

Special Inspection General Requirements (GR) Practice Exam (Sample)

Study Guide



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SAMPLE

Questions

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- 1. Which of the following is NOT a responsibility of the special inspection agency?**
 - A. Review approved plans and specifications**
 - B. Write daily reports**
 - C. Report non-conforming items**
 - D. Prepare special inspection program**
- 2. How frequently does the special inspector submit reports to the building official?**
 - A. As determined by the building official**
 - B. As determined by the statement of special inspections**
 - C. Daily**
 - D. Weekly**
- 3. What is the primary focus of the duties of a special inspector?**
 - A. To manage construction timelines**
 - B. To ensure compliance with codes and specifications**
 - C. To handle project funding**
 - D. To oversee subcontractor performance**
- 4. What kind of access rights do special inspectors generally have on construction sites?**
 - A. Restricted access to certain areas only**
 - B. Unrestricted access to all areas relevant to their inspection duties**
 - C. Access limited to office areas**
 - D. Permission-based access only**
- 5. What is the primary purpose of special inspection in construction?**
 - A. To enhance aesthetic appeal of the structure**
 - B. To ensure that construction meets specific code requirements and approved design**
 - C. To minimize construction costs and time**
 - D. To ensure compliance with environmental regulations**

- 6. When should a special inspector discuss non-conforming items with the contractor?**
- A. At the end of each work phase**
 - B. Immediately when identified**
 - C. Weekly at scheduled meetings**
 - D. Only during the final inspection**
- 7. Which of the following is NOT a duty of a special inspector when on-site?**
- A. Checking for compliance with safety regulations**
 - B. Documenting inspection findings**
 - C. Providing feedback to the contractor**
 - D. Issuing construction permits**
- 8. Which of the following tasks is NOT required of the contractor?**
- A. Submit the statement of special inspections**
 - B. Coordinate inspection schedule**
 - C. Provide safe access to inspectors**
 - D. Keep copies of special inspection reports at job site office**
- 9. In regard to the inspection process, who ultimately has the authority to approve or reject work?**
- A. The owner**
 - B. The design professional**
 - C. The building official**
 - D. The special inspector**
- 10. During what phase of construction are inspections usually conducted by a special inspector?**
- A. Only after the project is completed**
 - B. Periodically at various stages of construction**
 - C. Just before the final walk-through**
 - D. Whenever the contractor requests an inspection**

Answers

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

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Explanations

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1. Which of the following is NOT a responsibility of the special inspection agency?

- A. Review approved plans and specifications**
- B. Write daily reports**
- C. Report non-conforming items**
- D. Prepare special inspection program**

The role of a special inspection agency includes a variety of responsibilities aimed at ensuring compliance with building codes and regulations. Among these, the preparation of a special inspection program is typically the responsibility of the design professional or the authority having jurisdiction rather than the special inspection agency itself. Their primary responsibility is to conduct inspections and monitor compliance based on the established inspection program. Reviewing approved plans and specifications, writing daily reports, and reporting non-conforming items are essential functions of the special inspection agency. By reviewing plans and specifications, the agency ensures that the work aligns with what has been approved. Writing daily reports is crucial for documenting the progress of work and any observations made during inspections. Reporting non-conforming items is vital to address issues that may arise, ensuring that corrective actions are taken to maintain compliance with the code and project specifications. In this context, recognizing that the special inspection agency does not typically prepare the special inspection program clarifies the distinction of responsibilities among professionals involved in a construction project.

2. How frequently does the special inspector submit reports to the building official?

- A. As determined by the building official**
- B. As determined by the statement of special inspections**
- C. Daily**
- D. Weekly**

The correct answer indicates that the frequency of report submissions by the special inspector to the building official is determined based on the preferences and requirements set by the building official. This allows for flexibility and ensures that the frequency can be adjusted according to the specific circumstances of the project, the complexity of the inspections, and the standards established by the authority having jurisdiction. In many cases, the reports may need to be submitted more frequently during critical phases of construction or when a specific type of inspection is performed regularly. This approach underscores the importance of communication between the special inspector and the building official, ensuring that the reporting aligns with project needs and regulatory requirements. Alternatively, while the statement of special inspections may provide guidance on the types of inspections required, it does not specifically dictate how often reports must be submitted, making the building official's discretion the more appropriate answer. The other options, such as daily or weekly, imply a set frequency that might not fit all projects or situations, which is why the correct answer emphasizes the individual determination by the building official.

