

New Exam Questions Are a Sign of Things to Come

Last month, NCARB introduced two new types of questions in the Mechanical & Electrical Systems division of the Architect Registration Examination. The “Check-All-That-Apply” and “Fill-in-the-Blank” questions (or *alternate item type questions* in NCARB parlance) more accurately evaluate a candidate’s understanding of a given query.

Unlike the older style of multiple-choice questions (with four or sometimes five options from which to choose an answer) they replace, the alternate item type questions are “more discriminating,” according to Carol S. Sakata, FAIA, a longtime ARE volunteer leader. Sakata explains, “Candidates will

need to KNOW material and/or calculate answers rather than have a 25 percent chance of getting something correct by just guessing.”

“Check-All-That-Apply” questions offer six options from which candidates must select all answers that are correct. In order to complete a “Fill-in-the-Blank” question, candidates must calculate the correct answer. No options are provided. (See *examples below*.)

The Mechanical & Electrical Systems division is the first ARE multiple-choice division to showcase the alternate item types. They will comprise approximately 10-15 percent of the

questions found in this division. The amount of time established for completing the Mechanical & Electrical Systems division has not been affected by the new questions. Partial credit is not given for incomplete responses to the alternate item types.

NCARB anticipates that alternate item type questions will appear in additional multiple-choice divisions in July 2008. Keep an eye on the NCARB web site (www.ncarb.org) for more details and updates about the ongoing evolution of the Architect Registration Examination. **DC**

SAMPLE QUESTION 1

OCCUPANCY	FLOOR AREA IN SF PER OCCUPANT
ASSEMBLY - CONCENTRATED	7
ASSEMBLY - TABLE AND CHAIRS	15
BUSINESS AREA	100
DORMITORIES	50
EDUCATIONAL - CLASSROOMS	20
EDUCATIONAL - VOPS & VOC ROOMS	50
EXERCISE ROOMS	50
COMMERCIAL KITCHENS	200
MECHANICAL AREAS	300

OCCUPANCY	WATERCLOSET - M	WATERCLOSET - F	LAVATORIES
RESTAURANTS	1 PER 75	1 PER 75	1 PER 200
THEATERS, HALLS, ETC	1 PER 125	1 PER 65	1 PER 200
BUSINESS	1 PER 50	1 PER 50	1 PER 80
EDUCATIONAL	1 PER 75	1 PER 50	1 PER 100
DORMITORIES	1 PER 75	1 PER 10	1 PER 100

Using the table above, what is the number of water closets required in the women's rest room in an office building with 50,000 sq ft of leasable area?

SAMPLE QUESTION 2

The design of a sustainable building can be achieved by which of the following? Check the four that apply.

- Eliminating natural concrete as a finish material
- Using operable windows
- Selecting furniture systems made only of man-made products
- Selecting low-VOC paints, sealers, and stains
- Selecting low-emission composite materials
- Maximizing the use of wood products

SAMPLE QUESTION 3

How tall does a 3 foot [1 000 mm] wide casement window need to be to provide the required natural ventilation for a 15 foot by 20 foot [4 500 mm by 6 000 mm] bedroom?

 ft [mm]