

May 2024

Examiners' report

Quarry manager of mines other than underground or coal mines certificate of competence

Examiners' report 2023–2024

Written examination

Paper A – Legislation knowledge

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date: 6 September 2023

Number of candidates: 3

Number passed: 2

Highest mark: 76.2%

Average mark: 63%

Lowest mark: 46.5%

Candidates are required to meet 62% to pass this paper

Section 1 (total of 30 marks) Statutory function being examined and other relevant statutory functions and responsibilities.

Highest mark: 21

Average mark: 16.7

Lowest mark: 11

Examiners' comments:

This section was designed to assess a candidate's understanding of the Quarry Managers statutory duties and the duties of others who they may supervise or engage with. Overall, these questions were completed poorly, with only one candidate achieving the necessary pass mark.

Section 2 (total of 40 marks) Safety Management Systems requirements for mines in NSW

Highest mark: 31.5

Average mark: 27.2

Lowest mark: 24

Examiners' comments:

This section required candidates to demonstrate an understanding of how the legislation relates to a mines safety management system, control plans and associated specific controls. All candidates achieved the minimum marks required.

Section 3 (total of 50 marks) Incident reporting requirements and protocols

Highest mark: 44

Average mark: 37.8

Lowest mark: 29.5

Examiners' comments:

This section of the paper assessed a candidate's knowledge of the legislation as it related to incident reporting, incident management and investigations. All candidates answered the questions in a competent manner.

Section 4 (total of 50 marks) WHS requirements and regulations

Highest mark: 36

Average mark: 25.5

Lowest mark: 14.5

Examiners' comments:

This section assessed a candidate's broad understanding of the legislation as it related to managing risk, the general duties of the PCBU, obligations pursuant to the Explosives Act and Regulations and specific controls at a Tier 1 quarry site. Candidates understanding varied considerably, with one candidate doing poorly.

Paper B – Legislation application and technical knowledge

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date: 6 September 2023

Number of candidates: 3

Number passed: 3

Highest mark: 84.5%

Average mark: 74.7%

Lowest mark: 64.5%

Candidates are required to meet 63% to pass this paper

Section 1 (total of 60 marks) Apply technical knowledge and understanding to the development and implementation of the mine Safety Management System

Highest mark: 55.5

Average mark: 50.2

Lowest mark: 44

Examiners' comments:

This section of the paper assessed a candidate's technical knowledge of the Principal Hazards and required Management Plans that are likely to be found in a Tier 1 Safety Management System. All the candidates were deemed competent in this section and had good technical knowledge in relation to Principal Hazards.

Section 2 (total of 25 marks) Apply working knowledge and technical understanding of effective controls for the management of hazards, safe operation, inspection and maintenance of systems, plant and equipment, relevant to the statutory function

Highest mark: 22

Average mark: 18.3

Lowest mark: 15

Examiners' comments:

The technical knowledge of candidate's was assessed in relation to Principal Control Plans (Mechanical, Electrical, Explosives and Health). All candidates were deemed competent in this section.

Section 3 (total of 20 marks) Mining/Engineering design and planning through the development, implementation and/or application of technical knowledge

Highest mark: 19

Average mark: 17.3

Lowest mark: 16.5

Examiners' comments:

This year's paper covered the engineering aspects of pit design and the management of slope stability hazards. All candidates did well in this section.

Section 4 (total of 20 marks) Training and instruction of workers

Highest mark: 20

Average mark: 16.3

Lowest mark: 14

Examiners' comments:

This section focused on assessing the candidates understanding and application of information, training and instruction systems that would be used to manage workers and contractors. All candidates did well in the section and were deemed competent.

Section 5 (total of 40 marks) Lead the development of risk management systems through the application of the hierarchy of controls

Highest mark: 26.5

Average mark: 19

Lowest mark: 13.5

Examiners' comments:

The questions in this section were designed to evaluate a candidate's understanding of risk management principles and the assessment used the principal hazard of dust as the subject matter. Overall, this question was poorly done, with only one candidate being found competent.

Section 6 (total of 10 marks) Compile and review shift/engineering reports, information provided by others and other available objective evidence to inform risk assessment and mitigation

Highest mark: 7.5

Average mark: 7.2

Lowest mark: 6.5

Examiners' comments:

This group of questions was designed to assess a candidate's understanding of statutory reporting obligations and the ability to implement a change management process. Each candidate was found competent in this section.

Section 7 (total of 15 marks) Management of high-risk activities or work

Highest mark: 15

Average mark: 13.7

Lowest mark: 13

Examiners' comments:

Candidates were given a typical maintenance project for this group of questions and were asked to describe and implement expected controls to manage high risk activities. The question was well done by all candidates.

Oral examination

Date: 8 November 2023

Number of candidates: 2

Number deemed competent: 1

This year's oral exam was designed to assess a candidate's competency in relation to four (4) of the five (5) focus areas contained in the competency framework on the Resources Regulator website <https://www.resourcesregulator.nsw.gov.au/safety/certification/certificates-of-competence/competencies-and-portfolios> These included a candidate's ability to manage scenarios that would typically fall under the jurisdiction of a Tier 1 quarry manager.

Focus Area 4.1 – Situational and operational leadership to ensure the health and safety of mining operations.

Focus Area 4.2 – Act decisively to manage emergency situations and to control hazardous situations.

Focus Area 4.4 – Carry out required consultation with others across the mine's operations.

Focus Area 4.5 – Systematic and structured approach to management and problem solving in the workplace.

The panel found one candidate 'competent' and one 'not yet competent'.

Feedback to the 'not yet competent' candidate included the suggestion of further mentoring and being part of leadership groups that are actively involved in activities such as project management, change management and dealing with difficult safety situations.

As general feedback, the panel is always wanting candidates to answer questions in the 1st person, as if they were the quarry manager. Answers that rely on risk assessments and the use of subject matter experts will come under scrutiny, with candidates asked to explain technical content.

Oral examination

Date: 8 May 2024

Number of candidates: 1

Number deemed competent: 1

The panel found the candidate competent using a similar approach to that of the previous oral exam.

More information

Regional NSW

Resources Regulator

Mining Competence Team

T: 1300 814 609 (Options 2 and Options 3)

Email: mca@regional.nsw.gov.au

Acknowledgments

Quarry manager of mines other than underground or coal mines examination panel

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