NASCLA reference tabbing guide

Book list and rules from the PSI Candidate Information Bulletin 1458, updated 7 Jul 2026, read 5 Nov 2026.
test-takers.psiexams.com/api/content/bulletin/1458

The exam is open book and you bring all 24 references yourself. This guide lists each one in the bulletin's order with the topics our course lessons pair with it, so you can tab them before test day. The topics are subjects, not page numbers, and come from the titles and our lessons, not from the books: find each one in your own copy through its index or contents, and add what your own practice shows you need.

The rules for your books (from the bulletin)

- You may highlight, underline and index your books.
- Otherwise they must be unmarked: do not write in them.
- No extra papers, loose or attached.
- Permanent tabs only. Temporary tabs such as Post-it notes are not allowed and must come out before the exam begins.
- The test center does not supply the books. Bring your own printed copies.
- Code questions use only the listed code editions. For the other books, an earlier or later edition is at your own risk, and a conflict in answers is not grounds for appeal.
- The bulletin does not say whether a handwritten label on a permanent tab counts as writing in the book. Preprinted tabs avoid the question; otherwise ask PSI before test day.

How to tab (our suggestions)

- Tab the index and the contents of every book first. Most lookups start at the index.
- Give each group of subject areas one tab color, so you reach for a color before you read a spine.
- Tab where you will need to land, not every chapter. Ten useful tabs in a book beat sixty.
- Practice timed questions with the tabbed books. A topic you look up twice earns a tab; a tab you cannot find in five seconds should move.
- The night before, pull every sticky note, check for writing and shake out loose papers.

The 24 references, in the bulletin's order

Tick a book once its index, contents and topics are tabbed.

☐ **1. Mechanical and Electrical Systems for Construction Managers**
4th edition, 2024 (American Technical Publishers). Color: Purple. Mechanical and Plumbing Systems; Electrical Systems.
Tab: index and contents; HVAC systems; plumbing systems; fire protection systems; electrical systems; coordinating the trades.

☐ **2. ICC A117.1-2017, Accessible and Usable Buildings and Facilities**
2017 (International Code Council). Color: Blue. General Requirements.
Tab: index and contents; accessible routes; clear floor space; ramps; doors; toilet rooms.

☐ **3. BCSI: handling, installing, restraining and bracing wood trusses**
2018 (updated March 2020) or 2025 edition (SBCA and TPI). Color: Orange. Wood.
Tab: index and contents; receiving and storing trusses; lifting; installing; restraint and bracing.

☐ **4. Carpentry and Building Construction**
2016 edition, Feirer and Feirer (McGraw-Hill). Color: Orange. Wood.
Tab: index and contents; wood framing; lumber; carpentry methods; stairs; finish carpentry.

☐ **5. 29 CFR Part 1926 (OSHA construction standards) or PSI's OSHA Excerpts**
2023 edition with the latest amendments, or the OSHA Excerpts 2025. Color: Red. Safety across all areas.
Tab: index and contents; Subpart C, general safety and health provisions; Subpart E, personal protective equipment; Subpart K, electrical; Subpart L, scaffolds; Subpart M, fall protection; Subpart P, excavations, with Appendix A (soil classification) and Appendix B (sloping and benching); Subpart Q, concrete and masonry; Subpart R, steel erection; Subpart X, stairways and ladders.

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☐ **6. Construction Jobsite Management**
4th edition 2017 or 5th edition 2024, Mincks and Johnston. Color: Blue. General Requirements.
Tab: index and contents; submittals; RFIs and changes; meetings and daily records; closeout; site layout.

☐ **7. Construction Project Management**
4th edition 2014 or 5th edition 2022, Gould and Joyce (Pearson). Color: Green. Procurement and Contracting Requirements; General Requirements.
Tab: index and contents; delivery methods; contract types; CPM and float; cost control; project roles.

☐ **8. NASCLA Contractors Guide to Business, Law and Project Management**
Basic 14th edition (NASCLA). Color: Green. Procurement and Contracting Requirements.
Tab: index and contents; bonds; insurance; liens; contracts; payroll and tax; financial statements and ratios; estimating and markup; business organization.

☐ **9. PCI Erectors' Manual: erection of precast concrete products**
2nd edition, 1999 (PCI). Color: Gray. Concrete.
Tab: index and contents; handling; rigging; bracing; connections.

