

## **Examination Board of Professional Home Inspectors National Home Inspector Examination (Canada)**

The Examination Board of Professional Home Inspectors certification examination is delivered at 26 locations in Canada. A current listing of PSI Test Centers may be viewed at [www.goAMP.com](http://www.goAMP.com) from the Candidate Information page.

### **Nondiscrimination Policy**

PSI does not discriminate among candidates on the basis of age, gender, race, color, religion, national origin, disability, marital status or any other protected characteristic.

### **Special Arrangements for Candidates with Disabilities**

PSI is interested in ensuring that no individual with a disability is deprived of the opportunity to take the examination solely by reason of that disability. PSI will provide reasonable accommodations for candidates with disabilities.

- 1) Wheelchair access is available at all established Test Centers. Candidates must advise PSI at the time of registration that wheelchair access is necessary.
- 2) Candidates with visual, sensory or physical disabilities that would prevent them from taking the examination under standard conditions may request special accommodations and arrangements and will be reviewed by PSI.

### **Applying for an Examination**

You may register for the National Home Inspector Examination online or by mail. You must submit the \$325.00 USD fee with a complete examination application. Payment may be made by credit card (Visa, MasterCard, American Express or Discover), or company check, cashier's check or money order payable to PSI Services Inc. Cash and personal checks are not acceptable.

**Online Registration:** Go to [www.goAMP.com](http://www.goAMP.com) and select "Candidates." Follow the step-by-step instructions to choose your examination program and register for the examination. Please have your credit card available for online payment of the examination fee.

Credit card transactions that are declined will be subject to a \$25.00 handling fee. A certified check or money order for the amount due, including the handling fee, must be sent to PSI to cover declined credit card transactions.

**Mail your Registration Form:** To pay for your examination by credit card, cashier's check, money order or company check (personal checks, cash, vouchers and purchase orders are not accepted), complete the registration form included in this handbook and mail it with your examination fee payable to PSI Services Inc. Mail to: PSI, 18000 W. 105<sup>th</sup> St., Olathe, KS 66061-7543 USA.

Examination fees are valid for 12 months and are not refundable or transferable.

### **Scheduling an Examination Appointment**

After registering, to schedule your National Home Inspector Examination, email the following information to [AMPIntlExamServices@goAMP.com](mailto:AMPIntlExamServices@goAMP.com):

1. First and Last Name as provided on your registration form
2. Preferred email address
3. Examination name: National Home Inspector Examination
4. Preferred Test Center location
5. Three test dates you are available to test, in order of preference.

Submit this information approximately two to four weeks prior to your requested test dates. Email correspondence confirming that PSI has received your request will be sent within two to three business days. PSI will then check availability for web-based testing and email the candidate once a date has been confirmed.

### **Examination Rescheduling**

You may reschedule the examination once at no charge if you contact PSI at least two business days prior to the scheduled examination appointment online at [www.goAMP.com](http://www.goAMP.com) or by calling PSI at 800-345-6559. The following schedule applies:

If your examination is scheduled on...	You must contact PSI by 3:00 p.m. Central Time to reschedule the examination by the previous...
Monday	Wednesday
Tuesday	Thursday
Wednesday	Friday
Thursday	Monday
Friday/Saturday	Tuesday

### **Missed Appointments/Forfeitures**

You will forfeit the examination registration and all fees paid under the following circumstances:

- You wish to reschedule an examination but fail to contact PSI at least two business days prior to the scheduled testing session.
- You wish to reschedule a second time.
- You appear more than 15 minutes late for an examination.
- You fail to report for an examination appointment.

### **Inclement Weather/Power Failure/Other Emergency**

In the event of inclement weather or unforeseen emergencies on the day of an examination, PSI will determine whether circumstances warrant the cancellation, and subsequent rescheduling, of an examination. The examination will usually not be rescheduled if the Test Center personnel are able to open the Test Center.

You may visit the [www.goAMP.com](http://www.goAMP.com) website prior to the examination to determine if PSI has been advised that any Test Centers are closed. Every attempt is made to administer the examination as scheduled; however, should an examination be canceled at a Test Center, all scheduled candidates will receive notification following the examination regarding rescheduling or reapplication procedures.

If power to a Test Center is temporarily interrupted during an administration, your examination will be restarted. The responses provided up to the point of interruption will be intact, but for security reasons the questions will be scrambled.

### **Examination Content**

To begin your preparation in an informed and organized manner, you should know what to expect from the actual examination in terms of the content. Information regarding the content of the examination you will be taking is presented in the Content Overview at the back of this handbook. The questions on the examination are designed to measure your ability to understand and apply the fundamental principles of home inspection. The examination consists of 175 four-option multiple-choice questions covering three major content areas. The total testing time is 3 hours.

