

# Safety Trained Supervisor in Construction (STSC) Practice Exam (Sample)

## Study Guide



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**SAMPLE**

## **Questions**

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- 1. Which class of employees is noted for having the greatest potential for accidents?**
  - A. Seasoned employees**
  - B. Contract workers**
  - C. New employees**
  - D. Supervisors**
- 2. After evacuating a trench for hazardous conditions, who determines when it's safe to resume work?**
  - A. A foreman**
  - B. A qualified and competent person**
  - C. Any available worker**
  - D. The site manager**
- 3. If a worker is injured while performing tasks assigned by the employer, how is the injury classified?**
  - A. Personal injury**
  - B. Work-related**
  - C. Non-work-related**
  - D. Accidental injury**
- 4. Which hazard classification often requires special precautions due to serious health risks?**
  - A. Biological hazards**
  - B. Toxic substances**
  - C. Carcinogens**
  - D. Electric hazards**
- 5. What is the primary reason for conducting accident investigations related to safety and health issues?**
  - A. To reduce insurance costs**
  - B. To determine facts surrounding the event**
  - C. To comply with government regulations**
  - D. To improve worker morale**

- 6. In which locations is a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to display placards?**
- A. Front, rear, and both sides of the vehicle**
  - B. Only on the rear of the vehicle**
  - C. Only on the sides of the vehicle**
  - D. Only on the front and rear of the vehicle**
- 7. Which statement best represents a reasonable interpretation of the STS Code of Ethics?**
- A. Only licensed professionals can perform any construction work**
  - B. The STS Code prohibits work in unfamiliar technical fields**
  - C. The STS Code allows STSs to work in areas they are unqualified for**
  - D. The STS Code permits STSs to engage in work when qualified by experience and education**
- 8. What is the correct adjustment for the tool rest and tongue guard on a bench grinder?**
- A. 1/4 inch - 1/2 inch**
  - B. 1/2 inch - 3/4 inch**
  - C. 1/8 inch - 1/4 inch**
  - D. 1 inch - 2 inches**
- 9. Which statement best describes the relationship between supervisors' attitudes and employees' actions?**
- A. It has no impact at all**
  - B. Supervisor's attitude has an indirect influence**
  - C. Supervisor's attitude has a direct influence on employees**
  - D. It varies greatly by individual employee**

**10. According to OSHA, the vertical height of a standard railing must be \_\_\_\_ inches from the upper surface of the top rail to the floor, platform, runway, or ramp level.**

- A. 36**
- B. 40**
- C. 42**
- D. 48**

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## **Answers**

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

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## **Explanations**

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**1. Which class of employees is noted for having the greatest potential for accidents?**

- A. Seasoned employees**
- B. Contract workers**
- C. New employees**
- D. Supervisors**

The class of employees noted for having the greatest potential for accidents is new employees. This group is often at a higher risk for incidents due to several factors. New employees typically lack familiarity with specific job site conditions, safety protocols, and operational procedures, which can lead to mistakes or oversights. They may also be inexperienced in recognizing potential hazards or in utilizing personal protective equipment effectively. Additionally, new employees might be nervous or overwhelmed, which can impair their judgment and focus. The lack of established relationships with their coworkers may also result in reduced communication about safety practices or potential risks. As a result, proper training and mentoring are crucial for new employees to minimize their chances of being involved in accidents on the job site.

**2. After evacuating a trench for hazardous conditions, who determines when it's safe to resume work?**

- A. A foreman**
- B. A qualified and competent person**
- C. Any available worker**
- D. The site manager**

The determination of when it is safe to resume work after evacuating a trench due to hazardous conditions rests with a qualified and competent person. This individual possesses the specific training, knowledge, and experience necessary to identify potential hazards and evaluate environmental conditions effectively. Their expertise ensures that safety standards are upheld and that all necessary precautions have been taken before allowing workers back into the area. A qualified and competent person understands the various factors that can affect safety in trench work, such as soil conditions, potential for cave-ins, and other site-specific hazards. They will assess whether the conditions have improved sufficiently to protect workers and ensure that all required safety measures, such as shoring or benching, are in place. The other choices may not carry the same level of authority or knowledge required to make this critical decision. While a foreman or site manager might have some understanding of the task at hand, they may not have the specialized training necessary to effectively evaluate trench hazards. Allowing any available worker to make this decision could result in safety risks, as individuals not trained for such evaluations might overlook significant hazards. Therefore, the role of a qualified and competent person is crucial in ensuring a safe working environment in construction.

