NICET Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems Level II exam study checklist

Built from the NICET Inspection and Testing of Fire Alarm Systems Level II content outline (dated 30 Sep 2024), exams released from 7 Oct 2024 (read 17 Oct 2026 on NICET's site).
Level II exam: 80 questions in 110 minutes at a Pearson VUE test center, with a basic and scientific calculator built in. Open book: NFPA 72 (2022) and NFPA 92 (2021) are on screen.

One line per thing to be able to do, grouped under the three areas NICET lists for I&T Level II. Testing specialized and interfaced equipment is 50-60% of the exam, so spend most of your time there; inspecting is 20-30% and planning 15-25%. Tick a line when you can do it without notes.

Plan and Coordinate Work

- ☐ Set the scope of an inspection when sprinklers, elevators, smoke control or other systems tie in.
- ☐ Survey the devices, the interfaces and the existing records before test day.
- ☐ Pick the codes and editions that apply to the assignment.
- ☐ Say who must know before, during and after a test: owner, monitoring company, other trades and the authority.
- ☐ Handle an impairment found or caused during testing.

Inspect Interfaces and Specialty Equipment

- ☐ Inspect elevator recall and shutdown interfaces, and say what should be there.
- ☐ Inspect the fire alarm side of a smoke control interface.
- ☐ Inspect waterflow, supervisory and releasing circuits on suppression systems.
- ☐ Inspect air sampling, beam, duct, flame and gas detection and their interfaces.
- ☐ Inspect networked panels and annunciators, and read the event log as evidence.
- ☐ Inspect the ties to radio enhancement, firefighter phones, area of refuge and mass notification.

Test Functionality of Specialized and Interfaced Equipment

- ☐ Test primary and alternate elevator recall and shunt trip, safely and in order.
- ☐ Test the smoke control interface without testing the whole smoke control system.
- ☐ Isolate the agent, then test a releasing panel's sequence.
- ☐ Time a waterflow alarm from flow to signal, and judge the result.
- ☐ Prove network communication and failure reporting, including after a software or firmware change.
- ☐ Measure detector sensitivity, and act on a reading outside the listed range.
- ☐ Test voice evacuation for audibility and intelligibility, and work a sound level margin.
- ☐ Restore every system, close out with the owner and write a report that covers each interface.

Practice with the free tools

Audibility calculator: alarmladder.com/tools/fire-alarm-audibility-calculator
Battery calculator: alarmladder.com/tools/fire-alarm-battery-calculator
Circuit class drill: alarmladder.com/tools/fire-alarm-circuit-class-drill
Study plan by exam date: alarmladder.com/tools/nicet-study-plan

Read next

NICET I&T Level II exam guide: alarmladder.com/guides/nicet-inspection-and-testing-level-2-exam
I&T Level II practice test guide: alarmladder.com/guides/nicet-inspection-and-testing-level-2-practice-test
I&T or Fire Alarm Systems: which track: alarmladder.com/guides/nicet-inspection-and-testing-vs-fire-alarm-systems
Duct smoke detectors: alarmladder.com/guides/duct-smoke-detector

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Testing and maintenance guide: alarmladder.com/guides/testing-and-maintenance

How to use this checklist

- Take the free 10-question check first and start with the area it shows as weakest.
- For each interface, write the test sequence from setup to restoration before you look anything up.
- The exam is open book: for each line, practice finding the answer in the code books you will have.
- NICET exam eligibility lasts 6 months from the day you buy the exam, so buy it when you can sit within that window.

Ready to test yourself? 10 free NICET I&T Fire Alarm Level II questions

Find your weakest topic in minutes. Every answer is explained as you go, and there is no signup.

Take the free check: alarmladder.com/nicet-itfa-2

I&T Level II course: $149. Lessons, practice exams and a study plan.

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