### **References**

References for the examination are available at [www.homeinspectionexam.org](http://www.homeinspectionexam.org).

### **Identification**

Report to the Test Center no later than your scheduled appointment time. If you arrive more than 15 minutes after the scheduled testing time, you will not be admitted.

To gain admission to the Test Center, you must present two forms of identification. The primary form must be government issued, current and include your name, signature and photograph. Temporary ID is not accepted. You will also be required to sign a roster for verification of identity.

- Examples of valid primary forms of identification are current: driver's license with photograph; provincial or territorial identification card with photograph; passport; military identification card with photograph.
- The secondary form of identification must display your name and signature for signature verification (e.g., credit card with signature, employment/student ID card with signature).
- If your name on your registration is different than it appears on your identification, you must bring proof of your name change (e.g., marriage license, divorce decree or court order).

**You must have proper identification to gain admission to the Test Center.** Failure to provide appropriate identification at the time of the examination is considered a missed appointment. There will be no refund of your testing fee.

### **Security**

PSI administration and security standards are designed to ensure all candidates are provided the same opportunity to demonstrate their abilities. The Test Center is continuously monitored by audio and video surveillance equipment for security purposes.

The following security procedures apply during the examination:

- Examinations are proprietary. No cameras, notes, tape recorders, pagers or cellular/smart phones are allowed in the testing room. Possession of a cellular/smart phone or other electronic devices is strictly prohibited and will result in dismissal from the examination.
- No calculators are permitted.
- No guests, visitors or family members are allowed in the testing room or reception areas.

### **Personal Belongings**

No personal items, valuables, or weapons should be brought to the Test Center. Only wallets and keys are permitted. Coats must be left outside the testing room. You will be asked to pull out your pockets to ensure they are empty. The site will not store or be responsible for any personal belongings.

If any personal items are observed or heard (e.g., cellular/smart phones, alarms) in the testing room after the examination is started, the administration will be forfeited.

### **Examination Restrictions**

- Pencils will be provided during check-in.
- You will be provided with one piece of scratch paper at a time to use during the examination, unless noted on the sign-in roster for a particular candidate. You must return the scratch paper to the proctor at the completion of testing, or you will not receive your score report.
- No documents or notes of any kind may be removed from the Test Center.
- No questions concerning the content of the examination may be asked during the examination.
- Eating, drinking or smoking is not permitted in the Test Center.
- You may take a break whenever you wish, but you will not be allowed additional time to make up for time lost during breaks.

### **Misconduct**

If you engage in any of the following conduct during the examination you may be dismissed, your scores will not be reported and examination fees will not be refunded. Examples of misconduct are when you:

- create a disturbance, are abusive, or otherwise uncooperative;
- display and/or use electronic communications equipment such as pagers, cellular/smart phones;
- talk or participate in conversation with other examination candidates;
- give or receive help or are suspected of doing so;
- leave the Test Center during the administration;
- attempt to record examination questions or make notes;
- attempt to take the examination for someone else; or
- are observed with personal belongings, notes, books or other aids.

### **Computer Login**

After your identification has been confirmed, you will be directed to a testing carrel. You will be instructed on-screen to enter your identification number.

### **Practice Examination**

Prior to attempting the examination, you will be given the opportunity to practice taking an examination on the computer. The time you use for this practice examination is NOT counted as part of your examination time or score.

When you are comfortable with the computer testing process, you may quit the practice session and begin the timed examination.

If you wish to see and practice navigating within the computer-based testing environment before your examination date, a free online computer-based testing tutorial is available. Go to the LXR Store at <http://store.lxr.com> and follow the instructions to access a Sample Web Test.

### **Taking the Examination**

Before beginning the examination, instructions for taking the examination are provided on-screen. The computer monitors the time you spend on the examination. The examination will terminate if you exceed the time allowed. You may click on the Time box in the lower menu bar on the screen to monitor your time. A digital clock indicates the time remaining for you to complete the examination. The Time feature may be turned off during the examination.

Only one examination question is presented at a time. The question number appears in the lower right portion of the screen. Choices of answers to the examination question are identified as A, B, C, or D. You must indicate your choice by either typing the letter in the response box in the lower left portion of the computer screen or clicking on the option using the mouse. To change your answer, enter a different option by typing the letter in the response box or by clicking on the option using the mouse. You may change your answer as many times as you wish during the examination time limit.

To move to the next question, click on the forward arrow (>) in the lower right portion of the screen. This action will move you forward through the examination question by question. If you wish to review any question or questions, click the backward arrow (<) or use the left arrow key to move backward through the examination.

