

Qualifications Framework Examiner's Report

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Stage 2: Feed Oral Examiner's Report May 2026

General

Ten candidates sat the exam and marks ranged from 37% to 84% with an average of 71%. Positively the overall standard that improved last year was generally maintained.

PowerPoint slides were shown to candidates supported with verbal descriptions and questions from the examiner. The scenarios reflect those that a feed officer could typically see at feed premises. Slides in this exam depicted images of a distillery, complementary feed labels and feed materials.

Multiple sets of slides are produced so whilst there are similarities candidates do not all receive the same pictures and questions.

This exam covered a range of topics including registration, feed hygiene requirements including identification of the applicable annexes, traceability, authorised officer powers, labelling, sampling processes and undesirable substances.

Candidates are required to assess and explain legal compliance, considering any risks to human and animal health and the environment. They are expected to discuss the actions they would consider and conclude with their reasoning.

Generally, the candidates identified the key information from the slides and that given by the examiner, to apply their knowledge of feed law. Largely candidates demonstrated an appreciation of how to apply the law and gain compliance in practice. The examiner may ask more probing questions to clarify answers and check understanding.

Knowledge of powers including the use of enforcement notices and sampling is always examined in the oral exam so candidates are advised to know these in detail.

Candidates who scored lower marks omitted key points from their answers, gave confused or vague responses, and there were instances of incorrect answers.

Re-iterating previous examiner comments - an oral exam is often a new experience for candidates so the opportunity to practice beforehand with a colleague is valuable to identify knowledge areas to work on and develop their verbal exam technique. This could build confidence as understandably some candidates were nervous, which can hinder performance.