

“Preparing for the North Carolina SP-FA/LV Electrical Examination”

Training Class FAQ (Revised 2/8/2022)

The best source for all information about the North Carolina Electrical Contractor Examination in the SP-FA/LV classification is the North Carolina Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors (NCBEEC). Their website and contact information, along with many helpful documents and resources, can be found at www.ncbeec.org. The information in this FAQ relates to our class and is not reviewed or approved by the NCBEEC. It is always your responsibility to verify rules and requirements with the NCBEEC.

When does the class start and end?

We start promptly at 8:00 AM, unless otherwise noted, and finish at 5:00 PM. A one-hour lunch break usually begins between 11:30 AM and 11:45 AM. Lunch is not included in the class fees. The class also takes several shorter breaks during the day.

What materials does a student receive at the class session?

Each student receives a bound copy of handouts that includes a course outline and copies of all presentation material; a copy of Title 21 NCAC 18B; and an extensive set of practice examination questions, along with a practice questions answer key with references. We do not provide Code books as part of the class.

What do I need to bring to class?

We recommend that students bring a copy of the National Electrical Code (NFPA 70-2020) and the National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (NFPA 72-2013), as well as pens or pencils to take notes. Your student workbook has plenty of room for notes.

What are the references for the examination questions?

The current references are:

- National Electrical Code (NFPA 70-2020) NOTE: Effective March 1, 2022
- National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (NFPA 72-2013)
- Title 21 NCAC 18B (Board’s Rules for the Implementation of the Electrical Contractors Licensing Law)
- Business and Project Management for Contractors (NC Edition)

Like most states, North Carolina periodically adopts newer editions of Codes. However, the NCBEEC will provide notification of such changes in their newsletter and on their website. If you have any questions about which references are currently in use, contact the Board’s representatives.

Is the examination open-book?

Yes, and you will be responsible for bringing your own copy of the two main Code references to use during the exam. (This policy was changed effective 2/1/2021. Previously, the testing center provided the references. NCBEEC has a new policy document that you should refer to regarding

what references they allow.) You may not bring or use a copy of 21 NCAC 18B or Business and Project Management for Contractors.

Can I study and practice for the examination using a different edition of the Codes?

Certainly, but this class will reference the editions used as the basis for the examination. Unfortunately, we cannot take time during the class session to provide cross-references with other editions of the Codes, or examine changes to the Codes. We strongly recommend that students study the same editions of the Codes that they will be using for the examination in order to maximize the likelihood of success.

I can't find a copy of the 2013 National Fire Alarm and Signaling Code (NFPA 72). Can I use the 2007 edition or the 2010 edition?

Unfortunately, older editions of the Code can be quite a bit different from the current (2013) edition. We do not recommend that you rely on an older edition of this Code. Some students purchase a PDF version of the 2013 edition directly from the NFPA to print and have bound (see the NCBEEC policy re bound Codes). Other students are able to borrow or buy this edition from others engaged in the fire alarm business.

How many questions about fire alarm systems are on the examination?

Effective in 2010, the North Carolina SP-LV license classification was changed to the SP-FA/LV classification. The current examination now has at least 15 questions about fire alarm systems. The class includes presentation and study materials intended to help students with less fire alarm experience to learn more about the design, installation, and service requirements for fire alarm systems.

Does this class count as continuing education?

This course, when offered during fiscal year 2021-2022, meets the requirements of the North Carolina Board of Examiners of Electrical Contractors for 8 contact hours of continuing education (CE) credit. This course is not sponsored by the Board. NCBEEC CE credit is only available for current licensees or qualified individuals in the SP-FA/LV license classification. Students must already be licensed or qualified at the time they take the course to earn CE credits. You may also find that this course will be accepted for CE credits for other licensing or certification programs. However, it is the student's responsibility to verify this. Each student will receive a signed certificate of attendance for the course.

Does the class include a practice examination?

The class schedule does not allow time for a practice examination session, but the student workbook includes over 75 practice questions and answers for use by the student as he/she prepares to take the examination.

How long should I wait after taking the class to take the examination?

It is up to the individual student, but most students find that they need at least 10 to 14 days to review the class materials and practice taking the examination questions before taking the actual examination.