

Examiner's report

CTSI Professional Competency Framework

Stage 2: Product Safety Written Examiner's Report May 2023

General

A similar number of candidates sat this exam to the same time last year, and overall marks were similar ranging from 33% to 76% prior to moderation with all but two candidates passing the examination.

All candidates appeared to have read the examination instructions and followed them, with there being no wasted effort as in the previous large cohorts. That said, it was clear that some candidates had not yet mastered the timings of the examination with detailed treatment of some questions whilst others appeared rushed in their brevity. The risk of this can be minimised by practicing examination questions in a timed environment in advance of the examination.

The standard of handwriting generally meant that the examiner was able to read scripts without significant difficulty, which is appreciated.

There was still some basic knowledge missing, or misapplied, but generally the standard was good and candidates are to be applauded for their hard work in learning what must be accepted as a complex subject area.

Section A

Candidates were required to answer four out of six short answer questions which were written to reflect the large range of knowledge necessary to carry out product safety work. Questions carried ten marks each. Students generally addressed the question as it was phrased although occasionally the point was missed. Bullet points were used by a number of candidates, and this is perfectly acceptable.

All questions were attempted by at least one candidate, and although some marks were relatively easy to get these were often missed, particularly when considering matters like the definition of PPE or the producer's obligations under GPSR. Question 6 on power banks was the least well answered, with all of those answering missing the point that the product is regulated under GPSR in terms of its safety, with primary risk coming from the batteries (fire and explosion due to failure) and this must be considered as part of the design risk management by the producer.

Again, easy marks were sometimes missed whilst a lot of unnecessary information was provided – ten marks will usually equate to approximately ten pieces of relevant information.

Section B

Candidates were required to choose two out of four longer questions in this section, each carrying thirty marks.

Again, all questions were attempted by at least one candidate, and those who did the essay style question (question 10) often did well as the marking scheme for this is more flexible than for the

more structured questions.

Questions seven was attempted by the majority of candidates but many miscategorised battery operated products as electrical equipment and therefore missed many of the marks which were allocated for a discussion of the machinery regulations.

Question 8 on the safety of children's jewellery was generally well answered and there was often a good discussion of sectoral as well as product risk, and sampling and testing plans, as well as the follow up actions were adequately treated.

Question 9 was also attempted by a significant number of candidates and although generally well answered there seems to be a shared misunderstanding of the different suspension notices and the way in which they can be used to prevent the further supply of products which as suspected of being unsafe providing the time to verify this and then determine further action to manage risk. The CPA notice is not appropriate in these circumstances.

The candidates who attempted question 10 generally did well as there were relatively easy marks to be gained from the discussion of conformity assessment and risk, and it was apparent that some had taken the time to read the 'Blue Guide' which provides the basis for answering this question.