3. What is the primary focus of the duties of a special inspector?

- A. To manage construction timelines**
- B. To ensure compliance with codes and specifications**
- C. To handle project funding**
- D. To oversee subcontractor performance**

The primary focus of the duties of a special inspector is to ensure compliance with codes and specifications. Special inspectors play a crucial role in the construction industry by verifying that all construction practices meet the local building codes, regulations, and the project's specific specifications. They conduct inspections, review documents, and perform tests to confirm that materials and processes meet established standards. This ensures safety, quality, and integrity of the construction process, ultimately contributing to the successful completion of the project. Management of construction timelines, handling project funding, and overseeing subcontractor performance fall outside the specific role of a special inspector. While these responsibilities are important in the broader context of project management, they are not central to the function of a special inspector, which is strictly focused on compliance and quality assurance.

4. What kind of access rights do special inspectors generally have on construction sites?

- A. Restricted access to certain areas only**
- B. Unrestricted access to all areas relevant to their inspection duties**
- C. Access limited to office areas**
- D. Permission-based access only**

Special inspectors are typically granted unrestricted access to all areas relevant to their inspection duties on construction sites. This includes areas where construction activities are taking place, as well as locations where materials are stored, and where workmanship can be assessed. The purpose of this unrestricted access is to ensure that inspectors can perform thorough and comprehensive evaluations of the work being performed, allowing them to identify any compliance issues or safety concerns promptly. This level of access supports the inspector's role in ensuring that the construction adheres to applicable codes and standards, and it enhances their ability to monitor the quality of materials and workmanship throughout the project. It's crucial for the effectiveness of inspections that special inspectors can access all relevant areas without undue restrictions, enabling them to fulfill their responsibilities efficiently and effectively.

5. What is the primary purpose of special inspection in construction?

- A. To enhance aesthetic appeal of the structure**
- B. To ensure that construction meets specific code requirements and approved design**
- C. To minimize construction costs and time**
- D. To ensure compliance with environmental regulations**

The primary purpose of special inspection in construction is to ensure that the construction process adheres to specific code requirements and the approved design. Special inspections play a crucial role in verifying that the materials and methods used in construction align with established standards, which helps maintain safety, integrity, and quality in building projects. Special inspections are typically mandated for critical components of construction, such as structural elements, welding, concrete pouring, and other significant construction activities. By conducting these inspections, inspectors can identify potential issues early in the process, enabling corrective actions to be taken before they escalate into larger problems. This focus on compliance with codes and regulations not only protects the safety and welfare of the public but also helps ensure that the final constructed facility fulfills the intended design and performance criteria. Therefore, it is through special inspections that builders and contractors can provide assurance that a project meets legal and regulatory standards.

6. When should a special inspector discuss non-conforming items with the contractor?

- A. At the end of each work phase**
- B. Immediately when identified**
- C. Weekly at scheduled meetings**
- D. Only during the final inspection**

A special inspector should discuss non-conforming items with the contractor immediately when identified. This approach is crucial because it allows for prompt resolution of issues that could impact the quality and safety of the construction work. Addressing discrepancies as they occur ensures that corrective measures can be implemented without delay, preventing problems from compounding or additional work from being affected. Immediate communication also helps maintain transparency and trust between the inspector and the contractor, facilitating a collaborative environment for addressing any defects or deviations from established standards. By bringing up non-conforming items right away, the inspector enables the contractor to take necessary actions in real-time, which contributes to the overall success and integrity of the project. In contrast, discussing non-conformities at the end of work phases, during scheduled weekly meetings, or only at the final inspection could lead to significant issues being overlooked or unresolved, ultimately compromising the safety and compliance of the construction project.

