

## Examiners report

### CTSI Professional Competency Framework

#### Stage 2 Professional Interviews Weights & Measures Nov 2019

##### General

In preparing for the Professional Interview, the candidate should refer to the CTSI Professional Interview guidance, which states 'the purpose of the professional interview is to apply your knowledge of process and requirements, to the assessment being asked'. Not all of the questions asked will seek to draw from the candidate legal definitions or technological detail; the questions taken as a whole will aim to explore whether the candidate is competent in evaluating the scenario presented, which includes practical considerations. There may not be one set answer for a question, but an expectation that the candidate can discuss the issues presented to them and apply problem solving skills in order to demonstrate sufficient metrological competence. *Please see question and suggested answers at the end of this report.*

The four scenarios used resulted in a wide range of marks across the candidates – no single scenario stood out as resulting in consistently poor or consistently good responses.

There was a clear distinction between those candidates who have been involved in metrology day-to-day within their authority, and those whose practical experience is limited to the minimum number of portfolio tasks. Candidates should expect to be examined on the width and depth of the syllabus. The highest scoring candidates were those that both went into sufficient detail and discussed the practicalities around the scenario.

There is no substitute for a candidate gaining a whole range of practical experience in all areas of metrology; it is further recommended that the candidate makes themselves familiar with current issues through their local regional Metrology Group, OPSS guidance / updates and KHub.

For future, the examiner would like to remind candidates that when answering the questions, they should take time to consider what is being asked and to avoid stating everything they know about the topic. Candidates should carefully consider the question posed, as further clarification cannot be given.

##### November 2019 Past Exam Question scenario:

You have been asked by your Manager to visit your local hospital to determine the accuracy or otherwise of the metrological equipment used therein. On visiting the hospital, the person you speak to is unable to tell you much about the equipment, and has no idea how long any of the equipment has been in use. The equipment you see includes person weighers to determine weight for anaesthetic in surgery and prescription of medicinal drugs, baby-weighers in use by midwives on home visits, and smaller scales for weighing blood-loss in surgery and weight of internal organs in post-mortems.

## Questions Asked during the interview:

1. What legislation and legal requirements may apply in this scenario, and in relation to each of the examples stated?

Regulation 3 NAWI 2016 - regulated instruments include "the determination of mass in the practice of medicine for weighing patients for the purposes of monitoring, diagnosis and medical treatment", which of the equipment falls within the stated purposes; relevant commencement date and what legal requirements would be.

2. What steps can you take to determine whether the equipment you see is subject to legal requirements?

If compliant, then usual markings. If no markings, not necessarily non-complaint, but could have been put into use prior to commencement date (2003). Appreciation from candidate that not as simple as 'asking the trader' in an in use for trade scenario: e.g. health boards generally cover large areas and equipment may have been purchased by different hospital or health board central estates / purchasing department; equipment may have been bought in bulk and stored before 2003, but put into service after, etc. Can serial number on equipment or guidance from manufacturer help with determining age? Is there any locally applied 'asset number' which can provide traceability and age?

3. What guidance is available to assist you in providing advice to the hospital; and in practical terms to whom would you give this advice?

Answers may include UKWF guidance, guidance from Expert Groups following National NMO (OPSS) projects, Department of Health Guidance (England only – but is this adopted / followed in devolved nations – opportunity for discussion). Some health boards have PA relationships – do they cover metrology? Candidate may consider providing detailed advice to Estates / purchasing department for the health board, and more practical advice on use and accuracy (e.g. keeping equipment level, avoiding shock loading) to the user of the equipment, such as ward sister or health visitor with dedicated baby-weigher.

4. What considerations need to be taken into account in testing such equipment for accuracy?

Most equipment will be up to 220kg, so transporting large amount of weights – do you have access to these numbers? Do you use same weights as testing platform machines? Health and safety considerations and practicalities – transporting, lifting, stacking on uneven surfaces (bed weigher) or curved / moulded surfaces (baby weigher or chair weigher). Avoidance of contamination – inspector and equipment – anti-bac wipes, use of disposable paper on pan, etc. More experienced candidates may be able to add that baby weighers may have a 'locking mechanism' whereby the display locks once the weight is stabilised, meaning loads cannot be added progressively.

5. What practical advice on compliance could you give to the hospital?

Various considerations that the candidate may discuss, including, but not limited to: whether swapping out all 'old' equipment (even if accurate) for new practical for a hospital – discussion about accurate weighing versus hospital budget constraints – are any of the examples given more critical? If in devolved nations, do you advise on following DoH England guidance? Practical advice on accurate use – examples from national project included baby weighers being used on beds to provide soft surface if baby rolled out; person weighers being used to weigh small children by the parent's weight being deducted from the weight of parent carrying small child, etc. Ask and discuss how equipment is used in practice.

Other practical advice – e.g. maintaining database of equipment purchases, asset numbering, identifying in which department equipment is situated, look for regulated markings on new equipment purchases, contact Trading Standards for guidance when purchasing new equipment, consideration of only digital indicators to avoid readability error, PA relationship for Health Board.