

Qualifications Framework Examiner's report

Qualifications Framework

Stage 2: PRODUCT SAFETY Examiner's Report May 2026

A total of seven candidates sat the examination during this round, and marks were broadly in line with previous cohorts, ranging from 30% to 60 % with all but one candidate achieving a pass mark.

All candidates answered sufficient questions and therefore increased their chances of obtaining a pass mark, which was demonstrated in the overall success rate, but yet again there were times when the point of the question was completely missed and candidates regurgitated what they knew, rather than what the question was asking.

There follows a detailed summary of candidate performance by question.

Section A

Q1 This question was only answered by one candidate who scored 3 marks out of ten. It seems that despite the ongoing challenges presented by powered e-bikes, the basics of bicycle safety from a legislative point of view are not something which is well known amongst those studying product safety.

This question was answered by five candidates who scored between 2 and 5 marks out of ten. Most of the marks

Q2 This question was not answered by any candidate, which is surprising given that some easy marks could be obtained from a discussion of GPSR and chemical safety.

Q3 This question was a popular question, answered by all seven candidates with mixed results as the marks ranged between three and eight out of ten. There were some good discussions of the difference between instructions and safety labelling, but many candidates missed out on the marks for the second part of the question which required a discussion of safety by design and warnings only being appropriate when hazards cannot be eliminated or risk mitigated by any other design means.

Q4 This question was another popular question answered by all seven candidates, who scored between five and nine marks out of ten. Most candidates provided a pick list of obligations from the regulations, although some lost easy marks by failing to clearly define what an importer is.

Q5 This question was another one chosen by all candidates with marks ranging from zero to eight marks out of ten. There was some confusion by some candidates when interpreting the question and the fact that a 'Compliance Notice' is a specific type of notice under the NLF aligned regulations, not a generic name for safety notices. Generally well answered though by those who had clearly learned and remembered what this notice is used for and what it requires.

Q6 This question was answered by five candidates and generally answers were quite poor with marks ranging from two to five out of ten. Internal production control is a fundamental element of conformity assessment and must be understood fully if technical documentation is to be verified or challenged effectively. PAS 7050 on bringing safe products to the market provides an accessible overview to this concept.

Section B

- Q7** This question was answered by three candidates with marks ranging between ten and eighteen out of thirty. The question required the formalisation of basic investigative practice in relation to a suspected safety incident including information gathering, analysis and decision making, and therefore it is a little disappointing that those who answered it did not score higher. It is essential that those engaging in product safety market surveillance and enforcement are fully aware of the process required where there is the potential for intolerable risk.
- Q8** This question was answered by three candidates with marks ranging from ten to twenty out of thirty. In general the answers provided were adequate, but candidates seem to be under the impression that vertical regulation applies to second-hand products, when in fact GPSR will invariably apply in these circumstances. This misapplication of the law meant further marks were missed for a discussion of in what circumstances a letting agent would be considered a producer and when they may be considered a distributor.
- Q9** This question was a popular one being answered by six candidates who scored between nine and twenty marks out of thirty. Most answers were adequate and some were good but more marks could have been obtained if a cleared discussion of what PPE has been designed to protect against vs what is implied or claimed, and how this fits into the classification of PPE and the conformity assessment process that arises out of that.
- Q10.** This question was an unpopular one only being answered by two candidates who scored between eleven and fourteen marks out of thirty. This question demands that the candidate look at the obligations of various economic operators and consider these in light of the statutory defence. This question has been asked before in a slightly different guise, which makes it quite surprising that it wasn't attempted by most candidates, and those that did missed many easy marks, if candidates are using past papers as part of their revision process.