



## CONTRACTORS STATE LICENSE BOARD LICENSE EXAMINATION STUDY GUIDE



### DRYWALL (C-9)

#### Content of the Examination

The Drywall (C-9) Examination is divided into five major sections:

- 1. Planning and Estimating (18%)**
  - Review plans and specifications
  - Estimate project costs
  - Evaluate material specifications
- 2. Preparation, Framing, and Layout (14%)**
  - Evaluate job site readiness
  - Manage materials on the job site
  - Lay out various assembly types
  - Install metal framing systems
  - Install backing
- 3. Installation and Repair (32%)**
  - Install various ceiling assemblies
  - Install standard wallboard assemblies
  - Install fire-rated wallboard assemblies
  - Install specialty wallboard assemblies
  - Install trims
  - Repair damaged drywall systems
- 4. Finishing (17%)**
  - Select and mix various compounds
  - Select level of finish
  - Prepare and tape surfaces
  - Finish and coat surfaces
  - Sand and/or sponge wallboard
  - Texture surfaces

#### 5. Safety (19%)

- Personnel safety procedures
- Job site safety procedures
- Operate tools and equipment
- Work at elevated heights

*\*Percentages are approximate\**

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#### Test Policy

This is a closed-book examination. No reference materials may be used during the examination.

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#### Test Strategy

This is a multiple-choice examination with four choices per question. Examination questions are written to provide only one BEST answer. Some questions require mathematical computation. A calculator will be provided.

There is no penalty for guessing. If you are unsure about a particular question, it is better to try to answer the question than to leave the question blank.

Plenty of time is provided to answer all examination questions, so be sure to read each question and its four choices completely and carefully before selecting the BEST possible answer to the question.

## Sample Questions

Below are three typical examination questions.  
The correct answer is marked with an asterisk (\*).

1. What are clamps used for when installing metal framing?
  - a. Bending metal header plates.
  - b. Curling sharp metal edges.
  - c. Holding plumb bobs in place.
  - d. Holding studs to runner tracks.\*
2. How many total square feet of wallboard are needed to cover both sides of a wall that is 26 feet long and 14 feet high?
  - a. 364 square feet
  - b. 546 square feet
  - c. 728 square feet\*
  - d. 736 square feet
3. What should be done when there is a break or change of elevation of 18" or more in a hallway floor?
  - a. Postpone work until the stairway is constructed.
  - b. Provide a warning sign at least 8" x 10".
  - c. Provide a ladder, ramp, or temporary stairs.\*
  - d. Provide caution tape barriers.

*\*All questions are written and reviewed by licensed contractors who are actively working in the trade\**

## Resources

*Publisher information for reference books and code is provided below. Other sources for reference books may be found online.*

**California code books can be viewed online:**  
[www.dgs.ca.gov/bsc](http://www.dgs.ca.gov/bsc)

**2025 California Building Code.** California Code of Regulations, Title 24. International Code Council.

PHONE: (800) 786-4452  
INTERNET: [www.iccsafe.org](http://www.iccsafe.org)

**GA-216-2021 Application and Finishing of Gypsum Panel Products.** Gypsum Association.

PHONE: (800) 323-3471  
INTERNET: [gypsumpublications.com](http://gypsumpublications.com)

**ASTM Standard Specification C754-20; C840-**

**24.** ASTM International.

PHONE: (877) 909-2786

INTERNET: [www.astm.org](http://www.astm.org)

**Commercial Metal Stud Framing.** Craftsman Book Company.

PHONE: (800) 829-8123

INTERNET: [craftsman-book.com](http://craftsman-book.com)

**GA-600-2021 Fire Resistance and Sound Control Design Manual.** Gypsum Association.

PHONE: (800) 323-3471

INTERNET: [gypsumpublications.com](http://gypsumpublications.com)

**The Gypsum Construction Handbook.** USG Corporation.

PHONE: (800) 950-3839

INTERNET: [www.usg.com](http://www.usg.com)

**GA-214-2021 Levels of Finish for Gypsum Panel Products.** Gypsum Association.

PHONE: (800) 323-3471

INTERNET: [gypsumpublications.com](http://gypsumpublications.com)

**State of California General Industry & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA) and State of California Construction & Electrical Safety Orders (Cal/OSHA). 2025.** California Code of Regulations, Title 8. Mancomm.

PHONE: (877) 626-2666

INTERNET: [www.mancomm.com](http://www.mancomm.com)

VIEW ONLINE:

[www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm](http://www.dir.ca.gov/dosh/LawsAndRegulations.htm)

*\*Publisher information is current as of 03/26\**