EXAMINATION BLUEPRINT CHANGES IN 2026

Every five years, or more often if necessary, BCSP revalidates all certification examinations. During the revalidation process a new blueprint is created that reflects the consensus of the profession as to the key elements a minimally qualified candidate must possess to be deemed competent.

The Safety Trained Supervisor® (STS®) examination began its revalidation process in 2025 and a new STS5 blueprint was generated. The following is a synopsis of the changes from STS4 to STS5:

- Overall, a majority of the general concepts from the STS4 blueprint carried over to the new STS5 blueprint; however, the location of specific objectives has changed. A limited number of concepts were removed after being identified as too construction-focused and not appropriate for the intended purpose of the STS certification.

- Domain 1, 15% of the exam, continues to focus on Safety Program Implementation and Management. A new objective focusing on fitness for duty has been added.

- Domain 2, 20%, now focuses exclusively on Hazard Awareness. Identifying hazards based on documentation appears in this Domain now but did not appear in the STS4 blueprint.

- Domain 3, 20%, continues to focus on Hazard Controls. A number of concepts previously covered in Domains 1 and 3 (STS4) are now present in this Domain.

- Domain 4, 12%, continues to focus on Basic Industrial Hygiene; however, a number of concepts previously covered in Domain 3 (STS4) have moved to this Domain.

- Domain 5, 11%, continues to focus on Emergency Preparedness and Management but has shifted away from the former focus on fire safety to include broader topics of emergency equipment and emergency shutoff procedures.

- Domain 6, 22%, has seen the greatest change. This Domain now focuses on Life Critical Activities rather than Ethical Leadership. The concepts covered within this Domain, such as electrical and fall hazards, confined spaces, rigging, and fire protection, were previously covered in other Domains of STS4.

The STS5 blueprint is tentatively expected to be effective by March 1, 2026.

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Domain 1
Safety Program Implementation and Management • 15%

1. Describe essential elements of new employee orientation training.
2. Identify the elements of a Job Safety Analysis (JSA).
3. Apply knowledge of incident investigation and reporting.
4. Observe workers' fitness for duty and refer when necessary.

Domain 2
Hazard Awareness • 20%

1. Apply knowledge of safety inspection procedures and corrections.
2. Apply knowledge of Stop Work Authority (SWA).
3. Identify hazards based on documentation.
4. Apply knowledge of safety audits.
5. Apply knowledge of motor vehicle safety procedures.

Domain 3
Hazard Controls • 20%

1. Apply knowledge of hierarchy of controls.
2. Describe how the continuous improvement process for a JSA is conducted.
3. Determine how to mitigate or reduce hazards.
4. Apply knowledge of risk assessment and management.
5. Apply knowledge of machine safeguarding.

Domain 4
Basic Industrial Hygiene • 12%

1. Identify hazards related to biological issues.
2. Identify hazards related to chemical issues.
3. Identify hazards related to physical issues.
4. Identify hazards related to airborne issues.
5. Identify hazards related to ergonomics issues.
6. Identify chemical routes of entry into the body.
7. Apply knowledge of hazardous atmospheres.

Domain 5
Emergency Preparedness and Management • 11%

1. Apply knowledge of routine emergency equipment inspections.
2. Apply knowledge of equipment emergency shutoff procedures.
3. Identify what should be included in an emergency response plan.

Domain 6
Life Critical Activities • 22%

1. Identify electrical hazards.
2. Identify confined spaces hazards.
3. Identify fall hazards.
4. Describe isolation of hazardous energy.
5. Identify ladder safety protocols.
6. Identify fire protection systems.
7. Identify risks associated with hoisting and rigging.