# STUDY GUIDE LOCOMOTIVE MECHANIC

250 EXAM PREP QUESTIONS
WITH EXPLAINED ANSWERS



APPRENTICES | INSTRUCTORS | INSTITUTES

RedSealStudyGuide.ca

UNITY CREST SOLUTIONS INC.

## Who Is Red Seal Study Guide For?

Welcome to *Red Seal Study Guide*—your key to unlocking success in your trade, earning the recognition you deserve, and building a solid career in Canada. Whether you're an apprentice just starting out, a seasoned professional, or someone new to the country and adjusting to Canadian trade standards, this guide is designed to complement your learning and support you along the way. While it provides valuable insights and resources, it's not a substitute for official materials required for certification.

## **How We Help You Succeed**

- 1. Apprentices: Looking to kickstart your career? Our study guides and practice tests will help you build the foundational skills you need to succeed.
- 2. *Tradespeople*: New to Canada or advancing in your career? We offer detailed questions, answers, and explanations to help you understand industry standards and excel in your work.
- 3. *Instructors*: Need reliable teaching tools? Our question banks and online tests are great for guiding your students through trade concepts and preparing them for certification.
- 4. *Educational Institutions*: Looking for tailored materials? Our study guides, quizzes, and exams are designed to fit into your existing curriculum, offering valuable resources for students.
- 5. *Unions*: Searching for effective ways to train your members? Our easy-to-follow format ensures that each member gains the knowledge they need to thrive in their trade.

## What Red Seal Study Guide Offers:

- 1. *Tailored Study Guides*: Access the core knowledge you need, whether you're preparing for your exam, familiarizing yourself with Canadian trade standards, or simply refining your trade skills.
- 2. *Real-World Practice Tests:* Simulate actual exam conditions with online tests that help you measure your progress and improve your job-ready skills.
- 3. *Skill-Building Question Banks*: Strengthen your understanding with questions that not only prepare you for the exam but also help you master key concepts in your day-to-day work.
- 4. *In-Depth Explanations:* Get detailed explanations for each answer, helping you understand not just how, but why, the answers are correct—improving both test results and practical knowledge.
- 5. Additional Learning Resources: Dive into supplementary guides on topics like math, safety protocols, and management strategies that are valuable for both certification and long-term career growth.



## **Tools for Your Success**

Each of these resources is crafted to ensure you're fully prepared for your Red Seal exam and ready to excel in your trade. From gaining core knowledge with our tailored study guides to testing your skills with real-world practice exams, we provide everything you need to boost your understanding. Our in-depth explanations clarify key concepts, while additional learning resources like math, safety, and management guides give you the tools to succeed in your career and continue growing as a tradesperson.

## **How to Use This Guide**

The *Red Seal Study Guide* is a *helpful tool* designed to complement your preparation for certification exams. While it includes practice questions, explanations, and supplementary resources, it's important to use this guide *alongside your official study materials* and hands-on training. The more you combine this guide with your practical experience and provincially approved coursework, the better prepared you'll be for both your exam and your career in the trade.

## Ready to Take the First Step Toward Success?

Don't let anything hold you back. Visit *RedSealStudyGuide.ca* to unlock the resources that will elevate your skills, boost your confidence, and secure the income and recognition you deserve. Whether you're an apprentice, a tradesperson, or an instructor, our *online tests, questions and answers,* and *detailed explanations* are designed to help you at every stage of your career. *Remember, this guide is a tool to help you succeed—it works best when paired with hands-on learning and official materials.* 

Thousands of tradespeople have already transformed their careers, increased their income, and improved their lives with the *Red Seal Study Guide*.

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## Why Red Seal Study Guide?

We're committed to making trade education *accessible*, *flexible*, *and affordable* to anyone in Canada. You don't need to worry about the high cost of learning—we believe nothing should stop you from earning top wages in your trade.

This guide isn't just a quick fix—it's a tool designed to highlight your strengths, pinpoint areas for improvement, and focus your efforts where they matter most. Whether you choose our online tests, questions and answers, or detailed explanations, you'll get the right tools to prepare for whatever challenges lie ahead. However, it's not a replacement for official training or certification resources.

