

Product Safety Competency Qualification – Case Studies

WORKPLACE ASSIGNMENT

The purpose of this assignment is to demonstrate knowledge and skills in relation to product safety regulation, the identification of hazard and determination of risk, and then actions that arise out of this to manage the identified risk where it is considered intolerable.

Product safety is a knowledge-based skill, and both are needed to effectively execute the role of a market surveillance officer carrying out the role in relation to product safety.

These knowledge-based skills are:

- Hazard identification on a range of products
- Determination of screen testing/formal testing requirements by reference to relevant standards or other tests.
- Initial risk assessment of identified hazards using PRISM and reporting on this.
- Investigation, evidence collection and evaluation leading to a refinement of the initial risk assessment.
- Verification and/or challenge of any conformity assessment documentation produced in support of the product under investigation.
- Determination of the necessary corrective action and/or legal process used to manage the identified risk and confirmation of the success or otherwise of this.

The workplace assignments will consist of **two** narrative case studies, detailing the detection of potentially unsafe products which have been placed on the GB market, or is offered, exposed, or possessed with a view to placing on the GB market. The actions that arise out of this in the workplace context will be:

1. Selection of relevant products to conduct the case study on. It is expected that products will have hazards capable of investigation and be sufficiently different in nature that different knowledge and skills will be utilised and demonstrated across the two case studies. One way of doing this will be to select a product regulated under horizontal general regulation and one from vertical product specific regulation. It is acknowledged that service priorities may override this when specific product types are being examined as part of the day-to-day work of the service.
2. Identification of product hazards. This can be done via screen testing and examination or based on intelligence or other information. This process should be outlined and explained in the narrative document, and it is recommended that photographs are provided, and references made to appropriate inspection checklists or guides. Narrative explanation and supporting documents should be provided.
3. Development of a testing plan to verify and quantify product hazards and where appropriate engagement with testing laboratories and consultants to execute this plan and obtain the appropriate test data. Narrative explanation and supporting documents should be provided.



4. An initial risk assessment of the product under investigation using any evidence obtained in from inspection and testing will be undertaken, using the PRISM product risk assessment methodology for candidates in Great Britain, and Commission Decision 417/2019 for candidates in Northern Ireland. A narrative explanation is required for PRISM risk assessments to justify assumptions made and also injury scenario steps and probabilities used. This should be in a separate document to the narrative explanation for the case study and is not included in the maximum word count.
5. Following this initial risk assessment, an investigation into the product will be undertaken to refine it further but also to determine the appropriate actions that arise for the economic operator but also the market surveillance authority. This will include a consideration of the supply chain, evidence of conformity assessment and any other research necessary to increase the refinement of and confidence in the risk assessment.



6. The examination of any conformity assessment documentation will be undertaken, and where possible or appropriate, conclusions or assumptions made about the product's compliance status. A narrative write-up of this process should be provided, in addition to **redacted** documents to support it where appropriate. This will include reference to any challenge, or questions posed at the economic operator in respect of the documentation provided.
7. Following steps 5 and 6 the PRISM risk assessment will be refined (Commission Decision 417/2019 for candidates in Northern Ireland), and a final risk evaluation undertaken. This should be conducted as a narrative exercise and **will not** be included in the maximum word count for the assignment. A quality assurance/peer review exercise will also be included in this document, as set out in the PRISM/Commission Decision 417/2019 methodology. The purpose of this is to determine whether the product risk can be considered 'tolerable' or 'intolerable'. If intolerable then risk management action will follow.
8. Finally, recommendations for risk management action will be made if the risk is intolerable. This will include a consideration of all available interventions to manage the risk, and selection of the most appropriate one in the circumstances of the investigation. This will also include determination of the appropriate monitoring techniques, and a determination of what a successful action will look like. It is not expected that the action will be complete as the time for this assignment is limited, but where this is the case, the nature, scope, timing of the action should be outlined.

You will be expected to produce two case studies, consisting of a maximum of 3000 words for each, as narrative explanation with supporting documents produced in an annexe to evidence your investigation and decision making.

The pass mark for each case study is 60%. You will need to pass both case studies to move on to the final assessment which is a 30-minute Professional Interview.

Where further work is required on one or both of your case studies, you will be provided a two-week window to do so, and candidates will be provided with a deadline date at that time. Feedback will be provided to assist directing you on where you need to do further work.

Each case study you will be given a total of three attempts to pass. The first is the initial deadline provided in your Handbook, thereafter, where needed, you will be given two additional attempts with their own deadline requirements.

Please ensure you submit via the required area on the Learner Management System, for your case studies. There will be an area named, **Product Safety Competency Case Study ONE** and **Product Safety Competency Case Study TWO**. Upload the completed case studies to these two areas.

Where you do not submit to the required deadline this will be deemed as a failed attempt.

No penalty will be applied where a candidate is within 10% of the total 3000-word count (under or over), however for every 1% outside of this 10% degree of variation, 5 marks will be deducted from the overall award. It is therefore important the candidates stick to the word count. Where an appendix, graph or illustration is included in the case study, this is excluded from the word count. The case study must be the candidates own work and no plagiarism.

No individual, local authority or business must be named in the case study unless it is referencing relevant caselaw. All personal data must be redacted in accordance with general data protection rules.

Please see your handbook for the deadline date for the submission of **BOTH** case studies. If you have any queries regarding what is required, contact the team on qualifications@tsi.org.uk and we will seek advice from the examiner on your behalf.