**3. If a worker is injured while performing tasks assigned by the employer, how is the injury classified?**

**A. Personal injury**

**B. Work-related**

**C. Non-work-related**

**D. Accidental injury**

When a worker sustains an injury while carrying out tasks that have been assigned by their employer, the injury is classified as work-related. This classification indicates that the injury occurred in the course of employment and is connected to the worker's job responsibilities. Understanding this classification is crucial because it impacts the legal and compensation framework that protects workers, such as workers' compensation benefits. Injuries that are classified as work-related often qualify the employee for specific benefits, including medical treatment and wage replacement. This classification is vital for ensuring that employees are adequately cared for when accidents occur on the job, reflecting the employer's responsibility to maintain a safe working environment. The other classifications, such as personal injury and non-work-related, do not accurately capture the context of the injury being associated with employment activities. While "accidental injury" can describe the nature of the injury, it does not specifically relate to the employment context, hence reinforcing the importance of the "work-related" classification in this scenario.

**4. Which hazard classification often requires special precautions due to serious health risks?**

**A. Biological hazards**

**B. Toxic substances**

**C. Carcinogens**

**D. Electric hazards**

Carcinogens are substances that are known to cause cancer in living tissue. The classification of hazards associated with carcinogens carries significant implications for health and safety in the workplace. Due to their ability to induce cancer, working with or around carcinogens necessitates stringent precautions to protect workers. These precautions may include specialized training, the use of personal protective equipment (PPE), controlled environments, and proper handling procedures to minimize exposure. Additionally, regulations surrounding carcinogens often dictate how these materials should be stored, labeled, and disposed of, reflecting the serious nature of the risks involved. The focus on preventing exposure to these agents is paramount, as even small amounts can lead to long-term health consequences, making the classification particularly relevant in construction and other industrial settings where such substances might be present.

**5. What is the primary reason for conducting accident investigations related to safety and health issues?**

- A. To reduce insurance costs**
- B. To determine facts surrounding the event**
- C. To comply with government regulations**
- D. To improve worker morale**

Conducting accident investigations primarily aims to determine the facts surrounding the event. This process involves gathering detailed information about what occurred, analyzing the sequence of events, and identifying contributing factors. By establishing a clear understanding of how and why an incident happened, organizations can develop effective measures to prevent similar occurrences in the future. Investigating accidents goes beyond simply gathering data; it enables the identification of hazards, unsafe practices, and systemic failures within a safety management system. This evidence-based approach is crucial for making informed decisions about changes to policies, procedures, and training that ultimately enhance workplace safety. While reducing insurance costs, complying with regulations, and improving worker morale can be outcomes of effective safety management, they are not the primary reasons for conducting an investigation. Focusing on the facts surrounding the incident directly contributes to fostering a culture of safety, as it empowers employers and employees to learn from past mistakes and continuously improve safety practices.

**6. In which locations is a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials required to display placards?**

- A. Front, rear, and both sides of the vehicle**
- B. Only on the rear of the vehicle**
- C. Only on the sides of the vehicle**
- D. Only on the front and rear of the vehicle**

The correct response indicates that a commercial motor vehicle transporting hazardous materials must display placards at the front, rear, and both sides of the vehicle. This requirement is in line with regulations established by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) and the Department of Transportation (DOT). The visibility of placards from multiple angles is crucial for ensuring safety and awareness among other drivers and emergency responders about the potential hazards being transported. Having placards on all four sides of the vehicle allows for immediate identification of the hazardous materials in case of an accident or breakdown. This is important not only for compliance with safety regulations but also for minimizing risks to public safety, as it allows emergency responders to make informed decisions when approaching a potentially dangerous situation. Other options suggest a more limited display of placards, which would not provide adequate warning or identification of hazardous materials, potentially leading to safety concerns and non-compliance with regulations. Placarding requirements are specifically designed to enhance safety and communication regarding the nature of the cargo carried by hazardous materials vehicles.

