

Frequently asked questions: NCSO® national exam update

1. Why was the National Exam changed?

The National Construction Safety Officer (NCSO®) or the provincial/territorial equivalent status verifies that a person has met the training, practical application, years of experience, and written performance measurement standards as set out by the members of the Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations. The Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations (CFCSA) working group comprised of representatives from participating members recently completed a review of the National Construction Safety Officer National Exam and determined it required updating.

2. How is the new exam different from the old one?

The national exam has been upgraded from 50 questions to 120 multiple-choice questions on the same competencies as previously indicated. The exam is multiple choice, with only one correct answer, and three distractor answers. In other words, the new format of the national exam presents a question with four possible answers, and your objective is to select the best possible answer.

3. When will the new format be administered?

The new national exam took effect on September 1, 2022.

4. Is the passing grade still 75 per cent?

Yes, the passing standard is 75 per cent or 90 correct of the 120 questions.

5. Were there any changes to the competency requirements of the exam?

No, the competencies stayed the same, and the number of questions per topic was increased. The blueprint of the national exam is as follows:

Topic	Total Marks
Hazard Control	24
Investigations	18
Health and Safety Program	18
Auditing	16
Training	15
Inspections	10
WHMIS 2015	9
PPE	9
Emergency Response	1
Total	120

6. How long do I have to complete the exam?

You are provided two hours (120 minutes) to complete the exam.

7. How can I prepare for the NCSO® Exams?

The NCSO® committee encourages all applicants to complete a full review of the required training program material and review the [NCSO® Study Guide](#) before proceeding with the NCSO® Exams.