

Examiners report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2 Professional Interviews Weights and Measures October 2023

Only two scenarios were used for the September 2023 professional interviews relating to bulk fuel and a supermarket inspection. Five questions are asked per scenario, and the scenarios are marked out of 100. Not all questions are allocated 20 marks.

Fifteen candidates sat the exam and I am pleased to report that all candidates achieved the pass mark of 40%. This is the first time this has happened.

In general candidates remained calm and gave considered answers. My previous comments on the use of the scattergun approach seems to have been heeded. However, I noted the following in relation to each scenario:

Bulk Fuel: Marks lost by most due to lack of practical knowledge. I doubt that any candidate had actually tested bulk fuel tankers at a trader's premises and were consequently unaware of the difficulties in doing so. No candidate mentioned taking a copy of the calibration chart for the reference meter; no consideration was made of potential offences in connection with seal tampering; the applicability of WM1003 was not mentioned.

Supermarket: When answering the questions presented I hoped that candidates would, if they had never actually performed this task, imagine themselves in a supermarket with a bag of weights and a scale and then describe what they would actually do, but this did not come across. A picture was shown of a NAWI with various conformity assessment marks on it, but these were poorly understood or poorly explained. Only one candidate mentioned the requirements for unregulated NAWIs and only one considered test purchasing a pack suspected of being <T2 for further investigation.

For further information on the Professional Interview candidates are advised to read my previous Examiner's comments. For preparation for this exam candidates are advised to go on as many visits as possible and to thoroughly complete the portfolio.