The Pennsylvania Builder’s Association utilizes this assessment to assist in determining competencies for granting skill certificates to students graduating from Pennsylvania secondary trade programs that have been endorsed by the Pennsylvania Builder’s Association (PBA). PBA’s services include support to workforce training and education by linking industry employers with educators to grow the workforce of tomorrow. PBA serves Pennsylvania communities and consumers through its steadfast efforts to protect homeownership rights and advocate for affordable housing options. PBA is affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders.

Test Type: The Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration (HVAC/R) is included in NOCTI’s Job Ready assessment battery. Job Ready assessments measure technical skills at the occupational level and include items which gauge factual and theoretical knowledge. Job Ready assessments typically offer both a written and performance component and can be used at the secondary and post-secondary levels. Job Ready assessments can be delivered in an online or paper/pencil format.

Revision Team: The assessment content is based on input from secondary, post-secondary, and business/industry representatives from the states of Connecticut, Mississippi, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, and Tennessee.

The Association for Career and Technical Education (ACTE), the leading professional organization for career and technical educators, commends all students who participate in career and technical education programs and choose to validate their educational attainment through rigorous technical assessments. In taking this assessment you demonstrate to your school, your parents and guardians, your future employers and yourself that you understand the concepts and knowledge needed to succeed in the workplace. Good Luck!

47.0201- Heating, Air Conditioning, Ventilation, and Refrigeration Maintenance Technology/Technician
49-9021.01- Heating and Air Conditioning Mechanics and Installers

Career Cluster 2- Architecture and Construction

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In the lower division baccalaureate/associate degree category, 3 semester hours in HVAC, Refrigeration, or General Technology
NOCTI written assessments consist of questions to measure an individual’s factual theoretical knowledge.

**Administration Time:** 3 hours  
**Number of Questions:** 118  
**Number of Sessions:** This assessment may be administered in one, two, or three sessions.

### Areas Covered

- **Electricity** - 20%  
- **Soldering, Brazing, and Welding** - 12%  
- **Pipefitting** - 5%  
- **Controls** - 9%  
- **Installation and Service** - 6%  
- **Related Math and Science** - 8%  
- **Refrigeration** - 10%  
- **Refrigerant Recovery** - 7%  
- **General Safety** - 11%  
- **Computer Literacy** - 6%  
- **Employability Skills** - 6%
Specific Competencies and Skills Tested in this Assessment

Electricity
- Demonstrate understanding of basic AC/DC theory
- Understand/use electrical formulas
- Interpret/construct electrical diagrams
- Understand series/parallel circuits
- Understand/use ohmmeters, voltmeters, and ammeters
- Identify/test various electrical components
- Apply/manipulate Ohm's Law
- Demonstrate knowledge of wiring exercises
- Perform troubleshooting
- Understand/test transformers
- Replace 3-phase motors (wire for high and low volts)
- Wire residential heat pump control circuits
- Test capacitors and calculate multiple capacitors
- Test fuses and calculate fuse size

Soldering, Brazing, and Welding
- Identify types of solder and alloys
- Choose proper flux for each alloy
- Understand soldering/brazing of tubings and fittings
- Use of nitrogen or carbon dioxide when brazing
- Understand measurement taking
- Set-up/use of torch and equipment
- Demonstrate understanding of gas welder usage
- Understanding leak check procedures
- Indicate melting temperatures

(Continued on the following page)
Specific Competencies and Skills (continued)

Pipefitting
- Interpret drawings on blueprints
- Knowledge of working with tubing and/or pipe
- Identify valves and fittings

Controls
- Differentiate types of metering valves
- Demonstrate knowledge of the function of a distributor
- Identify methods of defrosting refrigeration systems
- Identify/test/calibrate controls
- Demonstrate knowledge of thermostat installation
- Test motor starting relays

Installation and Service
- Identify/use appropriate hand and power tools
- Test, analyze, troubleshoot, and repair system
- Service motor components
- Service coolers (reach-in and walk-in)
- Demonstrate knowledge of code regulations

(Continued on the following page)
Specific Competencies and Skills (continued)

Related Math and Science
- Use temperature conversion scales
- Identify modes of heat transfer
- Demonstrate understanding of British Thermal Unit (BTU)
- Demonstrate understanding of compression ratio
- Measuring in increments
- Calculate GPM, CFM, and CFM per ton
- Calculate materials cost

