



# Certified Real Estate Inspector (CRI) Program Information

## ***What is the CRI Program?***

The NAHI Certified Real Estate Inspector (CRI) program is a certification that is earned. The designation is given only to home inspectors who demonstrate their advanced knowledge of, and proficiency at, all aspects of a home inspection. In order to become a NAHI™ Certified Real Estate Inspector (CRI), one must pass the NAHI CRI Exam and complete 250 full, fee-paid inspections. In addition, NAHI CRI participants must maintain annual continuing education credits and undergo an annual review of completed home inspection reports to remain in the program.

## ***Why Should Home Inspectors be Certified?***

Certification helps home inspectors and consumers. Certified Real Estate Inspectors set a higher standard for professional home inspections. Consumers are looking for home inspectors who have taken the time and given the energy to better themselves and their profession. Potential clients are asking for certified home inspectors. Certified Real Estate Inspectors demonstrate this excellence.

The program is two-fold; there is an Exam as well as an experience component. In order to be a Certified Real Estate Inspector, an inspector must pass the NAHI CRI Exam as well as complete 250 full, fee-paid home inspections.

Schools often offer “certification” through their training programs. NAHI is taking that one step further. The CRI Program is designed to bring structure to the learning process and identify training weaknesses through a comprehensive testing process. This program tests lifelong home inspector/home inspection competencies and skills. NAHI will not directly produce training materials for this program. We will, however, give participants a listing of study materials for review prior to taking the Exam.

## ***Areas Covered By the CRI Exam***

- ❖ Site, Exterior, Roof, Garage, Attic
- ❖ Structural and Foundation
- ❖ Exterior
- ❖ Interior
- ❖ HVAC
- ❖ Electrical
- ❖ Environmental Hazards and Mitigation
- ❖ Indoor Air and Water Quality
- ❖ Plumbing
- ❖ NAHI *Standards of Practice/Code of Ethics*

## ***What are the suggested review materials for the CRI Exam?***

The CRI Exam is based on the following materials:

- ❖ Real Estate Home Inspection (Russell W. Burgess, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, or 5<sup>th</sup> Editions)
- ❖ The Complete Book of Home Inspection (Norman Becker, P.E., 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- ❖ Modern Carpentry (Willis H. Wagner, Howard Bud Smith)
- ❖ Trouble Shooting Guide to Residential Construction, from the Editors of Journal of Light Construction
- ❖ NAHI *Standards of Practice/Code of Ethics* (current edition)

## Other Recommended Reading:

- ❖ Code Check (Redwood Kardon, Taunton Press)
- ❖ Subterranean Termite Control Manual (Prepared by Phillip G. Koehler)
- ❖ Basic Plumbing (Sunset Books)
- ❖ Basic Wiring (Sunset Books)
- ❖ Dampness in Buildings (Oxley & Gobert, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition)
- ❖ Basic Home Repairs (Sunset Books)
- ❖ Craftsman Book Series

### ***Where is the Exam offered?***

The CRI Exam is a computer-based test that is administered through LaserGrade testing facilities throughout the United States. Please visit [www.lasergrade.com](http://www.lasergrade.com) to see which location is closest to you.

### ***How Long Is the Exam?***

The CRI is a comprehensive two-hour and twenty-minute, 140-question Exam. Most candidates are able to complete the Exam well within the two-hour and twenty-minute time limit.

### ***Can I bring books or notes to the Exam?***

**NO.** You are not allowed to bring any materials into the testing room. Paper, books, notes, or other written materials are expressly forbidden.

### ***What is the passing grade?***

As of July 31, 2007, an applicant must pass the Exam with a 70% overall score.

### ***Who sees the Exam results?***

Applicants receive their scores immediately after taking the Exam. LaserGrade will also forward your score to NAHI Headquarters for record keeping purposes. An official letter regarding your exam results will be mailed to you from NAHI Headquarters.

### ***If I do not pass, can I take the Exam again?***

**YES**, but you must wait 60 days from the date you last took the exam before you can take it again. Before we can authorize you to retake the exam, you must submit the exam retake application, pay the retake fee, and include a copy of your previous exam results with the retake application. The waiting period may only be waived for inspectors in states that require the exam as a component of licensing.

