

Examiners report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2 Professional Interviews Weights and Measures November 2021

A total of 5 candidates sat the professional interview this year, 3 achieved the pass mark.

All candidates received the same scenario concerning a weighbridge. In general, the use of terminology was loose and potentially confusing were it to be articulated to an actual trader. Marks were lost by all candidates when asked to advise on the system of approved verification in the UK. Substitution of weights was also poorly understood. Only one candidate managed to explain the procedure albeit not in detail. Candidates also thought that a UK approved body can verify CE marked equipment, one thought that a Module F body issues a declaration of conformity, and only one said they would find out the address of the weighbridge they were to test. No candidate said they would find out who to send the invoice to.

It was clear candidates, bar one, had not been in the situation presented, or if they had been, did not articulate it to the examiner.

To aid the process the questions are on screen, but candidates should remember it is an interview and to answer questions as they are asked. Candidates had a tendency this time to simply read the questions and start giving answers leaving the examiner to check which question was being answered.

A good way for candidates to approach this exam is to think about what they would do and say in the scenario presented. So, once again, I feel it is worth reiterating this guidance:

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.