An examination question may be left unanswered for return later in the examination session. Questions may also be bookmarked for later review by clicking in the blank square to the right of the Time button. Click on the double arrows (>>) to advance to the next unanswered or bookmarked question on the examination. To identify all unanswered and bookmarked questions, repeatedly click on the double arrows (>>). When the examination is completed, the number of examination questions answered is reported. If not all questions have been answered and there is time remaining, return to the examination and answer those questions.

### **Candidate Comments**

During the examination, you may make comments for any question by clicking on the button displaying an exclamation point (!) to the left of the Time button. This opens a dialogue box where comments may be entered. Comments will be reviewed, but individual responses will not be provided.

### **Following the Examination**

After completing the examination, you are asked to complete a short evaluation of your examination experience. Then, you are instructed to report to the examination proctor to receive an examination completion report.

### **Score Reports**

Your score report will be mailed following your examination to the postal address listed on your application. Please review this information for accuracy to ensure the delivery of your score report. An incomplete or inaccurate postal address may delay the delivery of your score report. If you are using your work address, be sure to include any additional information that may assist in delivery, such as your department name or mail code.

Examination results are only released by postal mail and will not be released by email, fax, phone, or any other method. Please allow one to two weeks for delivery.

### **Failing to Report for an Examination**

If you fail to report for an examination, you will forfeit the registration and all fees paid to take the examination. A completed application form and examination fee are required to reapply for examination.

### **Confidentiality**

Information about candidates for testing and their examination results are considered confidential. Studies and reports concerning candidates will contain no information identifiable with any candidate, unless authorized by the candidate.

### **Retaking an Examination**

You may retake an examination as many times as you wish, but you must wait 30 calendar days between examination dates. To reschedule you must reregister online at [www.goAMP.com](http://www.goAMP.com) and pay using a credit card. If payment is made by company check, cashier's check or money order, submit a new completed registration form.

### **Verification of Scores**

In computer-delivered testing, the computer accepts responses from a keyboard or mouse in digitized form. As a result, computer-administered testing eliminates problems that may have previously arisen with scanning paper-and-pencil answer sheets since all responses are recorded by candidates during their examination. However, verification of examination scores from electronic responses can be requested in writing for a fee of \$25.00. Requests must be submitted to PSI, in writing, no later than 12 months after the examination administration date, and must include the candidate's name, identification number, mailing address, and examination date. Please allow 10 business days for processing requests. Requests should be mailed to PSI, 18000 W. 105th St., Olathe, KS 66061 USA.

### **Duplicate Score Reports**

Requests for a duplicate score report must be made in writing to PSI within one year of the examination date along with a fee of \$25.00 payable to PSI Services Inc. by check or money order. Requests should be mailed to PSI, 18000 W. 105th St., Olathe, KS 66061 USA. Duplicate score reports will be processed and mailed within approximately five business days following receipt of the request.

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# NATIONAL HOME INSPECTOR EXAMINATION CONTENT OVERVIEW

This outline is based on a formal role delineation study conducted by the National Home Inspector Examination (NHIE) that defines the profession as practiced in the field. Home inspector subject matter experts from a variety of practice specialties and geographic areas contributed to the study, and home inspectors from throughout the nation then reviewed the study via a statistically valid survey. The resulting content areas and their associated knowledge and skill requirements serve as the “blueprint” for the NHIE. The percentage of questions on the exam for each content area is indicated below.

This document, based on the role delineation study, is intended to provide home inspectors with topics for study that may appear on the NHIE. The contents of this document are neither a complete listing of all topics covered by the examination nor all skills necessary to perform a competent inspection.

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## PERFORMANCE DOMAIN I: BUILDING SCIENCE (64%)

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**Task 1:** Identify and inspect site conditions using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures to assess immediate and long-term safety and maintenance issues that can affect the building or people. (4%).

- a. Vegetation, Grading, Drainage, and Retaining Walls
  1. Common retaining wall types, materials, applications, installation methods, construction techniques, and clearance requirements
  2. Common grading and drainage system types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  3. Typical defects (e.g., negative grade, site drainage problems)
  4. Typical vegetation and landscape conditions, maintenance practices, and how they affect the building
  5. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  6. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology
- b. Driveways, Patios, and Walkways
  1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  2. Typical defects (e.g. root damage, trip hazards)
  3. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  4. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology
- c. Decks, Balconies, Stoops, Stairs, Steps, Porches, & Applicable Railings
  1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  2. Attachment methods (e.g., lag screws, bolts, web joists, tgi joists, cantilevered flooring)
  3. Deck load to grade transfer theory (e.g., deck to joist to girder to post to grade)
  4. Typical defects (e.g., flashing, railings, decayed wood, results of deferred maintenance)

5. Maintenance/design concerns and procedures
6. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology

**Task 2:** Identify and inspect building exterior components using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures to assess immediate and long-term safety and maintenance issues that can affect people or the performance of the building. (6%)