### ***What are the requirements for taking the Exam?***

- ❖ An applicant can take the Exam after he or she has completed a minimum of 50 full fee-paid inspections.
- ❖ An applicant must complete the official application form and send in a sample of your marketing materials and a sample of three (3) written, fee-paid, full home inspections. In addition, an individual must submit a list of at least 50 inspections, including the names, addresses and phone numbers (if available) of clients at the time of the inspections.
- ❖ An applicant must pay the appropriate exam fee of \$175. The fee for re-taking the exam is \$100.
- ❖ Please note: An individual who successfully passes the CRI exam may not use the CRI designation or qualify for the NAHI CRI Membership level until such time as that individual has completed 250 verifiable, fee-paid, full home inspections conducted according to NAHI *Standards*. If you successfully complete the Exam prior to conducting 250 full, fee-paid inspections, upon reaching the 250<sup>th</sup> inspection, you must call the NAHI office

for a CRI Affidavit of Inspections Performed. Upon completing and returning this form, your CRI designation card and logo will be forwarded to you.

### ***How do I sign up for the Exam?***

Attached is an application form for the Exam. Complete the form and attach the required documentation. Once the application is received, NAHI staff will send you an Exam confirmation via email. Be sure to list an email address you check regularly. This confirmation will include a phone number you will need to call to schedule your Exam.

### ***What do I need to bring with on the Exam day?***

You must bring a photo ID to the LaserGrade testing center as a means of identification.

### ***Is there a cancellation policy?***

Yes, if you need to reschedule your Exam and fail to do so prior to 24 hours before your Exam is scheduled, you will be required to pay the full Exam fee again in order to take the Exam.

### ***If I have further questions, whom do I contact?***

Please call the NAHI office at 800-448-3942 with any questions you might have.

### ***What are the Annual Recertification Requirements?***

All NAHI CRI's will be required to obtain 16 Continuing Education Credits (CEU's) per year. One CEU is equal to one hour of approved course classroom learning. (See section below for information on Approved Continuing Education Courses and obtaining CEU's.)

All NAHI CRI's must submit a minimum of three completed, full fee-paid home inspections to the NAHI office for review annually. The reports will undergo a review, comparing the report to the NAHI *Standards of Practice & Code of Ethics*, our minimum standards for completing a home inspection. The inspection review form will be forwarded to the NAHI CRI with notes about any problems, questions, etc., which may have been observed, if necessary.

### ***How do I obtain Continuing Education Unit (CEU) credits for annual recertification?***

All NAHI CRI's have two ways to obtain Continuing Education Units (CEU's) towards renewal:

**Category I** – consists of formal proctored class work. Activities for Category I credit include: Formal classroom lecture courses, formal hands-on courses, correspondence courses, video-based courses and other types of distance learning courses related to home inspection but not a necessary part of a home inspection; such as Radon, Lead, Carbon Monoxide, etc.

Approved courses include courses provided by NAHI and other recognized **nonprofit** national and state home inspection associations. Proof of completion of all courses is required.

**Category II** - consists of activities that enrich the technical proficiency of the inspector and promote our industry. Activities eligible for Category II credit include: attendance at conferences and/or symposiums, presentation of a technical paper or teaching a technical training class, and publication of an article.

All NAHI CRI designees must complete 16 Continuing Education Units per year, with a minimum of eight (8) hours in Category I activities.

**NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF HOME INSPECTORS, INC.**  
**CERTIFIED REAL ESTATE INSPECTOR (CRI)**  
**EXAM APPLICATION FORM**

Applicant's Full Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Company Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City, State, Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: (    ) \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Full Fee-Paid Home Inspections Conducted to Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**REQUIREMENTS:**

An applicant must submit a list of at least **50** inspections including names, addresses, and phone numbers of clients at the time of inspection. Also include copies of written reports for three of the inspections **on the list** and a sample of your marketing material. Please note: Prior to being able to use the NAHI CRI designation and logo, an individual must have completed **250** verifiable, fee paid, full home inspections he/she has conducted according to NAHI Standards (or equivalent). **Requirements are waived for inspectors in AK and ND as the exam is required for state licensing.**

**FEES:**            \$175

**Please remit payment by sending a check with your completed application or by filling out your credit card information below. Checks must be made out to NAHI.**

**Credit Card # :** \_\_\_\_\_ (Visa, MasterCard, American Express, Discover)

**Expiration Date:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Signature:** \_\_\_\_\_

**NOTARIZED STATEMENT**

*I, the undersigned applicant, hereby declare that the information contained in this application and accompanying material is true. Furthermore, I perform my inspections according to the NAHI Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics (or equivalent). I authorize NAHI to investigate and confirm the information declared by me in this application.*

Print Name \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**THIS FORM MUST BE SIGNED BEFORE A NOTARY PUBLIC.**

Subscribed and sworn to before me this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ 20\_\_\_\_ **NOTARY SEAL**

Signature of Notary \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public \_\_\_\_\_ County, \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_

My Commission Expires: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail the application, materials & appropriate fee to:  
**NAHI ♦ 4248 Park Glen Road ♦ Minneapolis, MN 55416 ♦ (800) 448-3942**