



(Updated Exams Release Date: April 27, 2026)

Highway Construction Inspection Certification

Level IV Content Outline

Senior Engineering Technician

The candidate for NICET certification at Level IV in Highway Construction Inspection should have the knowledge, experience and skills needed to: Review project plans and specifications, including required properties of asphalt, concrete, and other materials to identify potential problems; develop inspection strategies, schedules, and assignments; supervise/manage multiple inspection teams on major projects with considerable complexity; troubleshoot complex issues; evaluate the status of project schedule, budget, and contract requirements. They have at least 10 years of experience in the inspection of highway construction projects and related work.

4.1 Complex or Critical Construction

(Questions related to these tasks make up 35-45% of the exam.)

4.1.1 Oversee inspections of critical construction activities. 1, 2, 5, 7, 9, 10

4.1.2 Develop and manage operation-specific hold-points for critical or complex inspections. 1, 3, 8

4.1.3 Identify the likely causes of problems in construction materials or procedures, diagnose causes, and recommend remedies. 1, 2, 11, 12

4.2 Maintain Schedules and Budgets

(Questions related to these tasks make up 25-35% of the exam.)

4.2.1 Review and evaluate baseline and progress schedules. 1, 2

4.2.2 Review work completed to verify eligibility for payment. 1

4.2.3 Review project inspection and testing costs to date, estimate remaining costs, and compare to construction engineering and inspection budgets.

4.3 Project Administration

(Questions related to these tasks make up 25-35% of the exam.)

4.3.1 Evaluate project contracts plans and specifications for constructability. 2, 6

4.3.2 Evaluate the need for contract modifications and manage the change order process. 1, 4

4.3.3 Manage the price adjustment provisions of performance-based contracts. 2

4.3.4 Review wage rate inspection reports for compliance with current legislation and regulations including Davis-Bacon Act. 1, 2, 13

4.3.5 Manage project's final inspection, acceptance, and closeout. 1, 2, 5, 6

4.3.6 Describe the different types of project delivery methods. (design build, design bid build, progressive design build)

September 29, 2026

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