- a. Wall Cladding, Flashing, Trim, Eaves, Soffits, and Fascia
  1. Common types (e.g., stucco, composite siding, aluminium and vinyl cladding, SIPs, EIFS, step flashing)
  2. Typical defects (e.g., cracking, improper installation, water infiltration, decay)
  3. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  4. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology
- b. Exterior Doors and Windows
  1. Common door and window types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  2. Typical defects (e.g., delaminating, decayed wood, thermal seal failure, flashings, cracked glass)
  3. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  4. Safety issues, applicable standards, appropriate terminology, and glazing requirements (e.g., egress requirements, safety glazing, release for security bars)
- c. Roof Coverings
  1. Common roof-covering types, materials, applications, installation methods, construction techniques, and manufacturing requirements
  2. Typical roof covering repair methods and materials
  3. Typical defects (e.g., improper installation, cracking, curling, deterioration, damage)
  4. Characteristics of different roofing materials

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- 5. Sheathing and underlayment requirements for different types of roof coverings
  - 6. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  - 7. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology
- d. Roof Drainage Systems
- 1. Common drainage system types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques (e.g., slope, gutters, roof drains, scuppers)
  - 2. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  - 3. Typical defects (e.g., ponding, improper slopes, clogging/leaking, disposal of roof water runoff)
  - 4. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  - 5. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- e. Flashings
- 1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical defects (e.g., separation, corrosion, improper installation, missing flashing)
  - 3. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  - 4. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- f. Skylights and Other Roof Penetrations
- 1. Common skylight and other roof penetration types, materials, applications, installation methods, & construction techniques
  - 2. Typical defects (e.g., cracked glazing, improper installation, deterioration, failure, faulty flashing)
  - 3. Maintenance concerns and procedures safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology

**Task 3:** Identify and inspect structural system elements using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures to assess immediate and long-term safety and maintenance issues that may affect people or the structural stability of the building. (7%)

- a. Foundation
- 1. Common foundation types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical foundation system modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  - 3. Typical defects (e.g., cracks, settlement, decomposition, failed damp-proofing) and their common causes and effects.
  - 4. Soil types & conditions and how they affect foundation types
  - 5. Applied forces and how they affect foundation systems (e.g., wind, seismic, loads)
  - 6. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
  - 7. Water management (e.g., grading, foundation drains, sumps)

- b. Floor Structure
  - 1. Common floor system types (e.g., trusses, concrete slabs), materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  - 3. Typical defects (e.g., improper cuts and notches in structural members, decayed or damaged structural members, effects of long-term loading and/or bearing & environmental exposure)
  - 4. Limitations of framing materials (e.g., span)
  - 5. Applied forces and how they affect floor systems (e.g., wind, seismic, loads)
  - 6. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- c. Walls and Vertical Support Structures
  - 1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  - 3. Typical defects (e.g., decayed or damaged structural members, earth to wood contact, structural deformation)
  - 4. Seismic and wind-resistant construction methods and hardware
  - 5. Fire blocking and fire walls
  - 6. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- d. Roof and Ceiling Structures
  - 1. Common roof and ceiling structure types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical roof structure modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  - 3. Acceptable truss and ceiling structural-member modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  - 4. Roof and ceiling structure conditions and defects (e.g., moisture stains, fungal/mold growth, sagging rafters, modified/damaged trusses, decayed or damaged structural members)
  - 5. Limitations of framing materials (e.g., span)
  - 6. Applied forces and how they affect roof/ceiling structures (e.g., wind, seismic, loads)
  - 7. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology
  - 8. Seismic and wind-resistant construction and hardware
  - 9. Maintenance concerns and procedures

**Task 4:** Identify and inspect electrical system elements using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures to assess immediate and long-term safety and maintenance issues or affect people. (7%)

- a. Electrical Service: Service Entrance, Service Lateral, Service Conductors, Service Equipment, and Service Grounding



1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  2. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  3. Typical defects (e.g., water and rust in panel equipment, height, deteriorated conductor sheathing)
  4. Electrical service capacity
  5. Service grounding and bonding
  6. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  7. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology
- b. Interior Components of Service Panels and Subpanels
1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  2. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  3. Typical defects (e.g., un-bonded sub panels, double-tapping, over-fusing)
  4. Main disconnects
  5. Panel grounding and sub-panel neutral isolation
  6. Panel wiring
  7. Over-current protection devices
  8. Function of circuit breakers and fuses
  9. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  10. Inspection safety procedures
  11. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- c. Wiring Systems
1. Common types, materials, applications, & installation methods
  2. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  3. Typical defects (e.g., open splices, exposed non-metallic cable)
  4. Problems with aluminum wire
  5. Obsolete electrical wiring system (e.g., knob & tube wiring)
  6. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  7. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology
- d. Devices, Equipment, & Fixtures (e.g., switches, receptacles, lights)
1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  2. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  3. Typical defects (e.g., reverse polarity, open grounds, faulty GFCIs)
  4. Equipment grounding
  5. Wiring, operation, location of typical devices and equipment (e.g., receptacles and lights, appliances, GFCI protection, arc fault protection)
  6. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  7. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology

**Task 5:** Identify and inspect cooling systems using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures to assess immediate and long-term safety and maintenance issues that may affect people or the performance of the building. (5%)

- a. Cooling
1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  2. Typical defects (e.g., vacuum line insulation missing, condensation and/or rust on components, not cooling properly, un-level condenser, frost/ice formation on components, restriction of air flow at the condensing unit, location of condensing unit)
  3. Theory of refrigerant cycle (latent and sensible heat)
  4. Theory of heat transfer
  5. Theory of equipment sizing
  6. Methods of testing the systems
  7. Condensate control and disposal
  8. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  9. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- b. Distribution Systems
1. Common distribution system types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  2. Typical defects (damaged ducts, incorrect configuration/installation, insufficient air flow, condensation at supply registers, blower operation, and improper air temperature at register)
  3. Methods of testing the system
  4. Maintenance concerns and procedures (e.g., filter, condensation pump and lines)
  5. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology

**Task 6:** Identify and inspect heating systems using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures to assess immediate and long-term safety and maintenance issues that may affect people or the performance of the building. (6%)

- a. Heating
1. Common types, materials, applications, installation, methods, and construction techniques
  2. Typical defects (e.g., cracked heat exchanger, humidifier, dirty fan, improper fuel line installation/material)
  3. Theory of heat transfer and how it takes place in different heating system types
  4. Heating system types (e.g., forced draft, gravity, boiler, hydronic, heat pump, solid fuel)
  5. Theory of equipment sizing
  6. Methods of testing the systems
  7. Performance parameters
  8. Condensate control and disposal

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- 9. By-products of combustion (e.g., H<sub>2</sub>O, CO<sub>2</sub>, CO, NO<sub>2</sub>), their generation, & how & when they become a safety hazard
  - 10. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  - 11. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology
- b. Distribution Systems
- 1. Common distribution system types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical defects (e.g., damaged ducts, incorrect configuration/installation, insufficient airflow, blower operation, and improper air temperature at register)
  - 3. Methods of testing the system
  - 4. Maintenance concerns and procedures (e.g., filter, humidifier)
  - 5. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- c. Flue and Venting Systems
- 1. Common venting system types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical defects (e.g., separated flue, back drafting, clearance to combustible materials, proper slope, combustion make-up air vent sizing and configuration)
  - 3. Theory of venting and exhaust flues
  - 4. Equipment sizing
  - 5. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- 3. Theory of moisture generation and movement
  - 4. Performance parameters
  - 5. Vapor pressure and its effects
  - 6. Theory of relative humidity
  - 7. Effects of moisture on building components, occupants, and indoor air quality
  - 8. Moisture control systems
  - 9. Appearance or indications of excessive moisture and likely locations for condensation to occur
  - 10. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  - 11. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- c. Ventilation Systems of Attics, Crawl Spaces, and Roof Assemblies
- 1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical ventilation defects and how they affect buildings and people
  - 3. Theory of air movement in building assemblies (e.g., conditioned vs. unconditioned, draft stopping)
  - 4. Theory of relative humidity
  - 5. Interdependence of mechanical systems and ventilation systems
  - 6. Appliance vent systems requirements (e.g., clothes dryers, range hoods, bathroom exhausts)
  - 7. Screening, sizing, and location requirements for vent openings
  - 8. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  - 9. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology

**Task 7:** Identify and inspect insulation, moisture management systems, and attic/interior/crawl space ventilation systems in conditioned and unconditioned spaces using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures to assess immediate condition and long-term safety and maintenance issues that may affect people or the performance of the building. (6%)

- a. Thermal Insulation
- 1. Common thermal insulation types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical defects (e.g., lack of insulation, uneven insulation, damaged insulation, flame spread concerns, improper clearances and alignment)
  - 3. Theory of heat transfer and energy conservation
  - 4. Performance parameters (e.g., R-value)
  - 5. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  - 6. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- b. Moisture Management
- 1. Common vapor retarder types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical defects (e.g., inadequate ventilation, evidence of condensation)

**Task 8:** Identify and inspect plumbing systems using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures to assess immediate and long-term safety and maintenance issues that may affect people or the performance of the building. (6%)

