(Updated Exams Release Date: April 27, 2026)

Highway Construction Inspection Certification

Level III Content Outline

Engineering Technician

The candidate for NICET certification at Level III in Highway Construction Inspection should have the knowledge, experience and skills needed to: Interpret plans and specifications for surface and sub-surface work, pavements, drainage and pipes, structures, and materials (including field modifications). The candidate may also act as a supervisor on a project identifying differing site conditions, supervising a team of inspectors, documenting non-compliant work, and documenting work completed. They have at least 5 years of experience in the inspection of highway construction projects and related work.

3.1 Soil and Slope Stabilization

(Questions related to these tasks make up 12-22% of the exam.)

- 3.1.1 Inspect roadway soil stabilization. 1, 2, 8
- 3.1.2 Inspect steep slopes and slope stabilization, both temporary and permanent, including support of excavation.1
- 3.1.3 Inspect water retention and channeling features.1
- 3.1.4 Inspect reinforced earth and mechanically stabilized embankments and walls. 1
- 3.1.5 Evaluate field conditions relative to core borings. 1

3.2 Roadway Construction

(Questions related to these tasks make up 20-30% of the exam.)

- 3.2.1 Inspect pavement preservation applications for concrete and asphalt roadways. 1
- 3.2.2 Inspect grade tie-ins, drainage, elevations, and transitions for proper functionality through all phases of construction. 1, 9
- 3.2.3 Inspect sanitary sewer lines. 1, 3
- 3.2.4 Inspect installation of water lines. 1
- 3.2.5 Identify potential improvements to work zone traffic control implementation. 6
- 3.2.6 Interpret basic geometric layout (horizontal / vertical).
- 3.2.7 Observe asphalt pavement placement. 1

3.3 Structure Construction

(Questions related to these tasks make up 20-30% of the exam.)

- 3.3.1 Inspect drilled shafts, caissons, and micropiles. 1, 4
- 3.3.2 Inspect structural steel components for conformance with project documents. 1, 2, 3, 8, 10
- 3.3.3 Inspect implementation of hot and cold weather control plans for mass concrete. 1, 5
- 3.3.4 Inspect pre/post-tensioning of concrete components. 1
- 3.3.5 Inspect bridge deck construction, including pre-pour inspection. 1, 2
- 3.3.6 Inspect construction and removal of falsework to verify conformance with plans, specifications, and procedures. 1
- 3.3.7 Inspect structure preservation treatments. 1, 3, 5

3.4 Project Administration

(Questions related to these tasks make up 13-23% of the exam.)

- 3.4.1 Prioritize and coordinate inspection activities of available inspection personnel. 1, 2
- 3.4.2 Inspect project activities for conformance with basic OSHA safety requirements. 7
- 3.4.3 Demonstrate the ability to make independent field adjustments. 1, 2

3.5 Concrete Pavement Construction

(Questions related to these tasks make up 10-20% of the exam.)

- 3.5.1 Inspect surface preparation, forms, reinforcing steel, and load-transfer assemblies for pavements. 1, 3, 5
- 3.5.2 Verify that concrete for pavement meets testing and certification requirements. 1, 2, 3
- 3.5.3 Inspect delivery, placement, and consolidation of concrete for pavements. 1, 5
- 3.5.4 Inspect finishing saw-cutting and sealing of joints and surface tolerances. 1

March 9, 2026

footnote number is linked to a reference on the Selected General References listing