☐ **10. Green Building Fundamentals**
2nd edition, 2011, Montoya (Pearson). Color: Blue. General Requirements.
Tab: index and contents; rating systems; site and water; energy; materials; indoor environmental quality.

☐ **11. Gypsum Construction Handbook**
7th edition, 2014 (USG). Color: Yellow. Finishes.
Tab: index and contents; board and plaster systems; fastening; joint treatment and finishing; common finishing defects; fire and sound assemblies.

☐ **12. SJI Technical Digest No. 9, Handling and Erection of Steel Joists and Joist Girders**
3rd edition, 2008 (Steel Joist Institute). Color: Orange. Metals.
Tab: index and contents; handling joists; erection; bridging; joist girders.

☐ **13. International Building Code**
2021 or 2024 (International Code Council). Color: Blue. General Requirements and most building areas.
Tab: index and contents; occupancy classification; types of construction; fire-resistance and opening protection; means of egress; structural loads; special inspections.

☐ **14. ACI 318, Building Code Requirements for Structural Concrete**
ACI 318-14 or ACI 318-19 (2022) (American Concrete Institute). Color: Gray. Concrete.
Tab: index and contents; materials; concrete cover; reinforcement details; testing and acceptance.

☐ **15. PTI Level 1 Field Fundamentals, unbonded post-tensioning**
3rd edition, 2003 (Post-Tensioning Institute). Color: Gray. Concrete.
Tab: index and contents; tendon handling; placing; stressing; inspection.

☐ **16. Modern Masonry: Brick, Block, Stone**
9th edition, 2020, Kicklighter (Goodheart-Willcox). Color: Gray. Masonry.
Tab: index and contents; mortar and grout; bond patterns; reinforcement; flashing; cold weather work.

☐ **17. Pipe and Excavation Contracting**
2011, Roberts (Craftsman Book Company). Color: Brown. Site Construction.
Tab: index and contents; trenching; pipe laying; bedding and backfill; excavation estimating.

☐ **18. Principles and Practices of Commercial Construction**
11th edition, 2024, Andres and Smith (Pearson). Color: Neutral (covers many areas). Many subject areas.
Tab: index and contents; site work; foundations; concrete; steel; masonry; wood; building envelope.

☐ **19. Roofing Construction and Estimating**
1995 (reprinted 2022), Atcheson (Craftsman Book Company). Color: Yellow. Thermal and Moisture Protection.
Tab: index and contents; roof systems; roof slope; roofing materials; roof takeoffs.

☐ **20. CRSI Placing Reinforcing Bars, Recommended Practices**
10th edition, 2019 or later printing (CRSI). Color: Gray. Concrete.
Tab: index and contents; bar identification; placing and supporting bars; tying; laps; placing tolerances.

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☐ **21. SDI Manual of Construction with Steel Deck**
2016 (Steel Deck Institute). Color: Orange. Metals.
Tab: index and contents; deck handling; placing; fastening; deck safety.

☐ **22. The Contractor's Guide to Quality Concrete Construction**
4th edition, 2018 (American Concrete Institute). Color: Gray. Concrete.
Tab: index and contents; placing; consolidating; finishing; curing; hot and cold weather concreting.

☐ **23. EPA, Developing Your Stormwater Pollution Prevention Plan**
2007, EPA document 833R06004 (U.S. EPA). Color: Brown. Site Construction.
Tab: index and contents; what a SWPPP contains; erosion and sediment controls; inspections; records.

☐ **24. ANSI/EIMA 99-A-2017, Exterior Insulation and Finish Systems**
2017 (ANSI/EIMA). Color: Yellow. Thermal and Moisture Protection.
Tab: index and contents; EIFS; EIFS with drainage.

The diagram and blueprint packet is handed out at the test center. You do not bring it and cannot tab it, so practice plan reading before test day instead.

Read next

The 24 reference books and their rules: bidbondprep.vercel.app/guides/nascla-reference-books
How to tab and highlight your NASCLA books: bidbondprep.vercel.app/guides/how-to-tab-nascla-books

Find your weakest subject area with the free 10-question check, explained as you answer it, no signup: bidbondprep.vercel.app/nascla-cgb

NASCLA Commercial course: $199. Lessons for all 12 subject areas, practice exams and a study plan.

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