



CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

November 2024

The purpose of this document is to highlight key subject areas from this examination diet where our examiners reported that candidates performed well and topics that candidates found demanding.

The report also provides guidance to help candidates prepare for future assessments.

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Core

National pass rate	73.2%
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Candidate Performance

General comments:

Many candidates performed well and carefully laid out their answers. However, where requested to do so, candidates should ensure their answers show clearly how they reached their conclusions.

The additional blank pages should be used when "jotting" or "testing potential answers".

Candidates are encouraged to carefully read the question and make sure their answer reflects the question being asked. This particularly applies to topics such as Package marking and labelling where candidates lost marks for referencing the incorrect package type.

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Topic 1 – Classification

Candidates performed well in this area, specifically regarding the responsibilities of those in the supply chain.

Topic 4 – Marking, labelling and placarding

Many candidates correctly answered questions relating to package marking and labelling and the interpretation of UN packaging approval codes.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

Topic 9 – Legal framework

A number of candidates demonstrated confusion surrounding Security provisions and Parking and Supervision and, in particular, the criteria governing the need for a Security Plan.

Topic 3 – Packing and tank provisions

Candidates generally found this topic demanding, particularly in relation to the Excepted Quantities criteria and the associated Marking requirements for packages.

All Classes

National pass rate	64.8%
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Candidate Performance

General comments:

Candidates are reminded that they are required to indicate which regulatory text they are using on the examination booklet front cover, i.e. ADR, RID or ADN. There is therefore no requirement to quote the regulatory text when providing references to specific questions.

The All Classes examination is concerned with classification, packaging requirements, the marking/labelling of packaging or containment systems and documentation. It does not focus on questions relating to vehicles such as mixed loading, small load thresholds or orange plates.

Unless otherwise stated, references are required to support answers. Many of the questions required candidates to visit two or more areas of text to establish the answer(s). In such cases, references were required for each area of text consulted but these were often not provided.

Marks were lost due to packing instruction references being incomplete. Candidates should note that the regulatory part, chapter, section and sub-section is required in addition to the packing instruction number.

Where a specific substance is quoted, the answer must be particular to the substance in the question; a general answer or statement will not gain the mark(s).

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Topic 1 – Classification

For questions relating to Classification, most candidates were successfully able to identify hazardous properties associated with the substance(s) concerned.

Candidates also performed well in questions which required them to allocate a Class, UN number and proper shipping names and/or identify a suitable packing group for a newly developed product.

Topic 2 – Packing and tank provisions

Many candidates demonstrated an ability to interpret specific provisions relating to the maintenance of tanks and also identify suitable packing arrangements and specific conditions for certain substances.

Topic 3 – Marking and labelling

Questions relating to the package marking and labelling requirements for specific substances and articles were well answered by candidates.

Topic 4 – Documentation requirements

A number of candidates were successfully able to identify errors and/or omissions in transport document entries.

Topic 5 – Limited quantities and Excepted quantities

Candidates performed well in questions where they were required to determine Limited Quantities limitations.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

Topic 1 – Classification

A number of candidates failed to ensure N.O.S proper shipping names were completed with the technical name(s) in brackets where appropriate.

Topic 2 – Packing and tank provisions

For questions relating to the above topic, many candidates failed to recognise suitable packagings for waste products or provide special requirements for packagings in relation to specific substances.

Topic 3 – Marking, labelling and placarding

Candidates lost marks in this topic area by providing incorrect and misleading mark(s) and label(s) on a package, in addition to the correct marks and labels. Marks were also lost for failing to identify correct placard numbers.

Topic 4 – Documentation requirements

In questions where candidates were asked to provide the proper shipping name, marks were lost for failing to provide the technical name after the PSN. Additional marks were lost for not providing accurate mandatory statements required under certain circumstances.

Road

National pass rate	57.3%
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Candidate Performance

General comments:

The November 2024 Road examination gave candidates a good opportunity to demonstrate the breadth and depth of their skills and knowledge of the subject matter. Many candidates performed well, showing a good understanding of the subject matter.

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Topic 1 – Transport equipment

Topic 3 – Documentation

Topic 7 – Operational procedures

Questions on the above topic areas were generally answered well, with the majority of candidates accessing most of the marks available.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

Many candidates lost marks by providing an incorrect or incomplete reference. Candidates also failed to provide all the required references.

Topic 2 - Marking and Placarding

A number of candidates found the requirements relating to the placement of panels and/or placards on transport units carrying tanks demanding, under both the UK CDG regulations and the ADR Agreement.

Topic 3 – Documentation

Many candidates lost marks by not fully reading the requirements of the question and/or only partially completing it.

