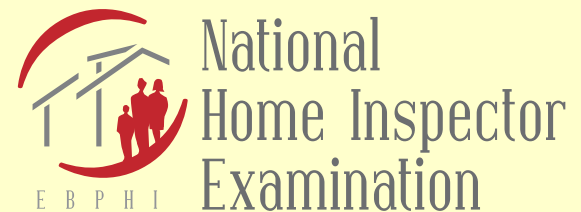


National Home Inspector Examination: Confidence and Competence

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National Home Inspector Examination



Why states regulate professions

- Consumer protection
- Improve the profession—
“raising the bar”
- Accountability

What's "licensing?"

- Now 31 states that regulate
- Confusion over terms:
 - 27 "license"
 - 3 "trade practice" or "registration"
 - 1 "voluntary certification"
 - 1 "mandatory certification"

Types of credentialing

	Entity Recognizing	Voluntary or Mandatory	USUAL Components of the Program
Professional Certification	Association, Certification Board, Corporations, State Governmental Agency	Voluntary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility/application process • Assessment, i.e. testing • Ongoing requirements, e.g. continuing education, retesting • Revokeable/enforced
Curriculum-based Certificate	Association, Certification Board, Academic Institution, Corporation	Voluntary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focused and predefined curriculum • Education/training program • Assessment through exam or skill demonstration • No ongoing requirements • Cannot be revoked
Licensure	State Governmental Agency	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eligibility requirements demonstrated through application process • Assessment of knowledge or skills by examination • Ongoing re-licensure requirements, such as continuing education, retesting, and/or submission of fees • Revokeable/enforced • Unlawful to practice without license
Registration	Association, Certification Board	Voluntary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Usually synonymous with Certification
Registration	State Governmental Agency	Mandatory	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • State requires all individuals who wish to engage in an occupation to register (list their name and pay a fee) with a designated governmental agency

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Types of testing

- Knowledge-based—how MUCH do you know?
 - Usually tests to specific curriculum
 - Goal is to obtain highest score
- Competency-based—
 - Tests to a blueprint derived from a role delineation study
 - Scoring is pass/fail

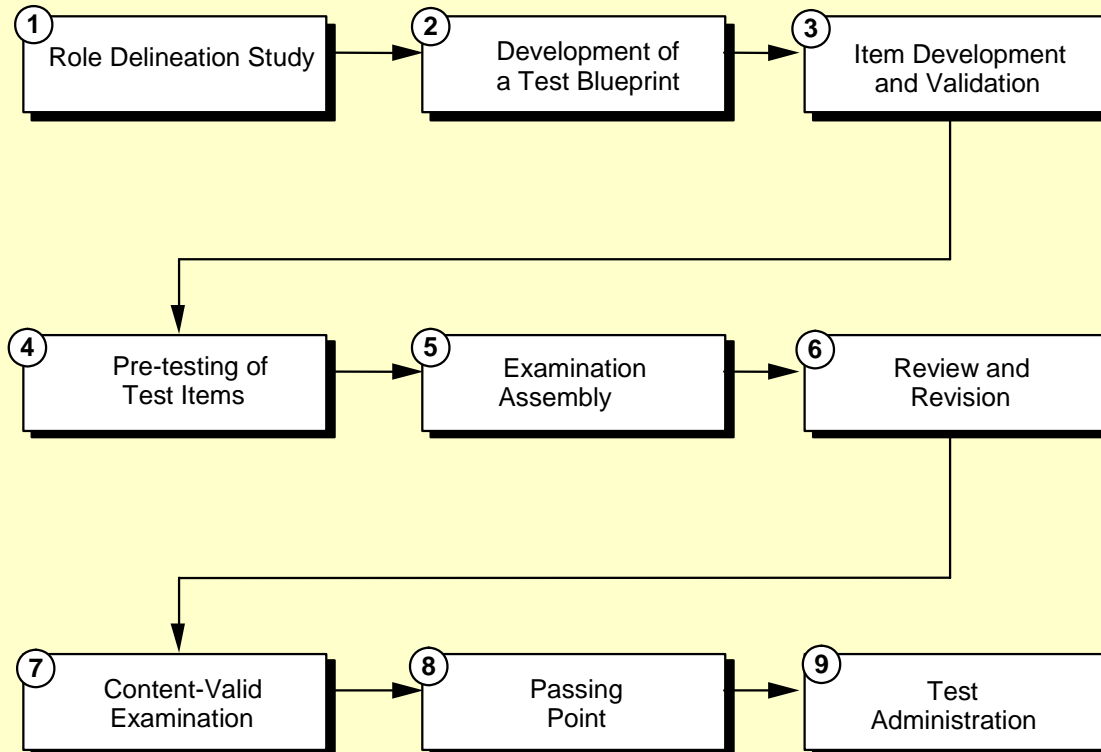
Psychometrics

- Science of measuring skills, knowledge via standardized mathematic and statistic processes
- “High stakes” testing
- Vital role of subject matter experts
- Reliability, validity, defensibility

Test development standards

- AERA, NCCA, CLEAR—standard setting
- Maximum compliance ensures validity, reliability, defensibility
- Assess how well, to what depth, does development meet the standards
- Standards also require independence

Test development cycle



Result: NHIE test blueprint

- Inspection Methods (27%)
- Building Systems (42%), including exterior, structural, roofing, electrical, heating and cooling, insulating and ventilating, plumbing, interior, and fireplace and chimney.
- Reporting (26%)
- Professional Practice (5%)

Pitfalls of poor testing

- Undermines public protection
- False sense of consumer security
- Diminishes professionalism
- Legal vulnerability

Advantages of national test

- NHIE provides uniform foundation for regulation as the legislative trend continues
- National exam sets appropriate competency standard to encourage serious professionals

National Home Inspector Examination: Confidence and competence

- “Minimum competence” is not “incompetent”
- Must be supported by statutory requirements for qualifying and continuing education
- Regulator and consumer confidence
- Pride and knowledge for home inspectors