



NASCLA National Contractor Exams Contractor FAQ

1. Why would I want to take a national exam?

By taking a national exam, a contractor will be able to eliminate the need to sit for multiple licensing exams when the company wishes to be able to work in another state. In addition to facilitating mobility, passing a national exam with the rigor of NASCLA's approved exams can be a powerful marketing tool for demonstrating the professional expertise of a company's employees.

2. Who is developing the national exams and why?

With the four hurricanes that roared through Florida last year, hurricanes Katrina and Rita this year, and the more than 100 other natural disasters declared throughout the US, shortages of licensed contractors due to limitations on reciprocity caused concern among relief agencies and regulatory bodies. In light of this and other concerns, the National Association of State Contractors Licensing Agencies (NASCLA) has begun to facilitate the development of a national contractor exam. By developing such an exam, NASCLA hopes to:

- *enable countrywide license reciprocity*
- *facilitate contractor mobility*
- *reduce redundant examination requirements*
- *raise industry standards*

3. Will taking the NASCLA National Contractor Exam license me in multiple states?

For most participating states the NASCLA National Contractor Exams will be optional alternatives to their existing state exam(s). In some cases the state may choose to adopt the national exam as their state exam. Because each state has its own requirements for licensing/registration beyond an exam, the contractor will still be required to meet additional requirements of the individual states in which the company desires to work.

4. What will be tested on a NASCLA National Contractor Exam?

A NASCLA National Contractor Exam is seeking to ensure that no critical skill is omitted from the list of knowledge and skills needed for working safely and competently in multiple states. Therefore, practice standards as determined by a national occupational analysis will be covered in the exams. However, because laws and business practices vary from state to state, those areas will remain governed and/or tested by the individual states.

5. How and when can a contractor apply to take the NASCLA National Contractor Exam?

Because the occupational analysis is such an important component of the national exams' development, this aspect will be ongoing through December of 2005. Therefore, it is anticipated that the first of the exams, a general commercial building contractor exam, will be complete with testing facilities in place by the end of 2006. The specific application process and fees are yet to be determined. The development of other specialty exams will follow in future years.

6. Which states accept the NASCLA National Contractor Exam?

It will be up to each of the state licensing/registration agencies to accept the NASCLA National Contractor Exam as satisfying their testing requirements. Check with the individual states for specific instructions on reciprocity or acceptance of the NASCLA National Contractor Exam. A list of states accepting the exam will also be posted to the NASCLA website once the National Contractor Exam is completed and available for use

For additional information on the NASCLA National Contractor Exam, contact the Public Relations office at 727-578-1962 or email NationalExamInfo@NASCLA.org.

