



# GYPSUM DRY WALL CONTRACTORS GENERAL TRADE KNOWLEDGE EXAMINATION CONTENT INFORMATION

Revised September 14

The General Trade Knowledge portion of the examination is administered daily in Computer Based Testing (CBT) format. It will consist of 80 equally weighted questions.

The examination will have questions relating to the following content areas and necessary knowledge for each area includes:

- reading and interpreting plans and specifications
- reading and interpreting codes
- basic mathematics (addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, calculations of area and volume, fractions, decimals, percentages, calculating the sides of triangles, square roots, powers of numbers, and solving simple algebraic equations for unknown variables)

You should be prepared to respond to examination questions on any of the content areas listed. Questions asked and content areas tested on previous examinations should not be assumed to be the only possible questions to be asked or content areas to be tested on this examination.

The percentage of questions shown for each content area may vary by as much as plus or minus three (3) percent. Please refer to the Candidate Information Brochure and the Reference List for additional information.

## **Content Area A** **35%** **Gypsum and Gypsum Wallboard Installation**

- 1. Determining the proper gypsum wallboard type given a specific application**
  - rated wall and ceiling assemblies
  - exterior applications
  - under ceramic tile
  - sheathing
  - interior ceilings

## **2. Installing gypsum wallboard**

- over wood
- over metal
- over masonry
- over concrete surfaces
- temperature and humidity issues
- storage of materials onsite

## **3. Identifying the correct gypsum wallboard fastener or adhesive**

- 1/4" gypsum on wood
- 1/2" gypsum on wood
- 5/8" gypsum on wood
- 1/4" gypsum on metal
- 1/2" gypsum on metal
- 5/8" gypsum on metal
- lamination methods

## **4. Identifying required fastener spacings and penetrations into framing members**

- 1/4" gypsum on wood
- 1/2" gypsum on wood
- 5/8" gypsum on wood
- 1/4" gypsum on metal
- 1/2" gypsum on metal
- 5/8" gypsum on metal
- lamination methods
- spacing of fasteners based on framing spacing
- spacing of fasteners for walls versus ceilings

## **5. Using tools and equipment to install gypsum wallboard**

- hand and power tools
- ladders
- scaffolds

## **6. Estimating and bidding a job**

- reading plans and specifications
- perform material take offs
- estimate material and labor costs

**Content Area B** 15%  
**Taping and Texturing**

- 1. Selecting the correct joint compound and tape given the application and job conditions**
  - humidity
  - temperature
  - rated wall and ceiling assemblies
  - exterior applications
  - under ceramic tile
  - sheathing
  - interior ceilings
- 2. Applying joint compound to gypsum surface**
  - tape coats
  - bed coats
  - finish coats
  - skim coats
  - dry and wet sanding
- 3. Texturing**
  - knock down
  - orange peel
  - aggregated spray texture
  - skip trowel
- 4. Using tools and equipment for gypsum wallboard taping and texturing**
  - hand tools
  - mechanical tools
  - (e.g., bazooka, angle box, banjo)
  - texture machines

**Content Area C** 35%  
**Metal Stud Walls and Ceiling Grid Systems**

- 1. Laying out and installing metal ceiling systems**
  - determine type of grid
  - determine type of ceiling tile
  - determine accessories needed
  - framing for suspended ceiling
  - framing for accoustical ceiling
  - determine fastener type
  - soffits
- 2. Laying out and installing metal stud wall systems**
  - install metal door jambs
  - determine spacing, gage, and type of stud to use given application
  - determine accessories needed
  - determine fastener type
  - bulkhead walls
- 3. Installing wall and ceiling systems**
  - hand tools
  - power actuated tools
  - lasers
  - water levels

**Content Area D** 15%  
**Special Applications**

- 1. Forming curves and angles with gypsum wallboard**
  - framing requirements
  - determine thickness and layers needed given curve
- 2. Installing gypsum wallboard in fire and sound control systems**
  - smoke barrier
  - sound board
- 3. Applying exterior gypsum wallboard**
  - under wall and roof sheathing
  - exterior finish drywall
- 4. Demonstrate knowledge of relevant job safety procedures and requirements**
  - OSHA