- a. Water Supply Distribution System
- 1. Common water distribution types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - 2. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  - 3. Typical defects (e.g., cross-connection, back flow)
  - 4. Common water pressure/functional flow problems and how they affect the water distribution system (e.g., softeners, private well equipment, hard water build-up, old galvanized piping, pressure reducer valves, expansion tanks)
  - 5. Pipe defect/deterioration issues (e.g., PVC, galvanized, brass, polybutylene, PEX)
  - 6. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  - 7. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology (e.g., understanding of term “functional flow”)

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- b. Fixtures and Faucets
    1. Common fixture and faucet types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
    2. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
    3. Typical defects (e.g., cross-connection/back-flow, fixture attachment)
    4. Maintenance concerns and procedures
    5. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
  - c. Drain, Waste, and Vent Systems
    1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques (e.g., supports/spacing)
    2. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, & retrofits methods and materials (e.g., joining dissimilar piping materials)
    3. Theory and usage of traps and vents
    4. Identification of public or private disposal (when possible)
    5. Typical defects (e.g., faulty installation, deterioration, leakage, defective venting or drain slope)
    6. Maintenance concerns and procedures
    7. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology (e.g., understanding of term “functional drainage”)
  - d. Water Heating Systems
    1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques (e.g., conventional, instant, tank less, indirectly heated, atmospheric/gravity/induced draft)
    2. Typical water heater defects (e.g., improper vent/flue materials and configuration, condition, unsafe locations, connections, compatible to fuel type, temperature and pressure relief system problems)
    3. Accessory items (e.g., drain pans, seismic restraints, expansion tanks, recirculation systems)
    4. Connections to and controls for energy source
    5. Combustion, make-up, and dilution air requirements
    6. Maintenance concerns and procedures
    7. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology
  - e. Fuel Storage and Fuel Distribution Systems
    1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
    2. Typical defects (e.g., piping supports/spacing, shut-off requirements, unprotected fuel lines, leaking fuel fittings)
    3. Defects in above-ground oil/gas storage tanks
    4. Fuel leak indications, repairs, and remediation methods
  - 5. Basic components of gas appliance valves & their functions
  - 6. Tank restraints and supports
  - 7. Underground storage tank indicators and reporting requirements
  - 8. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  - f. Safety issues, applicable standards, appropriate terminology, drainage sumps, sump pumps, sewage ejection pumps, related valves and piping
    1. Common types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
    2. Typical defects (e.g., inoperative sump pumps, improperly installed/designed equipment and systems, alarms, lid seals)
    3. Sump pump location significance
    4. Pump discharge location significance
    5. Maintenance concerns and procedures
    6. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- Task 9:** Identify and inspect interior components using applicable standards for material selection, installation procedures, and maintenance to assess immediate and long-term safety issues as they may affect people or the performance of the building. (5%)
- a. Walls, Ceiling, Floors, Doors, and Windows, and other Interior System Components
    1. Types of defects in interior surfaces not caused by defects in other systems (e.g., attachment defects, damage)
    2. Typical defects in interior surfaces caused by defects in other systems (e.g., structural movement, moisture stains)
    3. Common wall, ceiling, floor, door, and window type, materials, applications, installation methods and construction techniques
    4. Egress requirements (e.g., window security bar release, basement windows, opening size, sill height, and ladders)
    5. Applicable fire/safety and occupancy separation requirements (e.g., fire barriers, fire walls, fire rated doors, & penetrations)
    6. Operation of windows or doors
    7. Fire and life safety equipment (e.g., smoke/CO detectors inoperative or missing)
    8. Maintenance concerns and procedures
    9. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology of common wall, ceiling, floor, door, and window types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  - b. Steps, Stairways, Landings, and Railings
    1. Common step, stairway, landing, and railing types, materials, applications, installation methods, & construction techniques
    2. Maintenance concerns and procedures
    3. Typical defects (e.g., loose/damage elements, improper rise/run, inadequate/omitted handrails)
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4. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology
- c. Garage Vehicle Doors and Operators
  1. Common garage vehicle doors and door operator types, materials, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  2. Typical defects (e.g., damaged components, safety considerations, spring retention, opener adjustment)
  3. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  4. Safety issues, applicable standards, & appropriate terminology

**Task 10:** Identify and inspect fireplace and chimney systems using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures to assess immediate and long-term safety and maintenance issues that may affect people or the performance of the building. (6%)