Topic 4 – Compliance thresholds

Questions relating to parking and supervision were not answered strongly and a number of candidates failed to demonstrate an understanding of the requirements.

Topic 5 – Filling, stowage, loading and segregation

Candidates displayed a lack of understanding of the regulatory framework, specifically the different roles and obligations and UK CDG regulations. There appears to be confusion between mixed packing and mixed loading requirements.

Rail

National pass rate	60%
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Candidate Performance

General comments:

As with previous examinations, some candidates failed to answer questions with sufficient care, regularly providing only partial answers and unnecessarily losing marks as a result.

Marks were also lost for incomplete and/or inaccurate regulatory references.

It is clear that many candidates do not appreciate the distinction between “UN portable tanks” and “RID tanks” or recognise that the requirements for “RID tank-wagons” and “RID tank containers” are not fully aligned.

Rail exam candidates need to ensure familiarity with the UK national CDG regulations - CDG2009 (as amended) - and understand the extent to which these regulations amend the provisions of RID.

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Candidates performed reasonably well across most of the syllabus topics.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

Topic 1 – Transport equipment

Several candidates failed to recognise the distinction between the requirements relating to an “RID tank” (tank-container or tank-wagon) and a “UN portable tank”.

A number of candidates also failed to recognise the specific provisions for transporting dangerous goods in “bulk” in bulk-containers or bulk wagons.

Topic 2 – Marking and placarding

Candidates lost marks on questions relating to the placarding and marking provisions for rail transport units due to both incorrect details and poor references.

Questions relating to the application of the UK national regulations – CDG2009 (as amended) e.g. regarding the use of the Emergency Action Code, were not well answered.

Inland Waterways

National pass rate	100%
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Candidate Performance

General comments:

The performance of candidates in this exam was satisfactory across the syllabus topic areas and they generally appeared to be well prepared.

As is often the case, marks were lost due to a lack of detail in answers and/or the provision of incomplete references.

Areas that candidates performed well in:

The performance of candidates across the various syllabus topics was generally satisfactory.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

There were no obvious areas of weakness.

As is routinely the case, marks were lost due to a lack of attention to detail, with candidates regularly failing to answer all parts of a question and/or provide accurate references.

Preparing candidates for future assessments

General

Prior to the examination(s), candidates are encouraged to review the relevant syllabus for the examination(s) they intend to sit and attempt the relevant sample questions on the SQA website.

It is strongly recommended that candidates familiarise themselves with the Instructions to Candidates and Notes before starting the examination.

Candidates must ensure they read questions fully and provide complete answers to all parts of a question.

All elements of each question should be read through prior to answering, thus preventing duplication of answers.

Where required in the question, it is important that candidates show the key steps in their decision making.

Candidates must also ensure that references, where required, include the relevant part, chapter, section and sub-section (as applicable).

Candidates need to be familiar with the UK Carriage of Dangerous Goods etc Regulations (CDG2009 as amended) – in particular requirements relating to the Emergency Action Code.

Candidates must be able to provide relevant references from CDG2009 and, when required, the associated texts e.g. the Dangerous Goods Emergency Action Code List (DG EAC List).

Before submitting a completed paper, candidates should carefully check that their written answers cover all elements asked within the question.

Core

Candidates are encouraged to ensure they are clear about the difference between 'limited quantities' and 'excepted quantities' as these topics are regularly confused, leading to the loss of substantial marks.

Candidates are encouraged to ensure they clearly understand terminology such as 'marks' and 'labels' and understand how package marking and labelling requirements can be affected by the contents or the impact of Limited Quantities and Excepted Quantities rules.

All Classes

Candidates new to dealing with dangerous goods transport or those with experience in only a small aspect of the regulations are strongly advised to attend a training course.

Do not waste valuable time in quoting regulatory texts (and specific volumes) when providing supporting references to specific questions. The regulatory text being used is indicated on the front cover of the examination booklet.

Some questions can be answered within one or two words and there is no requirement to repeat the question within the answer. This ensures less time is wasted writing unnecessary words and the intended answer is clear.

Road

Candidates should familiarise themselves with the UK CDG Regulations and the Emergency Action Code provisions.

Rail

Candidates are encouraged to study the DGSA Rail syllabus in detail prior to taking the exam and, in particular, address the topics identified under the relevant section of this report.

Candidates for this exam need to understand the structure, content and requirements of the UK national legislation as well as the provisions of the international RID regulations.

Inland Waterways

All candidates are encouraged to study the DGSA Inland Waterways syllabus before applying to sit this exam.

Candidates must ensure they read questions carefully and provide complete answers and references, in line with the instructions in the exam paper.