

Examiner's report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2: Unit 4 Weights and Measures Written Exam Examiner's Report September 2020

General

There were only four candidates in this cohort who faced the challenge of having to undertake the academic training remotely because of the COVID 19 Pandemic and changes in work patterns. It is the view of the examiner that gaining experience within your local authority is a much-needed element of an individual's development within this subject area.

There will be an even greater challenge with regard to the next cohort as the examination will cover the legislative changes as a result of the UK's departure from the European Union. This has made legal metrology legislation particularly complicated.

COMMENTS ON EACH QUESTION

As there were only four candidates it has been impossible to draw any general conclusions on each question.

Section A

Q1 This question related to being aware of the different definitions of package and pre-package in the legislation and the differences between them. It requires a comprehensive understanding of those differences and the subtleties of the difference between "containers" and "securely closed containers"

Q2 This question was examining the understanding of the Price Marking Order (2004) The Weights and Measures Act 1963 (Cheese, Fish, Fresh Fruits and Vegetables, Meat and Poultry Order) 1984 and the schedules of the Weights and Measures Act 1985. The question does ask the candidate to make a decision as to whether the selling of fruit by the bowl is legal and marks will be lost if this part of the question is not answered.

Q3 This question appears in one form or another in most of the examinations and indicates the importance of understanding this subject. The legal status and approvals of businesses that verify and re-qualify instruments is vitally important and it is crucial that Weights and Measures Inspectors understand these differences.

Q4 This question was a straightforward, examining whether the candidate knew the detail of what should be in a Declaration of Conformity. The good candidate will understand that that the Declaration of Conformity must cover all relevant Directives and not just the NAWID or the MID. The second part of the question makes sure the candidate can distinguish between module D and module F.

Q5 This question was straight forward and examining the understanding of the multitude of different technical definitions that are in Weights and Measures legislation. This one is found in the Measuring Equipment (Liquid Fuel delivered from Road Tankers) Regulations 1983. If the candidate knew the definition almost full marks could be obtained, if the definition was unknown it would be difficult to obtain marks.

Q6 This question was similar to the one above examining the understanding of the range of definitions in the EN45501. If the candidate knew the definition almost full marks could be obtained, if the definition was unknown it would be difficult to obtain marks

Section B

The questions in Section B are 35-mark questions and the level of detail should reflect this.

Q7 This was a long question that examined the understanding of the modular approach to weighing instruments and how that system operates. The details are outlined in the WELEMC Guide 8.8. If the candidate has read and understood this guide the question is quite straightforward. If they have not read this guide it will be a very challenging question

Q8 This examines the understanding of regulations 6, 7 and 8 of the Packaged Goods Regulations and the relationship with the Food Information Regulations. It also examines a detailed knowledge of Regulation 8 with regard to solid foodstuffs in a liquid medium and the legibility of the markings. It requires a good knowledge of the regulations and the accompanying supporting documents

Q9 This question focused on the initial verification of NAWI's and an understanding of the verification requirements in EN45501. It was a very straightforward question which all candidates should have a comprehensive understanding of. It also examined an understanding of the requirements of re-qualification under the Non-automatic weighing Instruments Regulations 2016.

Q10 This question focused on an understanding of the requirements as respects the control of software in weighing and measuring instruments and how they should be applied. It would require an understanding of the specific aspects of the essential requirements that relate to software in the Directive 2014/32 and the WELMEC Guide 7.2. It is interesting to note that this question is based on a real -life scenario that a Primary authority could see