

Examiner's report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2: Product Safety Written Examiner's Report May 2022

General

In comparison to previous exam rounds, this one saw a significant increase in the number of candidates sitting the Product Safety Paper with a total of 17 candidates. There was a wide range of marks, from 22% at the lowest end up to 79% at the highest prior to moderation.

This was the third paper in the new format where candidates attempted two longer questions and four shorter ones, so this can be considered well established now. Despite this there was still a candidate who didn't read the instructions and answered all six of the part A questions, but only obtained marks from the first four. As previously, the examination addressed a large section of the syllabus, but candidates were able to choose from a selection of questions to focus on their strengths.

Whilst the majority of candidates were able to write legibly, there were some who made the examiners job extremely difficult. It must be emphasised that if the examiner or moderator is unable to read your answer, then you will not get any marks for it.

It is also clear that more than one candidate ran out of time whilst still answering questions – the risk of this can be minimised by practicing examination questions in a timed environment in advance of the examination.

Basic knowledge was missing in some cases, but in general answers were clearly focussed on the question in hand and legal principles and an understanding of product hazards and risk were adequately explained.

Section A

Candidates were required to answer four out of six short answer questions which were written to reflect the large range of knowledge necessary to carry out product safety work. Questions carried ten marks each. Students generally addressed the question as it was phrased although occasionally the point was missed. Bullet points were used by a number of candidates, and this is perfectly acceptable.

All questions were attempted by at least one candidate, and although the marks were relatively easy to get, and many showed a good knowledge of legislation some candidates missed the focus of the question and wasted time noting down lots of information which was not relevant. If candidates consider that there are roughly ten marks to be awarded this will often equate to ten pieces of information to be supplied, and easy marks were missed while setting out unnecessary detail.

Section B

Candidates were required to choose two out of four longer questions in this section, each carrying thirty marks.

that they can protect the user from hazards was shown by some candidates, although marks were missed by some due to a misunderstanding of the regulatory framework that applied in this case.

The majority of candidates attempted questions 9 and 10, which were standard questions requiring the application of knowledge on safety legislation and conformity assessment to a practical scenario. These questions were generally answered reasonably well with some notable exceptions, and knowledge of product identification, the scope of regulations, the obligations of the various.

Note: CTSI has requested more detailed feedback from the examiner.