



Instructions for Taking the Hazardous Waste Licence to Transport Knowledge Exam

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1.0 WHO MUST TAKE THE EXAM?

One representative of the company (**owner or an employee of the company**) that has applied for the transport licence must take the exam. The exam taker must be involved in the **daily operations of the business**.

The validity of the licence also relies on the presence of a company representative (owner or employee) having taken and passed the exam. As soon as the carrier knows that the employee who passed the exam will leave or if that employee is no longer an employee of the carrier, the licensee must ensure that the company representative takes and passes the exam. To be in compliance, it is suggested that a new exam taker passes the exam within 2 weeks the former exam taker leaves their employment with the carrier.

Note: A contractor hired or contracted by a carrier is **not an employee** under employment laws and, therefore, is not eligible to take the exam as the company representative.

Even though at the present time not all drivers or employees are required to take the exam, it is a responsibility and a requirement that every person who performs duties

related to the transportation of hazardous waste (owner and employees) be knowledgeable in:

- Applicable provisions in the B.C. *Environmental Management Act*
- Applicable provisions in the B.C. Hazardous Waste Regulation
- Applicable provisions of EMA's regulations such as Spill Reporting Regulation and Contaminated Sites Regulation
- Conditions specified in the carrier's licence
- Any federal Acts and regulations applicable to transportation of hazardous wastes and where applicable the hazardous wastes themselves

Carriers have the responsibility of ensuring that anyone transporting hazardous waste knows their responsibilities and what to do when there are emergencies (spills, fires, etc.) through their own in-house training and contingency plans, which are specifically related to the types of hazardous waste they are authorized to transport.

2.0 WHEN AND WHERE THE EXAM CAN BE TAKEN?

An Applicant must pass the knowledge exam and include their results (e.g., a certificate) in the application package.

The knowledge exam is administered through Service BC. Please use the link to arrange a time to write your test with the Service BC office nearest you <https://appointments.servicebc.gov.bc.ca/appointment> to book an appointment

You will be asked to provide the following information:

- Tentative or proposed date(s) and time(s) of the exam.
- Name(s) of employee(s) taking the exam
- Proposed location to take the exam

If monitoring of the exam by a Service BC staff is not possible, the carrier must make arrangements to obtain a proctor from a nearby educational institution (college/university). A proctor is a person who monitors or supervises students during examinations. The carrier will be responsible for making the arrangements with the institutional proctor and for providing the proctor's contact information to Service BC. The carrier is also responsible for any proctoring fees/expenses incurred.

3.0 WHICH EXAM TO TAKE?

There are 2 types of exams: the general driver's exam and waste specific exams. The exam to take is determined by the waste types that have been indicated on the application form.

1. Waste Specific exam: transporting a single type of hazardous waste, either asbestos, waste batteries, biomedical waste or petroleum product (i.e., waste oil).

2. General exam: transporting more than one type of hazardous wastes or a type of hazardous waste for which a specific exam has not been created.

The **Waste Specific Exams** address specific waste types. As a result, the exam questions are more focused on knowledge that transporters must have for these wastes and their transport. There are 20 questions and the passing grade on the waste specific exam is 80%.

The **General Exam** focuses on the general responsibilities of carriers. This includes the responsibility to have reasonable knowledge of hazardous wastes, provincial legislation, and federal legislation as it relates to the provincial legislation, documentation, safe transport, spill and emergency response while on route in B.C. There are 40 questions and the passing grade on the General Driver's Exam is 70%.

4.0 HOW LONG IS THE EXAM?

- You are given 2 hours (120 minutes) to complete the general driver's exam (40 questions).
- You are given 1 hour (60 minutes) to complete a waste specific exam (20 questions).

Please read the questions carefully. Additional time may be given if requested.

5.0 WHAT TO BRING TO THE EXAM ROOM?

The exams are open book exams - you are allowed to reference study materials such as regulations, manuals, practice tests and other study materials. It is important, and it is your responsibility to bring your own copies of your study material. It could be very helpful to have your own copies as you may have added side notes, bookmarked sections and highlighted information that you considered important or necessary to remember. Moreover, the proctor will not have copies study material for your use during the exam.

