

Examiner's report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2: Unit 4 Feed Written Examiner's Report November 2019

General

A total of five candidates attempted the product safety examination during this round and marks were generally at the lower end even when indicating a pass. Of the five three achieved a pass but these were only marginal, and the knowledge demonstrated was rather narrow.

All papers were moderated during this round.

The paper was written to address a wide range of product safety practitioner knowledge whilst ensuring that it didn't encroach on the safety elements of the Regulating Markets syllabus. This opportunity was not always taken advantage of and demonstrated that the revision was clearly more focussed on face to face materials than those provided as distance learning modules.

Section A

Q1 This question required a simple restatement of Distributor obligations under the New Legislative Framework. The candidates that attempted it picked up many of the marks although no answer came close to getting all that were available.

Q2. This question required the candidate to consider the legal obligations placed on manufacturers of USB chargers. Those candidates who chose to answer it did so relatively well although some missed that the product needed to be safe in accordance with the Regulations and concentrated more on administrative conformity assessment requirements and product labelling.

Q3. This discussion question was an opportunity for candidates to pick up some easy marks without having to reference specific legal provisions. Most who answered it demonstrated an understanding of hazard and risk in relation to providing warnings, although not all clearly expressed this.

Q4. This was quite a difficult question addressing REACH but candidates who attempted it scored reasonably well demonstrating adequate knowledge of both the legislation and of the role Trading Standards play in enforcement and the use of the legislation in product safety risk assessment.

Q5. This question required a simple restatement of what a compliance notice is and what it was used for, and those candidates who attempted it generally scored quite well although there was evidence of some confusion in relation to other safety notices available under GPSR or NLF aligned regulations.

Q6. This was either an easy or a difficult question, depending on whether the candidate had revised this specific piece of legislation as it required a restatement of the application of the Furniture and Furnishings regulations as applied to letting agents. Those that answered it picked up some marks for remembering the application of the regulations, although there was no answer which came close to scoring full marks.

Section B

Candidates had to answer one question from a choice of three and as such the topics covered required detailed knowledge and application of this knowledge in the context of the scenario provided to score the 60 marks allocated to the question. Although the questions covered a wide range of subject areas including cosmetics, toys, electrical and electronic products, personal protective equipment and general product safety all candidates chose to answer question 7 which on the face of it appeared to be a simple question on cosmetic products.

Nearly all of the candidates missed the point that the product in question could also be a toy in the context of its use and the way it was marketed, and as such missed a lot of easy marks in relation to the conformity assessment and economic operator obligations for toys. Most candidates did manage to pick up marks in relation to cosmetic product documentation and labelling as well as suggested interview questions for the trader. This omission betrays a lack of understanding of the legal framework for product safety which requires a deeper level of study to correct it.

Questions 8 and 9 were not attempted by any candidate.