

Examiner's report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2: Weights and Measures Written Examiner's Report May 2023

General

It was good to see that all candidates passed this year although it is interesting to note that there is still a very wide range of results. Some candidates were very poor and although they passed it is not felt that they had a good grasp of the subject, and some candidates were exceptional. Legal metrology is a practical subject and can only be really understood when theoretical knowledge is combined with practical experience which is clearly not happening in some authorities.

There are three points to note from this year's examination.

- 1) The marking scheme allows marks to be awarded for the use of specific terms and phrases, when this is combined with a pass mark of only 40% it is relatively easy for candidates to gain sufficient marks to pass the exam without demonstrating a comprehensive understanding of the subject matter being examined. This point has been noted in successive examiners reports
- 2) There is a clear difference between the candidates that have worked very hard to understand the subject and those who have not been able to devote sufficient time to the exam.
- 3) There is a clear knowledge gap regarding the supply of goods and instruments between Northern Ireland and Great Britain. This exam applies to the United Kingdom and candidates must understand the implications of the different legislative frameworks that now exist between the different parts of the country.

Section A

Q1 This question was testing the understanding of the obligations of manufacturers in placing instruments on the market and the requirements that must be met. It was reasonably well answered although some candidates confused the terminology. There was little understanding of the difference between NI and GB.

Q2 This question was covered in the training and well answered. The examination often has questions testing whether candidates understand the differences between different types of instruments.

Q3 This question was testing the understanding of Part 1 of the Weights and Measures Act 1985. Exam questions regarding this part of the Act appear most years and its understanding is crucial.

Q4 This question was testing the understanding of what constitutes a fulfilment service provider. This appears in legislation applicable in NI but not in GB. Few candidates answered this question, but it was well answered by those that did.

Q5 This question examining the understanding of the range of definitions in the EN45501. If the candidate knew the definition almost full marks could be obtained, if the definition was unknown, it would be difficult to obtain marks.

Q6 This question was well answered by clearly showed the difference on those candidates that had practical experience and those that did not.

Section B

The questions in Section B are 35-mark questions and the level of detail should reflect this. Some candidates did not offer sufficient detail to maximize their marks.

Question 7

Question 7(a) Most candidates did not understand the difference between market surveillance and inspection and the different authorities responsible for this. It is important to understand this as it has a bearing on the actions that an Inspector will take.

Question 7(b) Most candidates answered this well.

Question 7(c) Most candidates answered this well.

Question 7(d) This question was testing the understanding of Part 1 of the Weights and Measures Act 1985. Exam questions regarding this part of the Act appear most years and its understanding is crucial. It was well answered.

Question 7(e). Most candidates answered this well.

Question 8

Question 8(a) The question was testing candidates' knowledge of the broad range of legislation relating to packages. Most candidates had a reasonable understanding, and some were excellent. Most candidates did not outline the requirements about marking of packages.

Question 8(b). This question was testing whether candidates understood the difference between gravimetric and volumetric filling. Some candidates understood this, and some were very weak. This is important as many liquids are filled gravimetrically.

Question 8(c). The answers to this were variable. Some answers were very good. Very few candidates mentioned the need for records to show mean and standard deviation to be sufficiently rigorous.

Question 8(d). This question related to Regulation 12 of the Packaged Goods Regulations. Many people gave reasonable answers but very few answered correctly.

Question 8(e). Most candidates answered this well but did not note that the applicable regulation was 3(2)(f) of the NAWI Regulations 2016, not 3(2)(a)

Question 9

Question 9(a) A surprising number of candidates got this wrong and scored no marks. An understanding of the difference between manufacturers and importers and the consequences of BREXIT are fundamental to understanding the legal obligations of economic operators.

Question 9(b) Some candidates understood that this question related to gravity compensation, but none referred to the correct sections of the Regulations. Some candidates scored no marks on this question and confused this with the subject of the "routes to market."

Question 9(c) Reasonable answers, some candidates confused approved verification with conformity assessment under Module D. This must be understood.

Question 9(e) This was a 17-mark question and some of the answers were not sufficiently detailed. There will be future questions in the exam on how to test a NAWI.

Question 10

Question 10(a) This question was poorly answered. Some candidates scored no marks.

Question 10(b) Most candidates got this question wrong and showed a poor understanding of R51.

Question 10(c) Most candidates got this question wrong and showed a poor understanding of R51.

Question 10(d). Some candidates showed a good understanding of the requirements of the guide 7.2 and were able to apply their knowledge to this question. The majority were able to recite the elements of Guide 7.2 but did not answer the question.

Question 10(e). Most candidates answered this well.