It is suggested that you also bring:

- Identification document with photo such as driver's licence
- Pencil, pen, eraser
- A sweater due to possible room temperature fluctuations
- Cushion for your chair if you suffer from back pain
- Bottled water
- Eyeglasses, if you need them for reading

Communication devices (such as mobile/smart phones) and/or electronic devices (such as laptop, tablet, notebook and computer) are not necessary for the exam and **may not**

be used during the exam. You are also not permitted to bring any materials that contain exam questions and/or answers.

6.0 WHAT TO STUDY?

The questions were mainly derived from the following sources:

- [Environmental Management Act](#), SBC 2003 Chap. 53, as amended from time to time
- [Hazardous Waste Regulation](#), B.C. Reg. 63/88, as amended from time to time
- [Spill Reporting Regulation](#), B.C. Reg. 221/2017 as amended from time to time
- [Hazardous Waste Legislation Guide](#)
- [Manual for Completing BC's Hazardous Waste Manifests and Supplementary Forms](#)

Please note that both the Legislation Guide and the Manual for completing manifests are not legal documents; they may not be up-to-date and are for guidance only. If there is discrepancy or conflict, the *Environmental Management Act*, its regulations and other legislation take precedence.

The Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) training alone is not sufficient to pass these exams because many hazardous wastes are not dangerous goods. However, a person must be familiar with the federal *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* and Regulations because most hazardous wastes are also classified as dangerous goods. When transporting hazardous wastes that are also dangerous goods, the carrier must also comply with the requirements of the *Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act* and Regulations. Manifesting requirements are also based on the federal legislation. Hazardous wastes that are dangerous goods must be manifested while being transported in British Columbia. Wastes that are defined as hazardous wastes in B.C., but are not dangerous goods, **must still** be manifested for transportation in B.C.

The additional resources mentioned below are reference materials that can be used by the exam taker in order to better prepare for the exam or to have a better understanding of the issues involving hazardous waste. These resources are directly and indirectly related to transportation.

- BC Hazardous waste website:
<https://www2.gov.bc.ca/gov/content/environment/waste-management/hazardous-waste>
- WHMIS where appropriate and available
- Contingency Plans, Emergency Response Plans from the carrier company
- Transport Canada website for information on the federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods (TDG) Regulation: <http://www.tc.gc.ca/eng/tdg/safety-menu.htm>

- Environment Canada's website for information on waste management: <http://www.ec.gc.ca/gdd-mw/> (it contains information on import and export of hazardous waste, PCB issues and regulations, inter-provincial movement of hazardous waste and hazardous recyclables, etc.)
- Emergency Response Guidebook: a Guidebook for First Responders During the Initial Phase of a Dangerous Goods/Hazardous Materials Transportation Incident, developed jointly by Transport Canada (TC), the US Department of Transportation (DOT), the Secretariat of Transport and Communications of Mexico (SCT), [2024](#) (or most recent)
- Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Model Regulations. New York, New York: United Nations, 2015 or most recent edition.
- Recommendations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods: Manual of Exams and Criteria. New York, New York: United Nations, 2014 or most recent edition.
- Fingas, Mervin F., The Basics of Oil Spill Cleanup. CRC Press, 3rd ed., 2012.
- NIOSH/OSHA Pocket Guide to Chemical Hazards. NIOSH, CDC, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, 2010 or most recent edition.
- Lewis, Richard J., Sr., Sax's Dangerous Properties of Industrial Materials. 12th ed. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Publication, 2012.
- Weiss, G., Hazardous Chemicals Data Book. 2nd ed. Park Ridge, New Jersey: Noyes Data Corporation, 1986.
- National Fire Protection Association, Fire Protection Guide to Hazardous Materials. NFPA, 14th ed. 2010.
- O'Neil, Maryadele J., et al. The Merck Index: An Encyclopedia of Chemicals, Drugs, and Biologicals. Royal Society of Chemistry, 2013 or most recent edition.
- Rose, Vernon and Cohrssen, Barbara, ed. Patty's Industrial Hygiene and Toxicology. John Wiley & Sons, Inc. Publication, 2011.
- Gosselin, Robert E., et al. Clinical Toxicology of Commercial Products. 5th ed. Baltimore, Maryland: Williams & Wilkins, 1984.
- [WorkSafeBC's Safe Work Practices for Handling Asbestos](#)
- The [Occupational Health and Safety Regulation](#) and the Occupational Health and Safety provisions of the [Workers Compensation Act](#)
- Canadian Emergency Response to Flammable Liquid Incidents in Transport (CERFLIT) Program