**7. Which statement best represents a reasonable interpretation of the STS Code of Ethics?**

- A. Only licensed professionals can perform any construction work**
- B. The STS Code prohibits work in unfamiliar technical fields**
- C. The STS Code allows STSs to work in areas they are unqualified for**
- D. The STS Code permits STSs to engage in work when qualified by experience and education**

The STS Code of Ethics emphasizes the importance of competence in professional practice. This standard signifies that individuals should engage in work that aligns with their qualifications, which can include a combination of education, training, and relevant experience. By allowing STSs to participate in areas where they possess the requisite experience and education, the Code ensures that they maintain a high standard of professionalism and protect public safety. This interpretation aligns with broader ethical practices that advocate for responsibility and accountability in one's professional endeavors. Professionals are expected to understand their limitations and work within the boundaries of their expertise. The allowance for experienced and educated individuals to practice in various areas promotes professional growth while ensuring that the quality of work remains intact.

**8. What is the correct adjustment for the tool rest and tongue guard on a bench grinder?**

- A. 1/4 inch - 1/2 inch**
- B. 1/2 inch - 3/4 inch**
- C. 1/8 inch - 1/4 inch**
- D. 1 inch - 2 inches**

The tool rest and tongue guard on a bench grinder should be adjusted to a distance of 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch from the grinding wheel. This close proximity is crucial for ensuring safety and efficiency during grinding tasks. When the tool rest is set within this distance, it allows for better support of the workpiece, reducing the risk of the workpiece becoming wedged between the wheel and rest, which can create a dangerous situation. Additionally, maintaining this gap helps to minimize the chances of sparks or debris flying out from the wheel without adequate protection. The positioning of the tongue guard is also important; it should be positioned to prevent debris and sparks from reaching the operator while allowing enough clearance that the operator can work comfortably. A distance of 1/8 inch to 1/4 inch is optimal for safety and comfort. Other options suggest wider gaps that either exceed the safe distance for tool rests or are not practical for effective grinding operations, making them less suitable for optimal safety and performance.

**9. Which statement best describes the relationship between supervisors' attitudes and employees' actions?**

- A. It has no impact at all**
- B. Supervisor's attitude has an indirect influence**
- C. Supervisor's attitude has a direct influence on employees**
- D. It varies greatly by individual employee**

Supervisors play a crucial role in shaping the workplace environment, and their attitudes can significantly impact employees' behavior and performance. When supervisors maintain a positive attitude, it fosters an atmosphere of trust, motivation, and engagement among employees. This positive environment encourages employees to adopt similar positive behaviors and attitudes in their work. Conversely, if a supervisor exhibits negative or indifferent attitudes, it can lead to decreased employee morale, lower job satisfaction, and even reduced productivity. Employees are likely to mirror their supervisors' attitudes; hence, a supervisor's mindset can create a ripple effect that influences the overall team dynamics and workplace culture. The relationship is considered direct because the attitudes of supervisors directly shape the work environment, which subsequently affects employee actions and attitudes. This underlines the significance of effective supervisor training and self-awareness in managing teams to enhance productivity and foster a positive workplace culture.

**10. According to OSHA, the vertical height of a standard railing must be \_\_\_\_ inches from the upper surface of the top rail to the floor, platform, runway, or ramp level.**

- A. 36**
- B. 40**
- C. 42**
- D. 48**

The standard height for a railing set by OSHA is 42 inches from the upper surface of the top rail to the floor, platform, runway, or ramp level. This height is established to provide a sufficient level of safety, ensuring that workers are adequately protected from falls and other hazards when working at elevated levels. The 42-inch height strikes a balance between being high enough to prevent falls while still allowing for ease of use when leaning or resting against the railing. This regulation is part of broader safety requirements that aim to mitigate risks associated with working in construction environments, where falls are a leading cause of injuries. By adhering to this standard, employers can help create a safer workplace for their employees.