Practice quiz: ICC inspector certification (start with Residential Building Inspector B1)

5 questions. The answer key is on page 2.

Name _____ Date _____

1. **A homeowner asks whether a small detached storage shed needs a building permit. Where in the IRC does the inspector look first?**
   A. Chapter 2, Section R202, under the term for accessory structure
   B. Chapter 3, Section R317, which covers garages and carports
   C. Chapter 1, Section R105, including the list of exempt work
   D. Chapter 4, Section R401, since a shed sits on the ground

2. **At a frame inspection, the inspector finds that insulation and drywall already hide part of the wall framing, which has not been inspected. What can the jurisdiction require?**
   A. That the covering be removed so the hidden work can be inspected
   B. Nothing, because the final inspection will cover it
   C. A signed letter from the builder in place of the frame inspection
   D. A note on the certificate of occupancy listing the uninspected wall

3. **Two IRC sections seem to give different rules for the same detail: one is a general provision and the other addresses that exact detail. Which governs?**
   A. The one in the lower-numbered chapter
   B. The stricter one in every case
   C. The one the permit holder chooses
   D. The specific one

4. **On a sloping lot, the bottom of a planned footing would slope more than the IRC allows. What does the code require?**
   A. Thicken the footing along the sloped run
   B. Step the footing so each run bears level
   C. Add extra reinforcing to the sloped run
   D. Widen only the downhill end of the footing

5. **In a new single-family dwelling, smoke alarms are installed in each bedroom, in the hall outside the bedrooms and on each story. What does interconnection of these alarms require?**
   A. Activation of any one alarm sounds every alarm in the dwelling unit
   B. Only the alarms on the story where smoke is sensed must sound
   C. Interconnection is needed only when a fire sprinkler system is installed
   D. Each alarm sounds alone, and the others only show a warning light

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Answer key

ICC inspector certification (start with Residential Building Inspector B1). One line of why for each answer.

1. **C** Permit requirements and the list of work exempt from a permit are in Chapter 1, Section R105, so that is where the answer starts (then check local amendments).
2. **A** Section R109 ties inspections to stages, and work is not supposed to proceed past a stage until it passes; covered work can be required to be exposed for inspection.
3. **D** Section R102 covers two kinds of conflict: where sections simply set different requirements, the most restrictive governs, but where a general requirement conflicts with a specific one, the specific one applies.
4. **B** Section R403.1.5 limits footing slope; beyond that limit the footing is stepped so each run sits on level bearing.
5. **A** Under R310, setting off any alarm sounds all of them in the home.

Full explanations

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