## **Success Stories from Real People**

We've helped thousands of tradespeople—apprentices, seasoned professionals, and those new to Canada—gain the confidence and skills needed to pass their exams and advance their careers. Here's what some of our users have to say:

"The online tests in the Red Seal Study Guide were a game-changer for me as a carpenter in Canada. They gave me a clear sense of what to expect on the exam, and the questions and answers helped me focus on exactly what I needed to improve, especially in the areas I found challenging."

James McLeod, Red Seal Carpenter

"Red Seal Study Guide's questions, answers, and explanations made it easier for me to understand the Canadian trade standards. As a mechanic originally from India, the detailed explanations helped bridge knowledge gaps and gave me the confidence to pass my exams."

Arjun Patel, Automotive Service Technician

"As a hairstyling instructor, I rely on the Red Seal Study Guide's question and answer sections to reinforce my students' learning. The online tests are a fantastic tool for tracking their progress and ensuring they're fully prepared for the exam."

— Samantha Greene, Hairstylist Instructor

## Ready to Start Your Own Success Story?

Don't just read about others' achievements—take the first step towards your own career growth. Whether you're preparing for your exam or looking to sharpen your trade skills, *Red Seal Study Guide* has the tools to help you succeed.

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## What This Book Will Teach You

This isn't just about reading and memorizing; it's about *preparing* you for real-world challenges. At Red Seal Study Guide, we've helped thousands of people pass their exams and advance their careers. But the truth is—success takes more than book smarts. Here's what you need to know:

- 1. It's not easy: Becoming a Red Seal tradesperson requires hard work, patience, and a real dedication to learning. This guide will help you navigate the complexity, but the journey itself requires you to commit to the process. At the end, you'll not only have earned your certification but also be in a stronger position for long-term success in your career.
- 2. You will need to put in effort: Our practice tests, questions, and explanations are incredibly useful, but they can only get you so far without your own effort. You need to engage with the material and be prepared to revisit concepts to fully understand them. This preparation will also help you manage test anxiety and give you the tools to stay focused and confident when exam day comes.
- 3. It's hands-on: While this guide provides the foundational knowledge and key concepts, your true growth comes from hands-on experience in the trade. This guide is designed to complement that experience and help you feel more prepared on the job. By understanding the 'why' behind the work, you'll find yourself better equipped for both the exam and your everyday trade responsibilities.

Our online tests and question and answer sections are here to help you feel confident, prepared, and capable, but remember—they're meant to *complement*, not replace, the hands-on training you'll need to master your trade and succeed in certification.

## What This Guide Is and Isn't

Before you dive into the resources, it's important to know that *Red Seal Study Guide* is a *helpful tool* designed to prepare you for your exam by offering practice questions, answers, and explanations similar to what you may encounter. However, *state requirements vary*, and this guide should be used *alongside official provincial or industry resources* to ensure you're fully prepared.



## Disclaimer

Red Seal Study Guide is designed to *supplement* your preparation for certification exams and *does not replace* official materials provided by your provincial *licensing board, union, or certifying body*. While we provide valuable tools like *questions and answers* and *online tests,* success on your certification exam depends on multiple factors, including *hands-on experience, study habits,* and use of *official resources*.

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Your future in the trades starts with *Red Seal Study Guide*. We're here to give you the knowledge and confidence to pass your certification exams and build a successful career. Whether you're an apprentice or experienced tradesperson, our *study guides*, *online tests*, *and questions with explanations* are designed to help you at every stage of your journey.

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# 

# Year 2: Intermediate Locomotive Maintenance and Systems Subject 3. Traction and Wheel Assemblies

## 1. What do traction motors do?

- a) Control the braking system
- b) Convert electricity to movement
- c) Cool down the locomotive
- d) Generate steam for power

## Correct Answer: b) Convert electricity to movement

**Explanation:** Traction motors are essential components in locomotives that convert electrical energy from the power source into mechanical energy, allowing the train to move. They provide the necessary torque to drive the wheels, enabling locomotives to accelerate and maintain speed. This conversion of energy is crucial for efficient train operation.