Refrigeration
- Identify refrigerant types for proper application
- Understand how to evacuate and charge a refrigeration system
- Service/troubleshoot refrigeration systems
- Size refrigerant lines
- Understand compressor operation
- Identify absorption and centrifugal system components
- Understand defrost procedures
- Measure superheat
- Understand refrigeration safety techniques

Refrigerant Recovery
- Define recovery, reclamation, and recycling
- Demonstrate knowledge of the Montreal Protocol
- Identify refrigerants by chemical family
- Proper handling/disposal of refrigerants

(Continued on the following page)
Specific Competencies and Skills (continued)

**General Safety**

- Demonstrate knowledge of basic first aid skills and procedures
- Demonstrate knowledge of ladder safety
- Demonstrate knowledge of personal protective equipment (PPE)
- Identification/use of fire extinguishers
- Demonstrate knowledge of electrical safety procedures
- Demonstrate knowledge of safe lifting techniques
- Knowledge of correct handling and reporting of accidents
- Knowledge of safe equipment repair practices
- Demonstrate knowledge of HVAC-specific safety procedures
Specific Competencies and Skills (continued)

**Computer Literacy**
- Demonstrate basic understanding of common operating systems
- Demonstrate basic understanding of basic word processing procedures/techniques
- Basic identification/preparation of spreadsheets
- Basic preparation/maintenance of database

**Employability Skills**
- Demonstrate understanding of resume and job interview skills
- Identify the components/requirements for effective oral presentations
- Demonstrate understanding of proposal and technical writing
- Demonstrate knowledge of organizational skills
Sample Questions

A heat pump changes from cooling to heating by
A. a reversing valve
B. compressor rotation
C. heat application to the refrigerant
D. de-energizing the outdoor fan

A 50/50 solder is a combination of lead and
A. tin
B. nickel
C. antimony
D. zinc

When calculating heat loss, the HTM means the
A. heat temperature menu
B. house thermal material
C. heat transfer multiplier
D. heating thermostat method

The refrigerant used in smaller centrifugal compressors is
A. R-11
B. R-12
C. R-13
D. R-22

When writing a resume, it is best to
A. prepare a single handwritten page
B. accurately list education and work history
C. use double-spacing
D. use only Times Roman font

(Continued on the following page)
Sample Questions (continued)

Of the following, _____ silver has the highest melting point.
   A. 6 percent
   B. 15 percent
   C. 45 percent
   D. 65 percent

What is the angle of the flare shoulder?
   A. 30 degrees
   B. 45 degrees
   C. 50 degrees
   D. 60 degrees

All refrigerant lines that are installed horizontally should
   A. pitch away from the compressor
   B. pitch toward the compressor
   C. be maintained level
   D. pitch toward the direction of the refrigerant flow

When working with sharp or rough metal, the sheet metal worker should
   A. peen the metal with a sheet metal hammer
   B. grind the edges of the metal smooth
   C. wear gloves and thick glasses
   D. request help from a co-worker

When filling out the service invoice during a routine preventive maintenance call, the worker should record the
   A. volts and amps readings
   B. customer's age and gender
   C. estimated mileage
   D. wholesale costs
NOCTI performance assessments allow individuals to demonstrate their acquired skills by completing actual jobs using the tools, materials, machines, and equipment related to the technical area.

**Administration Time:** 3 hours  
**Number of Jobs:** 2

**Areas Covered:**

50%  **Gas Furnace Start-up and Check**  
Evaluation of assigned order, leak test gas connections, test supply gas pressure, test electric connection for voltage and polarity, start equipment, adjust thermostat heat anticipator setting, test manifold gas pressure, test temperature rise through unit, check fan motor amperage draw, perform steady state efficiency test, complete system operation sheet, time to complete Job 1.

50%  **Refrigerant Recovery and System Recharge**  
Evaluation of assigned order, adjust manifold gauges, install gauges, purge manifold gauge hoses, adjust/position service valves to read pressures, recover refrigerant, replace filter dryer and sight glass, vacuum system, install new refrigerant, restart system, check system operation, complete system conditions sheet, time to complete Job 2.
Sample Job

Refrigerant Recovery and System Recharge

**Maximum Time:** 1 hour and 30 minutes

**Participant Activity:** The participant will perform refrigerant recovery and system recharge utilizing the vapor recovery method.