with permits, and protect water resources.

Groundwater monitoring at TSDFs is done to detect if hazardous constituents from the waste management area are leaking into the surrounding groundwater, to show the facility is meeting permit requirements, and to protect people and the environment's water resources. A network of monitoring wells around the facility is used to establish what normal groundwater quality looks like (background) and then routinely sampled to identify any increases in contaminants that could indicate a release. If monitoring shows a release, the facility must investigate, quantify the plume, and implement corrective actions to stop migration and restore groundwater quality. This focus on detecting and addressing releases to groundwater is what ties monitoring directly to compliance and protection of water resources, rather than to air, color changes, or wildlife.

5. Which of the following is a characteristic used to identify a hazardous waste?

A. Conductivity

B. Viscosity

C. Ignitability

D. Color stability

Under RCRA, a waste is identified as hazardous if it exhibits one of the defined characteristics, including ignitability. Ignitability means the waste can easily catch fire or burn, such as liquids with a flash point below 60°C or solids that ignite easily, or materials that can self-heat, ignite through friction, or generate flammable vapors. This is what makes a waste a hazardous waste labeled D001. Conductivity, viscosity, and color stability are not used to classify hazardous waste under these characteristics; they describe other physical or cosmetic properties rather than the fire risk that defines ignitability.

6. Which statement correctly describes the regulatory focus of 40 CFR 264 compared to 40 CFR 265?

A. 264 applies to interim status facilities; 265 applies to permitted facilities

B. 264 applies to permitted facilities; 265 applies to facilities with interim status

C. 264 is for transporters; 265 is for generators

D. 264 is for state agencies; 265 is for federal agencies

The main idea here is that these two parts of the CFR govern facilities at different stages of the RCRA authorization process. 40 CFR 264 contains the final, permit-based standards that facilities must meet once they have obtained a RCRA permit. These are the comprehensive requirements tied to the approved permit, covering design, operation, closure, groundwater monitoring, contingency planning, financial assurance, and other long-term controls. 40 CFR 265, by contrast, addresses interim status. It applies to facilities that have submitted a permit application and are operating while awaiting a final permit. The interim status provisions establish the protections and conditions that apply during that interim period, often with a more limited or transitional scope than the full permit standards in 264. So the correct interpretation is that 264 focuses on permitted facilities, while 265 focuses on facilities with interim status. The other options mix up which regulation applies to interim status versus permitted operations and are not accurate descriptors of these parts.

7. What does post-closure care for a TSDF typically include?

A. Post-closure is a one-time event with no ongoing requirements.

B. It involves closing the water treatment plant.

C. Post-closure care includes ongoing monitoring and financial assurance.

D. It involves expanding the facility's operations.

Post-closure care for a TSDF is the long-term obligation that begins after final closure to protect human health and the environment. The key elements are ongoing monitoring and financial assurance. Ongoing monitoring ensures containment remains effective over time—this typically involves groundwater monitoring around the site, maintaining and inspecting the final cover and drainage systems, and ensuring any leachate collection or gas management systems function properly. Financial assurance guarantees that funds are available to cover the costs of continued monitoring, maintenance, potential corrective actions, and cover repairs for the duration of the post-closure period, which lasts for the regulated term (often decades). This isn't a one-time event, it isn't about closing a water treatment plant, and it isn't about expanding operations.

8. The TSD facility citation under RCRA is found at which CFR?

A. 40 CFR 262

B. 40 CFR 263

C. 40 CFR 261

D. 40 CFR 264

The standards for TSD (treatment, storage, and disposal) facilities are in 40 CFR Part 264. This part sets the requirements for owners and operators of hazardous waste treatment, storage, and disposal facilities (permitted facilities), including operating standards, permit requirements, contingency plans, groundwater monitoring, closure, and post-closure care. Interim-status facilities (those not yet permitted) fall under Part 265, but the specific citation for TSD facility standards is Part 264. The other parts cover generators (Part 262), hazardous waste definitions (Part 261), and transporters (Part 263), which do not establish the TSD facility standards.

9. Cite for the F listed waste?

A. 40 CFR 261.31

B. 40 CFR 261.31-32

C. 40 CFR 261.29

D. 40 CFR 261.33

F-listed wastes are defined in 40 CFR 261.31. This section identifies wastes from non-specific sources (such as spent solvents) that are considered hazardous. The other numbers describe related rules or different waste lists: 261.32 covers how mixtures involving hazardous wastes are regulated (the mixture rule), while 261.29 and 261.33 address other categories of discarded materials (such as discarded commercial chemical products and related residues). Since the question asks for the citation that identifies F-listed waste, 40 CFR 261.31 is the correct reference.

10. Which labeling is required on LQG hazardous waste containers?

A. Marked with "Hazardous Waste" or "H.W."

B. No label is required

C. Only the date is required

D. Label must be "Non-Hazardous"

Labeling identifies the container contents as hazardous so workers and regulators know to handle, store, and dispose of it under specific rules. For a Large Quantity Generator, hazardous waste containers must be marked with the words “Hazardous Waste” or the abbreviation “H.W.” so the waste is immediately recognized as regulated. This helps ensure proper management and compliance with RCRA, including keeping containers closed except when adding or removing waste. In practice, you also need the accumulation start date on the container, but a label that simply says the date without identifying the waste as hazardous would not meet regulatory requirements. Labels stating “Non-Hazardous” are incorrect because they would misidentify the waste.

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://rcra.examzify.com

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