

Examiner's report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2: Unit 4 Weights and Measures Professional Interview Examiner's Report November 2020

A total of 9 candidates sat the professional interview this year; 6 achieved the pass mark. The lowest mark was 8 and the highest 53. Three scenarios were used with no one scenario presenting more difficulties for candidates than another. There was a clear divide between candidates that have been in a situation similar to the scenario presented and those that have not had that experience. When asked what advice would be given most candidates gave an academic answer rather than practical advice that could be implemented by the trader.

Bulk Fuel

Better answers addressed actual practicalities such as having enough fuel to conduct the tests; making sure that provision is made for the return of fuel before testing commences; or more importantly, safe connection and disconnection of the reference meter. A very weak area was the self-verification system. Whilst undeniably complicated, a good understanding of it is essential knowledge for inspectors of weights and measures.

Refill Shop

This included a question on a non-self-indicating counter machine that was answered sufficiently by only one candidate. Non-automatic Weighing Machines are part of the syllabus and NSI machines are part of the portfolio and these types of instrument are still in use. Advice for the trader on a suitable NAWI should include suitable division size, minimum and maximum. All candidates missed these requirements.

Supermarket Inspection

Part of this scenario involved drained weight and candidates should be aware of what is and is not a drained weight product. One question concerned action taken in the supermarket and this was the one with the poorest answers. No candidate suggested purchasing any products and testing them.

It is worth reiterating the guidance given in last year's examiner's report:

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.