

May 2023

Examiners' report

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

Examiners' report 2022 – 2023

Written examination

Paper 1 – Part A – Legislation knowledge

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date: 8 September 2022

A candidate must meet the marking criteria requirements in a minimum of five (5) of the seven (7) sections

Number of candidates: 5

Number who passed: 3

Highest mark: 76%

Average mark: 65.4%

Lowest mark: 49%

Section 1 (total of 35 marks) General duties, legislation framework

Highest mark: 28.0

Average mark: 20.8

Lowest mark: 13.0

Examiners' comments:

This section required the candidates to demonstrate an understanding of the overarching Work Health and Safety (WHS) principles, duties, reporting requirements, and methodology for managing risk. There were two candidates who failed to provide adequate responses.

Section 2 (total of 10 marks) Knowledge of statutory functions

Highest mark: 9.0

Average mark: 7.7

Lowest mark: 5.5

Examiners' comments:

This section is to assess a candidate's knowledge of statutory positions, qualifications, and notification requirements. Most candidates had a good grasp of these requirements.

Section 3 (total of 10 marks) Codes, standards, and guidelines

Highest mark: 8.0

Average mark: 5.9

Lowest mark: 3.5

Examiners' comments:

This section explored a candidate's knowledge of commonly used Australian Standards, Codes of Practice, and Guidelines in the quarry sector. The average mark for this section was lower than expected, with some candidates doing very poorly.

Section 4 (total of 15 marks) Blasting – legislation & standards

Highest mark: 11.5

Average mark: 10.7

Lowest mark: 9.0

Examiners' comments:

This section required candidates to demonstrate a knowledge of blasting legislation, reporting requirements, and an understanding of basic blasting definitions.

Section 5 (total of 20 marks) Safety management system

Highest mark: 18.5

Average mark: 14.1

Lowest mark: 8.0

Examiners' comments:

This section tested the candidate's understanding of the programs contained in a Safety Management System (SMS) and how those programs are implemented on site. The results showed that poorer performing candidates did not understand what Principal Control Plans (PCP) were required, what mine record keeping obligations consisted of, and how SMS programs are implemented.

Section 6 (total of 10 marks) Principal Hazard Management Plans & Principal Control Plans

Highest mark: 9.0

Average mark: 6.4

Lowest mark: 4.0

Examiners' comments:

Given that Principal Control Plans (PCP) and Principal Hazard Management Plans (PHMP) are the primary sources of information when managing hazards, this section was designed to assess the candidate's understanding of their structure and content. All candidates met the minimum marking requirement except one.

Section 7 (total of 10 marks) Incidents and reporting

Highest mark: 8.0

Average mark: 6.1

Lowest mark: 3.5

Examiners' comments:

As the senior statutory position holder on site, it is imperative that candidates have a good understanding of incident reporting requirements and the mechanism for reporting. Mixed results were achieved with some candidates doing poorly.

Paper 2 – Part B – Legislation knowledge and application

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date: 8 September 2022

A candidate must meet the marking criteria requirements in a minimum of four (4) of the five (5) sections, as well as passing section 4 (Blast Management)

Number of candidates: 3

Number who passed: 1

Highest mark: 85%

Average mark: 75%

Lowest mark: 64%

Section 1 (total of 24 marks) Mechanical & structural controls

Highest mark: 21.0

Average mark: 18.3

Lowest mark: 16.0

Examiners' comments:

This section required candidates to exhibit an understanding of the hazards and controls used to manage the mechanical aspects of a quarry (structural and hot work). It also required the candidates to outline the hierarchy of controls and how they would be applied when developing the controls. All candidates achieved the minimum marking criteria in this section.

Section 2 (total of 38 marks) Mine planning, ground stability

Highest mark: 33.0

Average mark: 28.5

Lowest mark: 21.5

Examiners' comments:

A Quarry Manager is required to have a good understanding of mine planning requirements and ground and strata hazards. Candidates were asked to list the contents of a mine plan and describe how they would manage several ground stability hazards and scenarios, including dam construction. The question was generally well answered.

Section 3 (total of 25 marks) Roads and other vehicle operating areas (ROVOA)

Highest mark: 20.0

Average mark: 17.1

Lowest mark: 15.0

Examiners' comments:

Incidents involving vehicle interactions continue to rank as the highest reportable incident category to the Resources Regulator. Candidates were expected to understand basic haul road and traffic management design parameters and the specific controls required by the WHS(MPS)R 2014 clause 28 (Movement of Mobile Plant).

Section 4 (total of 28 marks) Blast management (essential section)

Highest mark: 24.0

Average mark: 20.8

Lowest mark: 17.0

Examiners' comments:

Section 4 seeks to examine a candidate's understanding of the blast design life cycle, along with an assessment of their knowledge of commonly used terms and principles. This was an essential question and needed to be satisfied by the candidate to be deemed competent in part B. One of the candidates did not meet the minimum marking requirement and subsequently failed Paper B, despite doing well in the remainder of the exam.

Section 5 (total of 31 marks) Health management and health monitoring

Highest mark: 29.0

Average mark: 24.8

Lowest mark: 19.5

Examiners' comments:

This section assessed a candidate's Health Control Plan (HCP) knowledge, including fatigue, drug and alcohol, and bullying management. The questions also assessed their knowledge of statutory exposure limits, types of dust controls, and the management of an unacceptable dust generation situation. All the candidates met the minimum marking criteria in this section.

Oral examination

Date: 1 November 2022

Number of candidates: 4

Number deemed competent: 4

Examiners' comments:

This year's oral examination was conducted using four (4) scenario-based questions that included technical content consistent with a Tier 1 quarry operation. The questions also required the candidate to demonstrate to the panel their personal skills/competencies, including communication, collaboration, situational awareness, decision-making, risk assessment, and being organised. All four candidates performed well and were found to be competent.

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 mines or coal mines examination panel

© State of New South Wales through Regional NSW 2023. The information contained in this publication is based on knowledge and understanding at the time of writing May 2023. However, because of advances in knowledge, users are reminded of the need to ensure

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that the information upon which they rely is up to date and to check the currency of the information with the appropriate officer of the Regional NSW or the user's independent adviser.

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