Vibration Institute Online Exam FAQs

Frequently Asked Questions about the Vibration Institute's online certification exams

The Vibration Institute is shifting from paper to online certification examinations. The transition is underway for exams given in the US, starting in April 2026. While we refine our online exam procedures and sort out potential Wi-Fi issues, paper exams are provided for backup. We anticipate all Category I, II, and III certification examinations given in the United States will be online by the end of 2026. The timeline for implementing online Category IV and international certification exams has yet to be determined.

How does the proctoring work for online exams?

A human proctor is in the room with exam takers AND is online along with the candidates. The proctor starts the exams, monitors device use, etc., online while observing the exam session. One or more additional remote proctors may also observe the examinations online.

What resources will I have during my exam?

Each candidate will be given a paper set of equations ("Summary of Common Formulae") with a personalized cover/signature sheet and a limited amount of polar plot grids. These pages will serve as a reference AND as scratch paper – they must be returned to the proctor when your exam is completed. You are encouraged to bring a basic non-programmable calculator and pen/pencil. Optional mechanical tools (scale, protractor, etc.) are acceptable. Bringing your device charger is HIGHLY recommended; bringing an extension cord/power strip is acceptable (though this is typically handled by the exam sponsor, who should ensure all candidates have access to 110 or 220 VAC power via a wall outlet as is standard for the local area).

Who provides the computer or tablet for my exam?

Expect to provide your own device. Occasionally, devices may be provided by the exam sponsor if available and arranged in advance.

What device is acceptable?

Any computer or tablet with a display resolution of at least 1024x768 pixels and capability to connect to the internet and run web browser software.

Which browsers support the exam software?

Google Chrome, Microsoft Edge, Mozilla Firefox, Safari (on macOS)

How can I get comfortable with the exam software?

When your C-F-009 certification exam application is approved, you will receive an email message that contains access to an online certification exam prep file with more detailed information about your exam event, including how to use the exam software, and link(s) to one or more sample (practice)exams for software practice. To verify that you should be ready to use the exam software for your certification exam, you will also take a brief online exam prep quiz.

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I want to use a company device for my certification exam. What should I do to make sure the exam software can be accessed through our company's firewall?

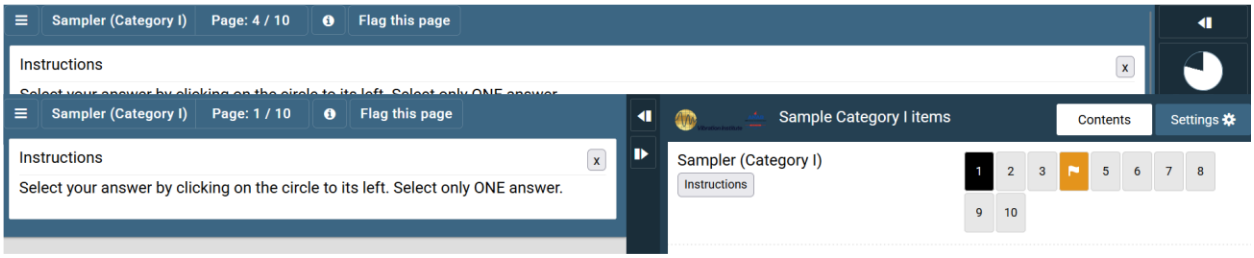
- Contact your company IT department and let them know you intend to take an online exam from the Vibration Institute using a company-owned computer
- Try using a sample (practice) exam link while on the device
- Set up your email to allow messages from the Vibration Institute so you can access your exam delivery link
- Ensure that you receive email messages from the Vibration Institute (specify the Vibration Institute as a safe sender)

What makes these exams secure?

Observation by the human proctor, plus the software detects any device action taken that is NOT part of the exam (attempting to open another browser, copy/paste, unrelated keystrokes, …) and pauses the exam whenever such actions occur. The software logs every device action taken by the candidate while the exam delivery is open, for later review by the Vibration Institute.

Will I be able to check and change my answers?

Yes, checking/changing answers is easily done as long as time permits. You may flag any item that you wish to check. You may also simply go back to the beginning and check every item. *Flag button is near the upper left. Left-pointing arrow at the upper right opens the Contents area where you can select and go to any exam item. Right-pointing arrow in the middle will close the Contents area and go back to full screen width for the item.*

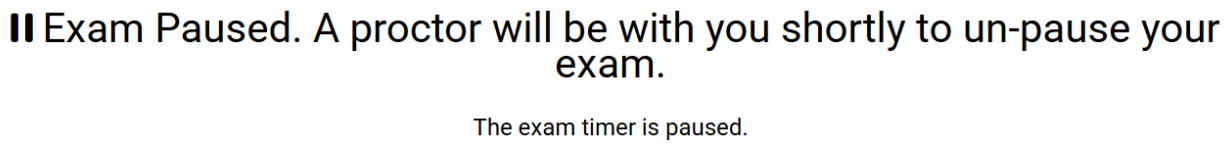


What about exam results?

Your exam result will be shared within three weeks of your certification exam. The results are held to allow for internal exam review. As required by the relevant ISO standards, your result will be pass/fail, without a score. You will also receive feedback via a color-coded table of ISO 18436-2 Annex A.1 subjects to show that you may wish to study more (amber) and where you did well (green).

What is the general procedure for VI online certification exams?

- *Fill out and submit a C-F-009 application for a VI Vibration Analyst certification exam. (This will be reviewed by the Institute staff to ensure all candidate requirements are met).*
    - *A week or more before the exam date, each candidate receives an email message with: Online exam training slides file link (when in Menber365)*
    - *Online exam training completion quiz (when in Member365)*
    - *Equation sheets set file*
    - *Link(s) to sample (practice) exam(s)*
    - *C-I-001OL approved/prohibited items file and*
    - *C-I-002OL candidate instructions file*
- *Review the files well before your exam day.*
- *A few days before the exam date, each candidate receives another email message. This one contains the candidate's exam delivery link. The link should be activated soon after receipt, on the device that will be used at the exam whenever possible. If it works, close the link and keep it where it can be accessed on exam day.*
- *On exam day, take your **fully charged** device and tools to the exam location, arriving early enough to allow for setup time. On your device, close any unnecessary apps and activate your exam delivery link. The screen will display the following message:*



- Wait for the proctor to start the exam session (un-pause all exams).
- Take your exam.
- Within 3 weeks, receive your exam result.

Can I choose to take a paper exam, instead of the on-line exam ? No, taking a paper exam will not be a candidate choice. During the very early phases of our online exam rollout, paper examinations are provided to the proctor for emergency backup use. We hope to soon be confident that an emergency backup plan is not necessary.

What if my device hangs up during the exam, will I be allowed additional time? For each candidate, the software tracks exam use time. In parallel, the proctor is tracking the exam session time. If your device hangs up and the proctor cannot quickly "fix stuck" and allow you to resume working on your exam, small time accommodations may be made.

Can I take the exam at a test center or corporate location instead of the public test site?

For more than a decade, VI VA certification exams have been given in a variety of settings, other than test centers (because we have no test center contract(s) in place). That flexibility will continue, excepting delivery of our certification exams at test centers.