## 2. How is power transferred to wheels?

- a) Using hydraulic systems
- b) By braking systems
- c) Via steam engines
- d) Through traction motors

## **Correct Answer: d) Through traction motors**

**Explanation:** Power is transferred to the wheels of a locomotive primarily through traction motors. These motors receive electrical energy from the locomotive's power source and convert it into mechanical energy. This energy is then transmitted to the wheels, facilitating movement and allowing the train to traverse tracks efficiently.

## 3. What causes wheel wear in locomotives?

- a) Poor track alignment
- b) Low power output
- c) Speed regulation
- d) Excessive lubrication

## Correct Answer: a) Poor track alignment

**Explanation:** Wheel wear in locomotives can largely result from poor track alignment. Misaligned tracks can cause uneven distribution of weight and force on the wheels, leading to accelerated wear and degradation. Regular maintenance and alignment checks are essential to ensure optimal contact between wheels and tracks, prolonging the lifespan of both components.



## 4. Why is track alignment important?

- a) Increases fuel consumption
- b) Reduces maintenance costs
- c) Improves aesthetic value
- d) Ensures smooth movement

## Correct Answer: d) Ensures smooth movement

**Explanation:** Proper track alignment is crucial for ensuring the smooth movement of locomotives. Misalignment can lead to increased friction, wheel wear, and potential derailments. When tracks are aligned correctly, it minimizes resistance, promotes safety, and enhances overall train performance. Regular inspections and adjustments are necessary to maintain track integrity.

## 5. What is a basic repair method for traction components?

- a) Painting over issues
- b) Ignoring damage
- c) Complete replacement
- d) Lubrication and cleaning

## Correct Answer: d) Lubrication and cleaning

**Explanation:** A fundamental repair method for traction components involves regular lubrication and cleaning. This helps prevent wear and tear by reducing friction and removing debris that can cause damage. Regular maintenance ensures that traction motors operate efficiently and prolongs their service life, ultimately improving the performance of the locomotive.

## 6. What is the role of traction motors?

- a) Drive the locomotive wheels
- b) Generate heat
- c) Provide braking power
- d) Control passenger comfort

## Correct Answer: a) Drive the locomotive wheels

**Explanation:** The primary role of traction motors is to drive the wheels of the locomotive. By converting electrical energy into mechanical energy, they generate the necessary torque required for movement. This enables the locomotive to accelerate, maintain speed, and respond to changes in power requirements efficiently, making traction motors vital for locomotive operation.



## 7. How does wheel alignment affect performance?

- a) Impacts operational speed
- b) Affects fuel economy
- c) Enhances wheel durability
- d) Reduces passenger comfort

## Correct Answer: c) Enhances wheel durability

**Explanation:** Proper wheel alignment significantly enhances the durability of locomotive wheels. When wheels are aligned correctly, it ensures even wear and minimizes stress on the wheel and rail interface. This not only extends the lifespan of the wheels but also ensures smoother operations, reducing the risk of mechanical failures and improving overall performance.

## 8. What is a common sign of wheel wear?

- a) Increased speed
- b) Smooth surface
- c) Excessive noise
- d) Low power output

Correct Answer: c) Excessive noise

**Explanation:** A common sign of wheel wear is excessive noise during operation. When wheels become worn, they may create grinding or clattering sounds due to uneven surfaces or misalignment. Identifying these sounds early allows for timely maintenance and repairs, preventing further damage and ensuring safe and efficient locomotive operation.

## 9. What can cause traction motor failure?

- a) Proper lubrication
- b) Correct alignment
- c) Regular maintenance
- d) Overheating

**Correct Answer: d) Overheating** 

**Explanation:** Traction motor failure is often caused by overheating. This can occur due to excessive load, insufficient cooling, or lack of maintenance. Overheating can lead to insulation failure, reduced motor efficiency, and ultimately catastrophic failure of the motor. Regular monitoring of temperature and maintenance practices are essential to prevent such issues.



## 10. What is the effect of poor lubrication?

- a) Decreases wear
- b) Reduces noise
- c) Increases friction
- d) Enhances performance

## **Correct Answer: c) Increases friction**

**Explanation:** Poor lubrication leads to increased friction between moving parts, which can result in overheating and accelerated wear of components. In traction motors and wheel assemblies, inadequate lubrication hampers performance and can lead to mechanical failures. Regular lubrication checks and maintenance are vital to ensure smooth operations and prolong the life of the equipment.

