

Examiner's Report

Qualifications Framework

Stage 2: Unit 4 Weights and Measures Professional Interview Examiner Report May 2025

General

Two scenarios were used for the May 2025 professional interviews relating to bulk fuel and the inspection of a licensed premises. Five questions are asked per scenario, and the scenarios are marked out of 100. Not all questions are allocated 20 marks.

16 candidates sat the exam and 13 passed. The lowest mark was 14 and the highest was an impressive 76.

A series of training sessions were offered again in the first half of the year to prepare candidates for this exam. Candidates were given tips on exam technique and got a flavour of the kind of questions that could come up. The mock exam provides valuable experience in sitting a professional interview.

Comments on the scenarios:

Bulk fuel:

- No mention of the required documents and associated legislation - If you receive a complaint about short measure fuel, one task is to speak to the trader. This will involve asking about how the deliveries are conducted and by whom, and most importantly, requesting copies of the delivery documentation.
- Few details were given on the requirements for acquiring approved verifier status – only one candidate demonstrated good knowledge. It is a complicated area of weights and measures law, but understanding the system of approved verification/approved manufacturers is crucial
- Only one candidate gave a clear and well thought out description of testing. This candidate had clearly performed the tests and could give a methodical explanation. Thorough completion of the portfolio will expose candidates to these situations and is invaluable preparation for the exam.
- Candidates were asked what equipment they would take to test the tanker. Despite being told STA is fitted, no one said they would bring a calibrated thermometer. Also, STA was a potential factor in the short measure in this scenario, but wasn't properly considered by any candidate

Licensed premises:

- On the face of it, this was a very straightforward scenario, but to gain high marks candidates must demonstrate a thorough understanding of the issues and equipment involved. Answers lacked depth so few candidates did very well.
- Several said that our working standard capacity measures would be tested by sending them away to another authority, while this may be the case for those particular authorities, it is not the method given in the 7000 series of specifications.

- For the inspection of the bar, few had a methodical approach and did not describe how they would conduct certain tests. For example, one candidate said they would test some CSMs, but no further detail was given. It would be difficult, if not impossible, to conduct a test on a CSM in a bar and the results would lack meaning without any information on the wider batch. Similarly, several candidates stated they would test any available beer meters but without any mention of the necessary planning, preparation and equipment.
- Other candidates would check the Declaration of Conformity for the CSMs found on the premises. I doubt this would be possible unless the batch was bought direct from the manufacturer and shows a lack of understanding of how measuring instruments are supplied.
- No one spoke about taking a measure from a spirit measuring instrument and returning it to the bottle.
- A pub inspection is a very straightforward task for a TSO with only a limited amount of equipment to look at and even less that can be tested, yet no candidate demonstrated much confidence in the task.

Candidates should not explain everything they know about a particular subject/area; this does not attract many marks. Better marks are obtained by pausing to consider the situation and providing appropriate responses or solutions. When candidates are taking this exam themselves, they should be mindful of how they conduct inspections, investigating complaints, and interacting with traders.