



Office for Product Safety & Standards

CTSI Professional Competency Framework, CPCF

Legal Metrology Oral Examiners' report for September 2023

The Orals

The Orals followed the same format as last year with four test stations set up around the room, each station representing an area of expertise as follows:

- CSMs, tapes (length), beer dispensers
- Water meters, fuel, LPG and road-tankers
- NAWIs and weighing
- AWI weighing, packaged goods

All four stations of this session were relatively well answered by candidates.

Examiner feedback:

CSMs, tapes (length), beer dispensers

Candidates demonstrated an ability to recognise instruments, their essential requirements and identify the different Regulations relevant to them.

Candidates provided measured and proportionate responses to questions regarding responding to non-compliance and use of officer powers.

There was some uncertainty from candidates regarding transfer measures, their permissible markings, and the application of the prescribed quantities for the sale of intoxicating liquor via such measures.

Water meters, fuel, LPG and road-tankers

Areas where candidates provided satisfactory answers when questioned on:

- Identification of key component parts and flow of fuel through the liquid fuel dispensers and how to test them. (however some do mix up the air separator and filter when tracing flow).

- How the tests differ for a standard temperature accounting when testing a liquid fuel dispenser and awareness of the guidance for such testing.
- Identification of the working standard metal capacity measures and ability to explain the difference between brim and line type and awareness of WM 7000 series of standards.
- Identification of marking requirements for a bulk fuel meter measuring system including UKCA.
- Identification of tests applicable to a bulk fuel meter measuring system.
- When given an inspection related scenario candidates were able to identify the infringements and explain how they would approach the situation.
- Identification of the water meters and regulations applicable to them and marking requirements.

Areas where some candidates tend to demonstrate lack of knowledge/understanding or incomplete answers:

- Ability to identify non prescribed measuring equipment such as LPG dispensers and limited knowledge in how to approach complaints of short measure from such equipment.
- Awareness of relevant OIML Recommendations for equipment covered on this station.
- Ability to distinguish between a top and bottom loaded bulk fuel tanker.
- Ability to explain hose dilation and hose retention and how to test for these in relation to a bulk fuel meter measuring system.
- Ability to explain what checks are needed on the tickets issued by a bulk fuel meter measuring system.
- Difference between Weights and Measures Act Section 12 type approval certificates and other type examination certificates.
- Difference between test certificates and type examination certificates.
- What initial and re-verification stickers can be used by who and when. Also, identification of previous versions of verification stickers/marks used in the past.
- Some struggle with conformity assessment procedures.
- Some struggle with the identification of the bulk fuel tanker dipstick and requirements applicable to it.
- Some struggle with general awareness of powers, offences and defences when approaching scenario questions.

NAWIs and weighing

Candidates demonstrated good recognition of NAWIs with understanding on how they function, how to test them and what markings should be present. Candidates were also able to identify supplementary sealing arrangements to prevent access to calibration settings, and awareness of conformity assessment routes.

Recognition of trader's weights was mixed, sometimes confused with working standards. There was some uncertainty on whether imperial weights could be used for trade and on which regulations prescribed the shapes of trader weights. This could be

due to fewer traders using non digital scales and candidates not being exposed to these on inspections.

AWI weighing, packaged goods

Candidates were able to recognise a variety of equipment and different Regulations or OIML documents relevant to them. The practical issues around testing was more variable, likely reflecting the amount of testing experience different candidates had. The Packers rules were well known and explanations of how to meet these using checkweighers, for example, was good.

When considering food packaging whilst references to the Packaged Goods Regulations was good, the metrology/labelling requirements within the Food Information Regulation was more limited so future candidates are advised to ensure their wider awareness of these issues.

A total of 2 candidates did the Oral exam in September 2023.

The pass mark for the Oral remains set at 40%. The results for the 2023 Oral examinations are as follows;

W+M Oral: All candidates passed their Oral exams this time.