## 11. What does track maintenance ensure?

- a) Smooth train operation
- b) Increased wear
- c) Higher fuel costs
- d) Less safety

## **Correct Answer: a) Smooth train operation**

**Explanation:** Track maintenance is essential for ensuring smooth train operation. Regular inspections and repairs address issues such as misalignment, rail defects, and debris accumulation. By maintaining the tracks, locomotives can operate safely and efficiently, reducing the risk of derailments and mechanical failures while enhancing overall performance.

## 12. What is a sign of misaligned tracks?

- a) Consistent speed
- b) Unusual vibrations
- c) Smooth ride
- d) Safe operation

## **Correct Answer: b) Unusual vibrations**

**Explanation:** Unusual vibrations during operation are a common sign of misaligned tracks. When tracks are not properly aligned, they can cause irregularities in the train's movement, leading to vibrations. These vibrations can result in increased wear on wheels and components, necessitating immediate inspection and correction to prevent further issues.



## 13. How often should traction components be inspected?

- a) Only when broken
- b) Regularly and frequently
- c) Every five years
- d) Once a year

## Correct Answer: b) Regularly and frequently

**Explanation:** Traction components should be inspected regularly and frequently to ensure optimal performance and safety. Routine checks help identify wear, overheating, and other potential issues before they escalate into significant problems. Timely inspections and maintenance are crucial for preventing breakdowns and ensuring the longevity of the locomotive's operational capabilities.

## 14. What is the primary function of wheels?

- a) Regulate temperature
- b) Store electrical power
- c) Support the locomotive weight
- d) Control the speed

## Correct Answer: c) Support the locomotive weight

**Explanation:** The primary function of wheels is to support the weight of the locomotive while enabling it to move along the tracks. They are designed to withstand significant loads and provide stability while offering minimal resistance. Proper wheel design and maintenance ensure efficient movement and safety during operations, making them critical to locomotive mechanics.

## 15. Why monitor traction motor temperatures?

- a) To waste energy
- b) To reduce efficiency
- c) To increase wear
- d) To prevent malfunctions

## **Correct Answer: d) To prevent malfunctions**

**Explanation:** Monitoring traction motor temperatures is essential to prevent malfunctions and failures. Elevated temperatures can indicate problems such as overloading or inadequate cooling, which can lead to insulation failure and reduced efficiency. Regular temperature checks help identify issues early, allowing for timely maintenance and ensuring the motor operates within safe parameters.



## 16. What causes excessive vibrations in locomotives?

- a) Proper alignment
- b) Regular maintenance
- c) Wheel wear and misalignment
- d) Balanced weight distribution

## Correct Answer: c) Wheel wear and misalignment

**Explanation:** Excessive vibrations in locomotives are often caused by wheel wear and misalignment. Worn wheels can create uneven surfaces that disrupt smooth movement, while misaligned tracks can further exacerbate these vibrations. Identifying and addressing these issues promptly is crucial for maintaining safe and efficient locomotive operations, as vibrations can lead to mechanical failures.

## 17. What is a result of improper wheel maintenance?

- a) Extended wheel life
- b) Higher wear rate
- c) Increased operational efficiency
- d) Improved safety

## Correct Answer: b) Higher wear rate

**Explanation:** Improper wheel maintenance results in a higher wear rate, which can compromise the integrity of the wheels and overall locomotive performance. Neglecting regular checks, lubrication, and alignment can lead to accelerated degradation, increased risk of mechanical failure, and potentially hazardous operating conditions. Consistent maintenance is vital for ensuring longevity and safety.

## 18. What is the purpose of traction control systems?

- a) To improve wheel traction
- b) To reduce speed
- c) To increase power consumption
- d) To enhance fuel efficiency

## Correct Answer: a) To improve wheel traction

**Explanation:** The purpose of traction control systems is to improve wheel traction, ensuring optimal performance and safety during locomotive operation. By monitoring wheel slip and adjusting power distribution, these systems help maintain grip on the tracks, especially in adverse conditions. This enhances stability and prevents wheel slippage, contributing to overall operational efficiency.