Various associations provide information and resources on hazardous waste and its transportation; some of them are as follows:

- Canadian Standards Association (CSA): <https://www.csagroup.org/>
- Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment (CCME): <https://www.ccme.ca/>

- BC Trucking Association website: <http://www.bctrucking.com/>
- Canadian Association of Petroleum Products: <http://www.capp.ca/>

If you know of other relevant resources, feel free to contact the Ministry office in Victoria at hazwaste@Victoria1.gov.bc.ca so that we can include other sources of information to this guideline.

7.0 HOW TO STUDY?

The exams are open book, so it is important that you know where to look for the information related to the question. Everyone has a different way of studying. Some need to use memorization techniques to remember certain information, others have photographic memory, and others use different tools to be able to remember and/or to look for information. Familiarise yourself with and get comfortable with your study material. When reading your study material, it is suggested that you highlight important information, write side notes and bookmark the sections in the order that makes most sense for you.

It is also recommended that you look up and study the information that relates to hazardous waste transportation and to the specific types of waste that you intend to transport in this study material and in the additional study resources.

TIP: Use online versions of study material, legislation and other resources to look up key words (e.g. “manifest”, “registration”, “asbestos”, “public road”, “training”). This is a quick way to find where specific terms appear in the study materials, and to see how the legislation interrelates.

Use the Table of Contents in the Hazardous Waste Regulation to familiarize yourself with the structure of the regulation and to find specific sections. Read and understand the definitions of waste types and other important terms (e.g., storage, labpack and manifest) in Part 1 – Interpretation and Application of the Hazardous Waste Regulation. The same principle is applicable to the *Environmental Management Act*.

Although exam questions about the TDG Regulations topics are not as specific as those for the Hazardous Waste Regulation, applicants for licences to transport hazardous waste should be generally familiar with the TDG Regulations and have received training on the TDG regulation because many hazardous wastes are also dangerous goods.

Transport Canada’s Emergency Response Guidebook includes a quick reference guide to its contents. Use this guide to find the information that relates to hazardous waste transportation and to the specific types of waste that you intend to transport.

The [B.C. Waste Management web page](#) offers links to news, informative newsletters and fact-sheets, and other useful websites. Use these online resources to look up and study information that relates to hazardous waste transportation and to the specific

types of waste that you intend to transport. The information found in these websites contains clarifications or simplified phrasing of the regulation to make it easier to understand and use.

For the waste specific exams, it is expected that the carrier will have done their own research on the issues related to the specific waste that the carrier proposes to transport. For example, some study material and best management practices/standards for biomedical wastes can be found at the CSA and CCME websites.

It is also assumed that a responsible carrier will have compiled a contingency plan with the relevant information about the specific waste using emergency guidebooks, material safety data sheets, chemical handbooks and other resources.

8.0 WHAT ARE THE QUESTIONS LIKE?

The exams consist of questions in both **multiple-choice** and **true/false** formats similar to the examples shown below:

Example 1: A manifest is required when a carrier transports a pail (25L) of waste oil.
A. True.
B. False.

Comments: The answer is “B”. A manifest is required when carrying over 210 L of waste oil (see Section 46 (1) (g) of the Hazardous Waste Regulation). Although you may not specifically plan to carry waste oil, you must know that there is a minimum amount of hazardous waste for which a manifest is required; you must know where to find this information in the regulation and how it applies to you.

Example 2: According to the Hazardous Waste Regulation, which of the following are not hazardous wastes?

- A. Off specification methane gas cylinder and asbestos.
- B. Waste oil and biomedical waste.
- C. Leachable toxic waste and waste gasoline.
- D. Domestic sewage and animal carcasses
- E. Corrosive wastes, infectious wastes, and waste batteries.

