

Examiner's report

Qualifications Framework

Stage 2: Weights and Measures Professional Interview

Professional Interview Examiner's Report September 2024

General Feedback:

Two scenarios were used for the September 2024 professional interviews both relating to a factory inspection: one packing fish and one packing ice cream. Five questions are asked per scenario, and the scenarios are marked out of 100. Not all questions are allocated 20 marks.

13 candidates sat the exam, 7 had the ice cream packer and 6 had the fish packer. 10 passed which was a success rate of 77%. The average mark was 49. Lowest mark was 18 and the highest was the best mark achieved ever in a professional interview, 91. An outstanding result.

Example Scenarios:

Ice cream packer:

No-one mentioned that the density of the ice cream could be a factor, and no one mentioned the ice cream Code of Practice. Several of the codes for different industries are held in the library of the **Local Government Metrology Group Khub** and candidates should at least be aware of their existence. Even just mentioning that the code would be consulted would have gone a long way.

One question was about testing an inspector's balance. I thought this would be a straightforward question because it is a key piece of equipment for an inspector of weights and measures. There were some variants in the answers provided.

Another question included a picture of a label showing 2 e marks and I was looking for candidates to consider whether 2 are allowed, if so why, and if not, why not?

No one mentioned that a suitable scale should be appropriate for a factory environment. This is a variation to a standard question on advice to a packer on buying a new scale.

A lot of candidates said they would take legislation with them on a visit. Some are apparently going to print the entire Non-automatic Weighing Instruments Regulations 2016 and BS EN 45501:2015 which would amount to 261 pages. I think this is unlikely in real life. Certain sections perhaps.

Fish packer:

In the scenario T2 packs are being produced so this should be discussed with the packer and a root cause identified. WELMEC 6.4 was not getting routinely mentioned. WELMEC was created to aid understanding of the legal metrology directives, and while our legislation is still aligned with the directives, the [WELMEC](#) guides are a useful resource.

A main task in an average quantity inspection is to inspect the production records. Candidates were failing to mention this.

Candidates should be mindful of the cost to the packer of rejecting an entire batch when the simple removal of a T2 pack and retesting could make it compliant.