- a. Fireplaces, Solid-Fuel Burning Appliances, Chimneys, & Vents
  1. Common manufactured fireplaces (e.g., vented, direct vent, non-vented) & solid-fuel burning appliance types, materials, applications, installation methods, & construction techniques
  2. Common manufactured fireplaces and solid-fuel burning appliance chimney, vent connector, and vent types, materials, applications, installation methods and construction techniques of direct-vent and non-vented fireplaces
  3. Common masonry fireplace types, masonry flues, materials, applications, installation methods, & construction techniques
  4. Chimney terminations (e.g., spark arrestors, chimney cap)
  5. Chimney foundation, height and clearance requirements
  6. Theory of heat transfer
  7. Effects of moisture and excessive heat on fireplaces
  8. Fuel types and combustion characteristics, air supply, and combustion air requirements
  9. Typical defects (e.g., hearth defects, clearance requirements, firebox damage, damper problems, smoke chamber and flue issues, shared flue considerations)
  10. Operation of equipment, components, and accessories
  11. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  12. Safety issues, fire safety fundamentals, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology

**Task 11:** Identify and inspect common permanently installed kitchen appliances for proper condition and operation. (3%)

- a. Installation
- b. Operating using normal controls
- c. Typical defects (e.g., appliance not anchored/leveled, rusting racks, leaking unit, missing air gap)

- d. Maintenance concerns and procedures
- e. Safety issues, applicable standards, manufacturer's specifications, and appropriate terminology

**Task 12:** Identify and inspect pool and spa systems using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures to assess immediate and long-term safety and maintenance issues. (2%)

- a. Types of construction
  1. Perimeter coping and water level finish
  2. Shell interior finish (e.g., plaster, vinyl, pebble/synthetic)
  3. Entrapment prevention (e.g., dual drains, anti-vortex lid)
  4. Permanently installed handrails and ladders
- b. Mechanical systems
  1. Pump, motors, blowers, skimmer, filter, drains, gauges
  2. Piping and valves
  3. Cleaning systems (e.g., in-floor heads, pool sweeps)
  4. Heating (e.g., gas, electric, solar)
- c. Electrical systems
  1. Lighting and GFCI protection
  2. Timers and controls
  3. External bonding (e.g., pump motors, blowers, heater shell)
- d. Typical defects (e.g., inoperative equipment, piping leaks, damage/deterioration of components)
- e. Maintenance concerns and procedures
- f. Safety issues (e.g., child-safe barriers or components), applicable standards, and appropriate terminology

**Task 13:** Identify and inspect lawn irrigation systems using applicable standards for material selection and installation procedures and to assess immediate and long-term safety and maintenance issues that may affect the performance of the system and building. (1%)

- a. Common material types, applications, installation methods, and construction techniques
  1. Typical modifications, repairs, upgrades, and retrofits methods and materials
  2. Timers and controls (e.g., timing device, manual valves)
  3. Typical defects (e.g., leaks, poor adjustment, inoperative components, cross-connection/back flow, proximity and possible effects on building)
  4. Common water pressure/flow problems and how they affect the water distribution system
  5. Visible and accessible pipe deterioration issues (e.g., PVC, galvanized, brass)
  6. Maintenance concerns and procedures
  7. Safety issues, applicable standards, and appropriate terminology

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**PERFORMANCE DOMAIN II: ANALYSIS AND REPORTING (24%)**

**Task 1:** In the inspection report, identify building systems and components by their distinguishing characteristics (e.g., purpose, type, size, location) to inform the client what was inspected. (6%)

- a. Minimum information required in an inspection report (e.g., property data, construction materials, installation techniques and procedures, locations of main system shutoffs)
- b. Describing the type of systems & the location of system components
- c. Correct technical terms to describe systems and components of the building

**Task 2:** Describe inspection methods and limitations in the inspection report to inform the client what was inspected and what was not inspected and the reason why it was not inspected. (6%)

- a. Minimum and critical information required in an inspection report (e.g., weather conditions, inspection safety limitations, components not accessible)
- b. Common methods used to inspect particular components (e.g., roofs, attics, sub-floor crawl spaces, mechanical components)

**Task 3:** Describe systems and components inspected that are not functioning properly or are defective. (7%)

- a. Common expected service life of building & mechanical components
- b. Common indicators of potential failure (e.g., rust & corrosion, unusual noise, excessive vibration, and/or lack of routine maintenance)
- c. Common safety hazards
- d. Common test instruments and their proper use for qualitative analysis (e.g., moisture meters, CO meters, probes)

**Task 4:** List recommendations to correct deficiencies or items needing further evaluation. (5%)

- a. Correct professional or tradesperson required to effect repairs or perform further evaluations
- b. Common remedies for correction
- c. Relationships between components in the building
- d. When to immediately inform building occupants of a life-threatening safety hazard (e.g., gas leak, carbon monoxide accumulation)

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**PERFORMANCE DOMAIN III: BUSINESS OPERATIONS (12%)**

**Task 1:** Identify the elements of the written inspection contract (e.g., scope, limitations, terms of services) to establish the rights and responsibilities of the inspector and client. (6%)