Comments: The answer to the question is “D”. Many times a generator, especially small generators, rely on the carrier to determine if a waste is hazardous, to determine if a manifest is required and may even ask the driver for suggestions on where to take the waste. It is important that the driver have a general idea of what falls under the definition of hazardous waste in British Columbia. They will go to Section 1 of the Hazardous Waste Regulation (HW Regulation), under the title of “Interpretation” and look up the definition of hazardous waste:

"hazardous waste" means

- (a) dangerous goods if they
 - (i) are no longer used for their original purpose, and
 - (ii) meet the criteria for Class 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8 or 9 of the federal dangerous goods regulations, including those that are recycled, treated, abandoned, stored or disposed of, intended for recycling, treatment or disposal or in storage or transit before recycling, treatment or disposal,
 - (b) PCB wastes,
 - (b.1) biomedical wastes,
 - (c) wastes containing dioxin, (d) waste oil,
 - (e) waste asbestos,
 - (f) waste pest control product containers and wastes containing pest control products, including wastes produced in the production of treated wood products using pest control products,
 - (g) leachable toxic waste,
 - (h) waste containing tetrachloroethylene,
 - (h.1) wastes listed in Schedule 7,
 - (h.2) Repealed. [B.C. Reg. 261/2006, s. 1 (b).]
 - (i) waste containing polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbon, and
 - (i.1) Repealed. [B.C. Reg. 319/2004, s. 3 (e).]
 - (i.2) on site media that is stored ex situ unless the on site media is stored for one of the purposes set out under subsection (3),
 - (i.3) waste lead-acid batteries,
 - (i.3) without limiting paragraph (g), waste lightbulbs containing mercury that are managed under an extended producer responsibility plan
- but does not include
- (j) household refuse that is collected from residential premises,
 - (k) domestic sewage,
 - Etc....

There are a few points to consider. One must have some familiarity of the federal TDG Regulation. Methane gas is a flammable gas and falls under class 2, more specifically class 2.1, waste gasoline is a flammable liquid and falls under class 3, and corrosive wastes falls under class 8; therefore, they are hazardous waste.

Domestic sewage is specifically excluded from the definition of hazardous waste; however, it does not mean that domestic sewage is not regulated – it is regulated under other regulations such as the Sewerage System Regulation and the Municipal Wastewater Regulation to name a few.

Please note that when a waste is specifically stated in the definition of hazardous waste (e.g. asbestos, leachable toxic waste) in the provincial regulation, then this waste is hazardous waste in B.C.

It may seem that there was a lot of things to look at, and that it would take a lot of time to answer just one question. However, it is just perception; the thinking process is much faster than reading and writing. If you are familiar with the definition of “hazardous

waste” and know where to find the information – because you have “seen” it before – it should not take as long as it might seem.

Example 3: The following are some of the actions a carrier must take when a spill occurs. Which one is not correct?

- A. Report the spill immediately to the Provincial Emergency Program (PEP)
- B. When safe to do so, the driver must contain and minimize the effects of the spill
- C. If there is no effect or damage caused in a spill and the spill was contained and cleaned up, the driver may choose not to report the spill to PEP
- D. Reporting of a spill may mean to call not only PEP but also the local police and health authorities.
- E. Some of the information to be provided to PEP are: contact information of the person who caused the spill, location and time, causes and effect of spill, type and quantity of substance spilled.

Comments: The answer is “C”. Even if the driver believes and it is true that there was no effect or damage caused by the spill, there is a minimum quantity of substance spilled that must be reported. It is not the choice of the carrier to report the spill or not, they **must** report if the quantity released is equal or above the quantity stated in the table found in the Schedule of the Spill Reporting Regulation. The quantities vary for different materials and were determined based on risks and/or possible health and environmental effects. The Spill Reporting Regulation is not only for dangerous goods as defined in the federal TDG Regulation, it is also for hazardous wastes and other substances that can cause pollution. Drivers transporting in BC must know the minimum reportable quantities for the wastes they transport as part of their compliance and responsibility.

9.0 HOW WILL I KNOW MY RESULTS AND WHAT ARE THE NEXT STEPS?

The passing grade is 70% for the general exam and 80% for each of the waste-specific exams. The answer sheet is sent to the Ministry office in Victoria for marking. The results are reported by telephone or email to the carrier or the contact person named in the application, usually within 5 business days.

If an applicant does not pass the exam on the first attempt, a second attempt may be attempted as soon as appropriate arrangements can be made with the Ministry or the external proctor.

10.0 DISCLAIMER

This document does not supersede or replace the *Environmental Management Act* or its regulations; in the case of omissions or discrepancies, the *Act* and its regulations apply. It is intended for guidance only.