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QUESTION NO: 1

An existing office building will be renovated, and the work requires removal of resilient flooring installed in 1975.

What should be done BEFORE the flooring is disturbed?

A. Have the material evaluated for asbestos content

B. Specify a thicker replacement flooring material

C. Request that the contractor remove the flooring at night

D. Cover the flooring with a liquid-applied membrane

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Have the material evaluated for asbestos content is correct because resilient flooring and associated mastics installed in older buildings may contain asbestos. The age of the material and building is an indicator that warrants evaluation; it does not establish that asbestos is present. Disturbing suspect material without an appropriate assessment can release hazardous fibers and create regulatory, health, and project-delay concerns.

Before renovation work begins, the owner should arrange for a qualified inspection and, where required, sampling and laboratory analysis by properly accredited professionals. If asbestos-containing material is identified, removal or other disturbance must be managed under applicable federal, state, and local requirements. The interior designer should coordinate the findings with the project schedule and construction documents rather than directing unqualified personnel to remove or test the material. See the EPA's overview of asbestos and asbestos laws and regulations.

QUESTION NO: 2

A client asks the designer to specify a wood veneer paneling system for a lobby feature wall.

What is the MOST important reason to require factory-finished panels rather than field-finished panels?

A. To obtain more consistent color and sheen

B. To eliminate the need for field measurements

C. To avoid coordinating panel joints with the substrate

D. To permit installation without shop drawings

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Factory finishing provides more consistent color, sheen, and coating quality under controlled manufacturing conditions. Veneer panels installed next to one another can make even minor finish variations highly visible, especially on a large continuous feature wall under direct or grazing light.

Factory-applied finishes also generally allow controlled application, curing, and quality-control procedures before delivery. The designer should still require field touch-up materials and coordinate protection of finished panels during shipping and installation. The Architectural Woodwork Institute provides industry resources for architectural woodwork at AWI.

QUESTION NO: 3

During construction administration, a contractor submits a product data sheet for an acoustical ceiling panel that differs from the specified edge detail and light reflectance.

What should the interior designer do FIRST?

A. Review the submittal for conformance with the contract documents

B. Approve the submittal because the panel is from an approved manufacturer

C. Direct the contractor to install the panel and revise the drawings later

D. Ask the ceiling installer to select the most appropriate panel

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Review the submittal for conformance with the contract documents is the correct first action because the submitted product must be evaluated against the specified requirements before it is accepted, rejected, or returned for revision. The designer should verify the panel's dimensions, edge profile, finish, acoustical performance, fire-performance characteristics, light reflectance, compatibility with the suspension system, and any other stated criteria.

A submittal review does not transfer responsibility for means, methods, or construction safety to the design professional. Its purpose is to determine whether the proposed product is consistent with the design intent and contractual requirements. If the differences are not acceptable, the submittal should be returned with an appropriate action notation and the contractor should provide a compliant product or formally request a substitution. AIA construction-administration resources describe submittal review as a key part of evaluating conformance of proposed materials and equipment. See AIA Construction Administration.

QUESTION NO: 4

Which of the following agricultural products is NOT used in the production of panel products?

A. Bagasse

B. Poplar

C. Rice straw

D. Wheat straw

ANSWER: B

Explanation:

Poplar is the correct answer because it is a tree species and a source of wood fiber, rather than an agricultural crop residue typically classified as an agrifiber raw material. In the context of panel products made from agricultural materials, manufacturers use lignocellulosic residues left after food or sugar production, such as bagasse from sugarcane processing and straw from cereal crops. These fibers can be processed, combined with binders, and formed into composite panels such as particleboard, fiberboard, and straw-based boards. Poplar may certainly be used as wood furnish in some conventional wood-based panels, plywood, or engineered wood products, but it is not an agricultural by-product in the same sense as the crop-residue materials named in the question. The distinction is important for material specification: agrifiber panels are identified by their use of renewable agricultural residues, which can reduce reliance on virgin wood fiber and make productive use of materials that might otherwise be discarded or burned. The USDA Forest Products Laboratory discusses both wood-based composite panels and panels made from nonwood lignocellulosic materials in its Wood Handbook. Additional information on agricultural-fiber composite materials is available through the USDA Agricultural Research Service.

QUESTION NO: 5

A designer is selecting an interior finish for a busy hospital corridor where wall surfaces will be subject to frequent cleaning and impact from carts.

Which material property is MOST important to evaluate?

A. Durability

B. Color temperature

C. Pattern repeat

D. Specular reflectance

ANSWER: A

Explanation:

Durability is most important because a hospital corridor finish must withstand repeated cleaning, abrasion, impact, and routine maintenance while continuing to perform as intended. Wall materials in these locations should be evaluated for resistance to scuffing, staining, moisture, cleaning agents, and physical damage from mobile equipment.

Appearance remains important, but a finish that cannot tolerate the expected service conditions can quickly become damaged, difficult to clean, or costly to replace. The designer should also coordinate the selected material with applicable fire-performance requirements, infection-prevention protocols, substrate conditions, edge protection, and manufacturer maintenance instructions. Healthcare facilities commonly require interior materials that support cleanability and long-term performance in high-traffic areas. The Facility Guidelines Institute provides healthcare design resources at fgiguidelines.org.

QUESTION NO: 6

Which light and color characteristic would be MOST effective to enhance way-finding in a senior living facility?

A. Brightness

B. Hue

C. Contrast

D. Saturation

ANSWER: C

Explanation:

Contrast is the most effective light and color characteristic for enhancing way-finding in a senior living facility because it makes important environmental features easier to detect, distinguish, and interpret. Clear differences in lightness and color value can visually define doorways, room entries, handrails, elevator controls, changes in floor level, signage, and intersections. This is particularly important for many older adults, whose vision may include reduced visual acuity, reduced contrast sensitivity, glare sensitivity, or difficulty distinguishing similar tones. Effective contrast supports a predictable visual hierarchy: critical destinations and safety-related elements stand out from adjacent walls, floors, and furnishings without relying solely on text or color names. For example, a door frame or handrail that contrasts sufficiently with its surrounding surface is more readily located and followed, helping residents orient themselves and travel independently. The Americans with Disabilities Act guidance recognizes contrast as an important factor in making visual information perceptible, and the National Institute on Aging describes age-related vision changes that can affect the ability to see low-contrast features. See the ADA Standards for Accessible Design and the National Institute on Aging's guidance on aging and vision.