Most of the content of the NCIDQ Exam comes from a common body of knowledge that is generic to the practice of interior design. Having well-rounded professional practice is your best preparation for the exam. However, you are encouraged to supplement your education and experience by reviewing interior design resources, particularly those that focus on areas where you are less skilled or experienced.

The materials listed here can help supplement your understanding. This list does not represent the entire body of information you can use as study material. It is a representative list of references used in the CIDQ exam development process. While the list may include more than one reference that covers a content area, one such reference may be enough. Other resources that are not on the list may adequately cover the content area as well.

**Standard Forms and Documents**

Also – make sure you familiarize yourself with project forms, contractual agreements, and construction documents as they are used throughout the practice of interior design and will be cited on some sections of the exam. These forms are individually or jointly copyrighted and provided by the American Institute of Architects (AIA), the American Society of Interior Designers (ASID), and the International Interior Design Association (IIDA).

Examples include:
- Standard Form of Agreement between Owner and Designer
- General Conditions to the Contract for Furniture, Furnishings, and Equipment
- Forms for change orders, addenda/um, and bonding of bids, performance, and materials

**Building Codes and Standards**

As of the April 2021 exam administration the NCIDQ exam sections will be based on the following building codes and standards:

- [International Plumbing Code (2018)](https://www.iccsafe.org)
- [BOMA Office Standards Z65.1 (2017)](https://www.boma.org)
- Life Safety Code of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) (May be referenced in IDFX & IDPX exams.)
Books

CIDQ uses a wide variety of books as references when developing multiple-choice exam questions. This list is not exhaustive, but represents books that are frequently used by our exam writers.