

June 2024

Examiners' report 2023

Mining engineering manager of coal mines other than underground coal mines Certificate of competence

Written examination

OCM1 – Legislation

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date: 15 June 2023

Number of candidates: 4

Number passed: 2

Highest mark: 68%

Average mark: 57.3%

Lowest mark: 45%

The lower number of candidates that sat the OCM1 examination made it challenging at times to determine trends in some questions. Despite this, here are some comments which may be of assistance.

Question 1 (total of 20 marks) Work Health & Safety Act 2011 Notices

Highest mark: 13

Average mark: 9.8

Lowest mark: 8

Examiners' comments:

Candidates referenced the incorrect Legislation with section 23 notices.

Question 2 (total of 20 marks) Content of a SMS

Highest mark: 15

Average mark: 11

Lowest mark: 7

Examiners' comments:

Knowledge in the contents of a SMS was adequate. Candidates need to read the question thoroughly to achieve improved results.

Question 3 (total of 20 marks) Operational Controls

Highest mark: 15

Average mark: 13.5

Lowest mark: 12

Examiners' comments:

This question was answered well by all candidates.

Question 4 (total of 20 marks) Movement of Mobile plant

Highest mark: 15

Average mark: 10.8

Lowest mark: 4

Examiners' comments:

Knowledge of legislation in relation to movement of mobile plant was lacking in some candidates which was disappointing considering their relevance at an open cut mine.

Question 5 (total of 20 marks) Incident

Highest mark: 15

Average mark: 12.3

Lowest mark: 8

Examiners' comments:

Knowledge of legislation in relation to incident reporting was varied amongst the candidates. This knowledge is important for an MEM in determining reporting information to the Regulator.

OCM2 – Open cut mining practice

Summary of results and general comments

Exam date: 15 June 2023

Number of candidates: 2

Number passed: 2

Highest mark: 72.3%

Average mark: 70.2%

Lowest mark: 68%

Question 1 (total of 60 marks) Mining Practice Tailings Management

Highest mark: 40

Average mark: 39.5

Lowest mark: 39

Examiners' comments:

Candidates answered this question quite well.

Question 2 (total of 60 marks) Slope Stability

Highest mark: 50

Average mark: 49

Lowest mark: 48

Examiners' comments:

Candidates answered this question quite well.

Question 3 (total of 60 marks) Explosives Management

Highest mark: 48

Average mark: 45.5

Lowest mark: 43

Examiners' comments:

Candidates answered this question quite well, but failed to complete a risk assessment and consultation with relevant stakeholders.

Question 4 (total of 60 marks) Traffic Management

Highest mark: 47

Average mark: 39.5

Lowest mark: 32

Examiners' comments:

Candidates identified that some form of Risk Assessment was required. However some did not adequately identify the requirement to apply a change management process to ensure the change to traffic rules are completed as scheduled and reconciliation is completed.

Question 5 (total of 60 marks) Emergency Management

Highest mark: 40

Average mark: 37

Lowest mark: 34

Examiners' comments:

Candidates provided good structure to their responses with a thorough emergency response process. Some failed to barricade / prevent inadvertent entry the scene and commence initial investigation of the incident.

Oral examination

Date: 16 August 2023

Number of candidates: 4

Number deemed competent: 3

Examiners' comments:

The lower number of candidates that sat the oral examination and the variance in questions asked during the examination made it challenging to determine trends. Despite this, here are some general observations which may be of assistance.

- Candidates should take time to understand the question/scenario and ask any clarifying questions or state assumptions early.
- There is no need to rush into an answer. A controlled and structured response is the desired outcome.
- Know the detail regarding notifications to the Regulator.
- Knowledge of when and how to conduct an investigation was generally lacking in some responses.
- Consider the plan, do check, act management model to base a structured response and to ensure closing of the loop in a thorough response.

Post Oral examination

Date: 8 February 2024

Number of candidates: 1

Number deemed competent: 0

Examiners' comments:

- Know the detail regarding notifications to the Regulator.

More information

Regional NSW

Resources Regulator

Mining Competence Team

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Acknowledgments

Mining engineering manager of coal mines other than underground coal mines examination panel

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