

**CHAPTER 4. ADMINISTRATIVE REGULATIONS FOR THE DIVISION OF THE
STATE ARCHITECT. STRUCTURAL SAFETY (DSA/SS)**

Group 1. Safety of Construction of Public Schools

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ARTICLE 5 – CERTIFICATION OF CONSTRUCTION

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4-333.1. Project inspector certification. To become a DSA certified project inspector, an applicant must successfully complete a written examination administered by DSA. The examination measures the applicant's ability to read and comprehend construction plans as well as the construction, inspection and testing requirements of the *California Building Standards Code*. Examinations are given in four classes.

1. A Class 1 certified inspector may be approved to inspect any project.
2. A Class 2 certified inspector may be approved to inspect any project, except a project containing one or more new structures or additions with a primary lateral force resisting system of steel, masonry or concrete.
3. A Class 3 certified inspector may be approved to inspect projects containing alterations to approved buildings, site placement of relocatable buildings and construction of minor structures.
4. A Class 4 certified inspector may be approved to inspect projects containing site placement of relocatable buildings and associated site work.

An applicant shall be not less than 25 years of age, possess a high school diploma or equivalent, and shall meet the following minimum qualifications:

(a) For Class 1 inspector exam, one of the following:

1. Six years of experience as an architect's, engineer's, owner's, or local building official's representative in building code-enforcement inspection of non-residential construction with a valid certification as a commercial combination building inspector by a state- or nationally-recognized organization, as accepted by DSA. (Note: Possession of a valid California registration as a structural engineer, civil engineer, or a valid California license as an architect may be substituted for four years of required experience.); or,
2. Six years of qualifying experience as the lead project construction superintendent on:
 - a. new building public school construction projects subject to the requirements of Education Code sections 17280 or 81130, and these regulations; and/or,
 - b. construction of new hospital buildings as defined by Section 129725 of the Health and Safety Code;or,
3. Three years of qualifying experience as a DSA certified Class 2 project inspector and valid certification as a special inspector for steel, or concrete, or masonry construction by a state- or nationally-recognized organization, as accepted by DSA, with two years of experience in special inspection; or,

4. Possession of certification as DSA Class 2 project inspector and four years of experience as an assistant project inspector in Class 1 school construction projects.

(b) For Class 2 inspector exam, one of the following:

1. Four years of experience as an architect's, engineer's, owner's, or local building official's representative in building code-enforcement inspection of non-residential construction with a valid certification as a commercial combination building inspector by a state- or nationally-recognized organization, as accepted by DSA. (Note: Possession of a valid California registration as a structural engineer, civil engineer, or a valid California license as an architect may be substituted for three years of required experience.); or,
2. Four years of qualifying experience as the lead project construction superintendent on:
 - a. new building public school construction projects subject to the requirements of Education Code sections 17280 or 81130, and these regulations; and/or,
 - b. construction of new hospital buildings as defined by Section 129725 of the Health and Safety Code;or,
3. Three years of qualifying experience as a DSA certified Class 3 project inspector; or,
4. Possession of certification as DSA Class 3 project inspector and four years of experience as an assistant project inspector in Class 1 or 2 school construction projects.

(c) For Class 3 inspector exam, one of the following:

1. Three years of experience as an architect's, engineer's, owner's, or local building official's representative in building code-enforcement inspection of non-residential construction with a valid certification as a commercial combination building inspector by a state- or nationally-recognized organization, as accepted by DSA; or,
2. Possession of a valid California registration as a structural engineer, civil engineer, or a valid California license as an architect; or,
3. Four years of qualifying experience as the lead project construction superintendent (Note: Experience may be substituted with college education with major work in architecture, engineering, building inspection and/or construction on a year-for-year basis for a maximum of two years); or,
4. Two years of qualifying experience as a DSA certified Class 4 project inspector and two years of qualifying education with major work in architecture, engineering, building inspection and/or construction; or,
5. Possession of certification as DSA Class 4 project inspector and three years of experience as an assistant project inspector in Class 1, 2, or 3 school construction projects.

(d) For Class 4 inspector exam, one of the following:

1. Two years of experience as an architect's, engineer's, owner's, or local building official's representative in building code-enforcement inspection with a valid certification as a commercial combination building inspector by a state- or nationally-recognized organization, as accepted by DSA; or,
2. Two years of qualifying experience as the lead project construction superintendent (Note: One year of experience may be substituted with one year of college education with major work in architecture, engineering, building inspection and/or construction); or,

3. Four years of a relevant and varied construction experience at a minimum of journeyman level (Note: Experience may be substituted with college education with major work in architecture, engineering, building inspection and/or construction on a year-for-year basis for a maximum of two years); or,
4. Valid certification as a building code-enforcement inspector by a state- or nationally-recognized organization, as accepted by DSA, and three years of qualifying inspection experience. Certification and experience may be gained in building inspection or structural special inspection.

DSA may charge an examination fee to recover reasonable fees and costs.

An applicant for the certification examination or an inspector possessing a valid certificate issued by DSA, shall file changes of name, mailing address or telephone number with the DSA headquarters office within 10 working days of that change. The information filed shall include the new and former name, mailing address or telephone number.

Certification will be valid for a period of four years unless revoked in accordance with Section 4-342(d) or upgraded by achieving certification in a different class. Certification may be renewed by attending DSA training classes and passing a recertification examination.