



Office for Product Safety & Standards

CTSI Professional Competency Framework, CPCF

Legal Metrology Oral Examiners' report for October 2024

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:

- Station 1: CSMs, tapes (length), beer dispensers
- Station 2: Water meters, fuel, LPG and road-tankers
- Station 3: NAWIs and weighing
- Station 4: AWI weighing, packaged goods

All four stations of this session were relatively well answered by candidates with Station 3 being the best answered, Stations 4 and 1 were answered next best and Station 2 was answered the weakest.

A total of 10 candidates did the Oral exam in October 2024.

All candidates passed their Oral exams this time.

Examiner feedback:

Station 1: CSMs, tapes (length), beer dispensers

Overall recognition of instruments was good and candidates demonstrated an ability to find practical solutions to scenarios of non-compliance.

General feedback: The station has a wide array of applicable legislation, and some candidates struggled to accurately identify the correct legislation applicable to the instrument.

When candidates answered how items would be tested, many students referenced their own equipment by terms such as 'flasks' or 'pub kit' and failed to provide more detailed terminology when probed.

Similar concerns regarding terminology was noted when describing instruments, with multiple candidates using terms such as ‘optics’ or ‘a ruler’ to describe an instrument.

It was clear that the vast majority of candidates had not seen or tested a beer measuring instrument, with some failing to recognise that the instrument automatically dispensed a specified volume of liquid.

Station 2: Water meters, fuel, LPG and road-tankers

Candidates were confident in identifying different measuring systems fitted to road tankers and could recall correct regulations, guidance documents and maximum permissible errors, this included explaining how Standard Temperature accounting applies to fuel measurement. Candidates are advised to understand how a road tanker measuring system operates and how testing is carried out in practice, gaining practical experience through actual testing of instruments will benefit students.

There was good recognition of water meters, including applying regulations, guidance documents and conformity markings. Students displayed an understanding of the regulations and testing requirements for fuel dispensers; however, few were confident in tracing the flow of fuel through the system. We would encourage students to make sure that covers are removed during inspection when on site with an inspector, to enable them to gain confidence in recognising the key components of the measuring system.

Candidates explained the status of LPG dispensers and were confident in knowing where their powers were in legislation. Lastly, very few candidates recognised the cubic measure, nor did they know what regulations applied or how they would test it.

Station 3: NAWIs and weighing

In general, all candidates demonstrated sufficient ability and knowledge in relation to Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments [NAWI], weighing principles and weights. Including the identification of equipment, explanation of the different Classes of instruments and examples of use, along with the assessment and testing of a NAWI.

A particular observation was that a couple of candidates did not easily identify the weighbridge headwork that was presented [although did conclude that it was a NAWI display]. Recommendation that candidates seek opportunities to gain more practical experience at appropriate sites and arrange to attend on site checks of the equipment

Reference to relevant legislation and other sources of guidance (OIML, WELMEC, Standards, OPSS) was reflected in the scores of candidates who cited these. So would encourage candidates to pro-actively identify relevant reference material during the exam.

Ensure that you can recognise the various “stickers” [CA, re-qualification, disqualification] that you are likely to encounter on equipment and be able to explain who can use them and in what circumstances.

Think about practical scenarios that may occur in the field in relation to NAWIs and how you would approach them, including equipment and pre-visit preparation needed. Convince the examiner that you understand the requirements and can confidently apply them in a practical situation.

Reiterate previous exam observations about applying first principles: legislation, obligations, powers, offences, defences, consequences, regulatory options.

Station 4: AWI and Packaged goods

Overall candidates performed well identifying equipment, explaining how they would handle practical scenarios and reaching a reasoned decision when required.

All were able to name the weighing or measuring instruments with most being able to reference the correct legislation. The better candidates were also able to refer to OIML documents or appropriate codes of practice, often able to recall the specific references.

Some were unsure of powers when challenged, which appeared to indicate a lack of practical experience.

Generally candidates were able to clearly and confidently explain the packers rules, with many higher scoring candidates referencing the 'picnic' order (mostly with the correct name added on), Food Information Regulations and Weights and Measures (Intoxicating Liquor) Regulation without prompting.

18/10/2024