7. Which of the following is NOT a duty of a special inspector when on-site?

- A. Checking for compliance with safety regulations**
- B. Documenting inspection findings**
- C. Providing feedback to the contractor**
- D. Issuing construction permits**

A key responsibility of a special inspector on-site is to ensure that construction work adheres to the specifications, codes, and standards defined in the project documentation. This includes checking for compliance with safety regulations, as safety is a critical concern during the construction process. The inspector's role is to identify any safety issues or violations and ensure that corrective actions are taken as necessary. Additionally, documenting inspection findings is crucial for maintaining accurate records of the construction process. This documentation provides a traceable account of inspections, which serves legal, quality assurance, and project management purposes. Providing feedback to the contractor also falls within the scope of a special inspector's duties. The inspector may offer constructive feedback based on their observations, addressing any non-compliance or areas that need improvement, which allows the contractor to make necessary adjustments to their work. Issuing construction permits, however, is not a function of a special inspector. This task is typically performed by a regulatory authority or building department to authorize the commencement of construction based on compliance with codes and regulations. Special inspectors focus on monitoring and reporting rather than permitting, maintaining a clear distinction in roles to ensure quality and safety without overlapping with regulatory functions.

8. Which of the following tasks is NOT required of the contractor?

- A. Submit the statement of special inspections**
- B. Coordinate inspection schedule**
- C. Provide safe access to inspectors**
- D. Keep copies of special inspection reports at job site office**

The correct choice centers on the understanding of the responsibilities assigned to the contractor in the context of special inspections. While all tasks related to special inspections are crucial for maintaining compliance and safety during construction, the contractor's role does not explicitly include the submission of the statement of special inspections. This task typically falls under the purview of the design professional or the project owner, as they are responsible for identifying the types of special inspections needed based on the complexity of the project. The other tasks—the coordination of the inspection schedule, providing safe access to inspectors, and keeping copies of special inspection reports at the job site office—are indeed required of the contractor. These activities are essential for facilitating the inspection process, ensuring that inspectors can perform their duties safely, and maintaining proper records for ongoing and future reference. By managing these responsibilities appropriately, the contractor contributes to the overall effectiveness of the inspection program and compliance with applicable codes and regulations.

9. In regard to the inspection process, who ultimately has the authority to approve or reject work?

- A. The owner**
- B. The design professional**
- C. The building official**
- D. The special inspector**

The authority to approve or reject work during the inspection process is vested in the building official. This individual is responsible for ensuring that all construction meets applicable codes and regulations. The building official's decisions are based on inspections and the adherence to the approved plans and specifications. While the owner may have a vested interest in the project, and the design professional may provide oversight and recommendations based on their expertise, it is the building official who ultimately has the final say in compliance with local building codes and regulations. The special inspector plays an important role in observing and reporting on specific aspects of the work, but they do not have the authority to approve or reject work independently; their observations are meant to inform the building official's decisions. This hierarchical structure ensures that there is a clear path of responsibility and authority, emphasizing the critical role of the building official in upholding safety and compliance standards within the construction process.

10. During what phase of construction are inspections usually conducted by a special inspector?

- A. Only after the project is completed**
- B. Periodically at various stages of construction**
- C. Just before the final walk-through**
- D. Whenever the contractor requests an inspection**

Inspections by a special inspector are typically conducted periodically at various stages of construction because this approach allows for the assessment of compliance with construction plans, specifications, and relevant codes throughout the entire project lifecycle. Regular inspections help identify and address any issues early on, rather than waiting until the end of the project, which could lead to significant complications or costly repairs if problems are discovered late. This continuous oversight is essential to ensure that the construction is progressing according to the required standards and to provide assurance regarding the safety and integrity of the completed structure. By conducting inspections at multiple phases, special inspectors can evaluate critical aspects such as foundations, structural elements, and installation of certain systems as they are being constructed, leading to higher quality outcomes and adherence to regulatory requirements.