## 19. How does wheel diameter affect performance?

- a) Diameter has no effect
- b) Larger wheels provide better stability
- c) Smaller wheels reduce power
- d) Smaller wheels increase speed

## Correct Answer: b) Larger wheels provide better stability

**Explanation:** Wheel diameter significantly affects locomotive performance, with larger wheels providing better stability and smoother operation on tracks. Larger wheels can effectively navigate uneven surfaces and reduce rolling resistance, enhancing speed and efficiency. Conversely, smaller wheels may increase wear and reduce stability, making diameter an important consideration in locomotive mechanics.

## 20. What happens when wheels are not aligned?

- a) Improved performance
- b) Increased wear and tear
- c) Smoother ride
- d) Enhanced traction

## Correct Answer: b) Increased wear and tear

**Explanation:** When wheels are not aligned, it leads to increased wear and tear on both the wheels and the track. Misalignment causes uneven pressure distribution, resulting in accelerated degradation of components. Regular alignment checks and maintenance are essential to ensure optimal performance, safety, and longevity of the locomotive's traction system.

## 21. What can excessive wheel wear indicate?

- a) Proper maintenance
- b) Track issues or misalignment
- c) Increased speed
- d) Improved performance

## **Correct Answer: b) Track issues or misalignment**

**Explanation:** Excessive wheel wear can indicate underlying track issues or misalignment. When the wheels do not make consistent contact with the track due to misalignment, it results in uneven wear patterns and may lead to potential safety hazards. Regular inspections of both wheels and tracks are necessary to identify and rectify these issues promptly.



## 22. What is a key factor in traction motor efficiency?

- a) Ignoring maintenance
- b) Overloading the motor
- c) Regular inspections
- d) Poor electrical connections

## **Correct Answer: c) Regular inspections**

**Explanation:** A key factor in traction motor efficiency is conducting regular inspections. These checks ensure that the motors are functioning correctly, free from debris, and adequately cooled. Neglecting maintenance can lead to inefficiencies, overheating, and potential failures, while proactive inspections help maintain optimal performance and reliability in locomotive operations.

## 23. Why is lubrication essential for traction motors?

- a) Increases weight
- b) Clogs components
- c) Creates noise
- d) Reduces friction and wear

## Correct Answer: d) Reduces friction and wear

**Explanation:** Lubrication is essential for traction motors as it significantly reduces friction and wear between moving parts. Proper lubrication ensures that components operate smoothly, minimizing overheating and prolonging the life of the motor. Regular lubrication checks and maintenance practices are vital for maintaining the efficiency and reliability of traction systems.

## 24. What do worn wheels affect primarily?

- a) Train speed
- b) Environmental impact
- c) Locomotive safety
- d) Aesthetic appeal

## **Correct Answer: c) Locomotive safety**

**Explanation:** Worn wheels primarily affect locomotive safety. When wheels are worn, they may not maintain proper contact with the tracks, increasing the risk of derailment and instability during operation. Ensuring that wheels are regularly checked and maintained is critical for preventing accidents and ensuring the safe operation of rail services.



## 25. What is a common maintenance task for wheels?

- a) Regular cleaning and alignment
- b) Painting the surface
- c) Increasing weight
- d) Ignoring wear

## Correct Answer: a) Regular cleaning and alignment

**Explanation:** A common maintenance task for wheels involves regular cleaning and alignment to ensure optimal performance. Cleaning removes debris that can cause wear, while alignment ensures that wheels make proper contact with the tracks. Together, these practices help prevent issues such as excessive wear, vibrations, and enhance the overall safety and efficiency of the locomotive.





## Subject - 1

- 1). (A) (B) (C) (D)
- 6). A B C D
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- 2). (A) (B) (C) (D)
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- 25). A B C D

## **About the Creators:**

## **Bobby Bedi:**

Bobby Bedi, co-creator of the Red Seal Study Guide, calls the Pacific Northwest home, where he has built an extensive career spanning more than two decades. His diverse background, which includes architecture, digital innovation, and industrial marketing, has given him a unique ability to bridge traditional industries with cutting-edge digital solutions. Bobby has worked across a spectrum of industries, from agile startups to publicly traded companies and educational platforms, bringing a depth of experience that has been crucial to the platform's success.