- a. Purpose of a contract
- b. Elements of a contract (e.g., names of parties, scope of inspection, terms of service, exclusions and limitations, address, date and times of inspection, limits of liability, dispute resolution, and understanding State specific elements)
- c. Timing of delivery and signing contract

**Task 2:** Identify responsibilities to the client in order to maintain the quality, integrity, reputation, and objectivity of the inspection process while protecting the client's interests. (6%)

- a. Fundamental legal concepts (e.g., fiduciary responsibility, contractual responsibility, liability, negligence, due diligence, consumer fraud, knowledge of licensing requirements)
- b. Identify conflicts of interest to the client (e.g., inspector interest in the property, third-party stakeholders with financial interest in the outcome of the inspection)
- c. Boundaries of personal expertise and professional scope of practice (e.g., don't exceed your area of expertise)
- d. Understand the types and purpose of financial protection (e.g., general liability, professional E&O, bonding, and warranties)

# NATIONAL HOME INSPECTOR EXAMINATION (CANADA) REGISTRATION FORM

To apply for the National Home Inspector Examination for Canada, you may register online at [www.goAMP.com](http://www.goAMP.com) or complete all sections of this form. Please include credit card information or enclose a cashier's check, money order or company check payable to PSI Services Inc. Mail the application and fee to: PSI, 18000 W. 105th St., Olathe, KS 66061-7543 USA. To schedule your examination appointment after registering, contact PSI at [AMPIntlExamServices@goAMP.com](mailto:AMPIntlExamServices@goAMP.com).

1. NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
Last Name First Name Middle Initial

2. MAILING ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
Number, Street and Apartment Number

\_\_\_\_\_ Municipality Province Postal Code

3. TELEPHONE NUMBER (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Telephone

4. BIRTH DATE \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_  
Month Day Year

5. EMAIL ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

6. EDUCATION  
Please indicate where you received your home inspector education: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

7. EXAMINATION FEE – \$325 USD  
Your examination fee must be submitted with your application form. Payment may be made by credit card, cashier's check, money order or company check payable to PSI Services Inc. Personal checks and cash are not accepted. Examination fees are valid for 12 months.

8. METHOD OF PAYMENT  
 Cashier's Check  Money Order  Company Check (*payable to PSI Services Inc.*)  
 Credit Card Type:  VISA  MasterCard  Discover  American Express

I agree to pay the amount indicated according to card issuer agreement.

\_\_\_\_\_ Account Number Expiration Month/Year Name as it appears on the Card

Signature \_\_\_\_\_

9. SIGNATURE AND DATE  
I have read and understand the information provided in the Candidate Handbook, and the information I have provided in this registration form is true and complete to the best of my knowledge.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Mail this registration form with fee to:**  
**PSI**  
**National Home Inspector Examination for Canada**  
**18000 W. 105th St., Olathe, KS 66061-7543 USA**  
**Phone: 800-345-6559**



# REQUEST FOR SPECIAL EXAMINATION ACCOMMODATIONS

If you have a disability covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act, **please complete this form and provide the Documentation of Disability-Related Needs on the next page and submit it with your application at least 45 days prior to your requested examination date.** The information you provide and any documentation regarding your disability and your need for accommodation in testing will be treated with strict confidentiality.

## Candidate Information

Candidate ID # \_\_\_\_\_ Requested Test Center: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name (Last, First, Middle Initial, Former Name)

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mailing Address

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
City State Zip Code

\_\_\_\_\_  
Daytime Telephone Number Email Address

## Special Accommodations

I request special accommodations for the \_\_\_\_\_ examination.

Please provide (check all that apply):

- Reader
- Extended testing time (time and a half)
- Reduced distraction environment
- Please specify below if other special accommodations are needed.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

### PLEASE READ AND SIGN:

I give my permission for my diagnosing professional to discuss with PSI staff my records and history as they relate to the requested accommodation.

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to:**  
**PSI, 18000 W. 105th St., Olathe, KS 66061-7543**  
**If you have questions, call Candidate Services at 800-345-6559.**



## DOCUMENTATION OF DISABILITY-RELATED NEEDS

Please have this section completed by an appropriate professional (education professional, physician, psychologist, psychiatrist) to ensure that PSI is able to provide the required accommodations.

### Professional Documentation

I have known \_\_\_\_\_ since \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_ in my capacity as a  
Candidate Name Date

My Professional Title

The candidate discussed with me the nature of the test to be administered. It is my opinion that, because of this candidate's disability described below, he/she should be accommodated by providing the special arrangements listed on the Request for Special Examination Accommodations form.

Description of Disability: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_ Title: \_\_\_\_\_

Printed Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_ License # (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

**Return this form to:**  
**PSI, 18000 W. 105th St., Olathe, KS 66061-7543**  
**If you have questions, call Candidate Services at 800-345-6559.**