Bobby's precision and problem-solving skills, refined through his years in architecture, have seamlessly transitioned into his work in digital marketing and technology. Since 2006, Bobby has been at the forefront of digital innovation, applying his expertise to transform trade education. He has been instrumental in developing cutting-edge, user-friendly platforms that make learning accessible across the globe, combining technology with education to create impactful online experiences.

As co-creator of the platform, Bobby also plays a key role in the industrial sector, where he helps companies scale by leveraging his expertise in digital marketing and business strategy. His dedication to making education affordable and impactful has driven the growth of the Red Seal Study Guide, ensuring that individuals at every stage of their careers have access to quality learning tools.

## Kris McFarlane:

Kris McFarlane, co-creator of the Red Seal Study Guide, has over two decades of experience in business development, education, and the trades. Based in the Pacific Northwest, Kris has worked with a range of organizations—from agile startups to publicly traded companies—driving business growth and developing successful strategies across industries. His expertise in scaling businesses and creating educational platforms has been key to the guide's reach and effectiveness.

Kris's deep roots in the trades and industrial sector, paired with his extensive experience in business development, give him a unique ability to understand both the practical and strategic needs of companies and individuals. His leadership and ability to mentor others have helped shape the platform, making it a go-to resource for tradespeople seeking career advancement and certification.

Having struggled with traditional education early in life, Kris understands the importance of making learning accessible for everyone. His passion for empowering others, especially those who feel underserved by conventional education systems, is reflected in every aspect of the Red Seal Study Guide. Kris's work is driven by a commitment to helping aspiring tradespeople succeed in their careers through affordable, practical, and accessible learning resources.

## Work with the Creators

As co-creators of the Red Seal Study Guide, Bobby Bedi and Kris McFarlane draw from extensive experience working with agile startups, publicly traded companies, and education platforms. Their combined expertise has shaped a platform that empowers businesses and individuals alike. To learn more or explore opportunities with the *Unity Crest Solutions team*, visit *UnityCrestSolutions.com*, where they continue to help organizations and people succeed.



## **About Unity Crest Solutions**

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We're here to support your journey toward becoming a certified tradesperson. However, your success ultimately depends on your own effort, practical experience, and thorough preparation with official resources.



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Our guide offers practical insights and knowledge to boost your confidence and improve your understanding of core concepts.

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- 3. *Questions, Answers, and Explanations:* Go beyond just memorizing answers. Gain deeper insights into the reasoning behind each question, helping you master not only the exam but also real-world applications on the job.

Each of these resources is crafted to ensure you're prepared for your Red Seal exam and to excel in your trade. By offering tailored support for *real-world skills*, we help you gain confidence, refine your knowledge, and stay ahead in your career.

## **Success Stories**

"The online tests in the Red Seal Study Guide were a game-changer for me as a carpenter in Canada. They gave me a clear sense of what to expect on the exam, and the questions and answers helped me focus on exactly what I needed to improve on." — James McLeod, Red Seal Carpenter

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"As a hairstyling instructor, I rely on the Red Seal Study Guide's question and answer sections to reinforce my students' learning. The online tests are a fantastic tool for tracking their progress and ensuring they're fully prepared for the exam." — Samantha Greene, Hairstylist Instructor

## Are You Ready to Take the Next Step?

With the *Red Seal Study Guide* in hand, you are well-equipped to tackle the challenges of your trade and step confidently into your career as a certified tradesperson.

We are committed to making trade education accessible, flexible, and affordable for everyone in Canada. You shouldn't have to worry about the cost of learning—our goal is to make sure nothing holds you back from reaching your full potential.

The Red Seal Study Guide is not just a quick fix; it's a tool designed to highlight your strengths, identify areas for improvement, and focus your efforts where they matter most. Join thousands of successful tradespeople who have advanced their careers with our guide. Visit us at RedSealStudyGuide.ca.

