



# CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

## March 2023

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

Diet	March 2023
National pass rate	86.2%

## **Candidate Performance**

Areas that candidates performed well in:

### **Topic 1 – Classification**

Generally, performance in this topic area was quite good. The main issue for candidates was a failure to show how they reached their conclusions from the base data they were given.

### **Topic 4 – Marking, labelling and placarding**

Generally, well answered. Candidates need to ensure they are familiar with the UK CDG Regulations and how they are referenced. Understanding the use and application of orientation marks is important.

### **Topic 5 – Documentation requirements**

Candidates need to ensure they are familiar with the way the regulations address document entries for dangerous goods and the need to supplement the "base" description to reflect issues such as wastes and salvage packagings.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

Several candidates inadequately showed the steps they had taken to determine their answers and lost marks as a result.

Candidates need to ensure they present their conclusions as clearly and concisely as possible.

### **Topic 6 – Exemptions and concessions**

Candidates struggled to identify and show how they reached their conclusions regarding, for example, Limited Quantities.

# Road

Diet	March 2023
National pass rate	54.9%

Feedback from markers and examiners suggest that the March 2023 Road examination gave candidates a good opportunity to demonstrate the breadth and depth of their skills and knowledge of the subject matter.

Candidates did not perform well in the areas of Topic 2 Marking and placarding, Topic 3 Documentation, Topic 4 Compliance thresholds and Topic 8 Emergency response requirements.

Many candidates failed to show a good understanding of the UK CDG regulations, in particular the requirements relating to Emergency Action Codes.

## **Candidate Performance**

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Candidates performed well in the following topic areas:

**Topic 1 – Transport equipment**

**Topic 3 – Documentation**

**Topic 7 – Operational procedures**

**Topic 10 – Training**

Questions on these topic areas were 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.

**Topic 2 – Marking and placarding and Topic 3 – Documentation**

Candidates failed to provide all the required references and/or complete them in full.

**Topic 8 – Emergency response requirements**

Answers were missing key information.

Many candidates lost marks by not fully reading the requirements of the question and only completing one part of a question.

Candidates displayed a lack of understanding of the regulatory regime, specifically the DGSA's role and UK CDG regime.

Several candidates found the requirements relating to the placement of panels and/or placards on tank transport units demanding, under both the UK and ADR regimes. Many candidates failed to understand parking and supervision requirements.

# Rail

Diet	March 2023
National pass rate	87.5%

Overall, the performance of candidates was satisfactory.

However, the markers and examiners for the Rail exam report that candidates are still regularly losing marks for failing to answer all parts of a question and/or provide accurate references.

The placarding and marking requirements for UK national rail operations were not well interpreted and/or applied and references were often incomplete and/or omitted altogether.

Overall, the performance of candidates on questions relating to the UK national rail requirements suggests that insufficient attention is paid to the UK CDG regulations when preparing for the exams.

A number of candidates failed to correctly interpret and apply the security provisions in RID associated with the transport of dangerous goods (1.10).

## **Candidate Performance**

Areas that candidates performed well in:

The performance of candidates on most syllabus topics was satisfactory.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

The performance of some candidates was below expectations in the following topic areas:

### **Topic 4 – Compliance thresholds**

Questions relating to the dangerous goods security provisions in RID (1.10)

### **Topic 2 – Marking and placarding**

Questions concerning the application of provisions under the UK CDG regulations relating to rail transport unit placarding and marking, in particular the requirements concerning the use and interpretation of the Emergency Action Code.

# All Classes

Diet	March 2023
National pass rate	83.9%

Many candidates lost marks by failing to ensure that all elements of a question were answered. For example, where answers require an explanation or description these were not provided.

Unless otherwise stated, references are required to support answers. Many of the questions require the candidate to visit two or more areas of text to establish the full answer. In such cases, references are required for each area of text that contributed to the complete answer.

Failing to provide sufficient references is a common fault. However, some references quoted were found to be incorrect and did not support the answers given.

Where a specific substance is quoted, the answer will be particular to that substance rather than an answer from a general section.

In this diet, candidates were not reading through the whole question before starting to give an answer. There were many instances of too much information being given in the first part of questions, with answers being included that were relevant to the subsequent parts. Time was then lost by rewriting the answers in the correct place.

It is always good practice to read through the complete question before starting to answer and check answers to ensure they relate to the question being asked.

## **Candidate Performance**

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Candidates performed well in the following topic areas:

### **Topic 1 – Classification**

Questions on identification of UN class numbers and proper shipping names based on the properties of particular substances were generally answered well.

### **Topic 2 – Packaging and tank provisions**

Candidates demonstrated a good understanding of packaging selection procedures for specific substances. Questions on specific package features were well answered.

### **Topic 3 – Marking and labelling**

In general, candidates demonstrated a sound understanding of package marking requirements.

### **Topic 4 – Documentation requirements**

Most candidates demonstrated a clear understanding of requirements for completing the transport document.

**Topic 5 – Limited quantities and Excepted quantities**

Most candidates correctly placed an LQ mark on a limited quantities package.

**Areas that candidates found demanding:**

Many marks were lost by candidates not providing sufficient relevant references to support their answers.

**Topic 2 – Packing and tank provisions**

Many candidates failed to show an understanding of the difference between a combination package and an overpack.

**Topic 3 – Marking, labelling and placarding**

Many candidates incorrectly marked a combination package as an overpack.

Marks were lost by not specifying that orientation arrows should be placed on two opposite sides of a package.

**Topic 4 – Documentation requirements:**

A technical name in brackets was omitted from several transport document entries.

# Preparing candidates for future assessments

## General

Prior to the examination, candidates are encouraged to visit the SQA's DGSA website to:

- review the relevant syllabus for each of the examinations they intend to sit
- read the guidance notes on how to address answering exam questions and
- attempt the sample exam papers

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

Candidates should also ensure they provide full references where required.

## Core

Candidates are encouraged to read and ensure they have an understanding of the basic principles behind the various sections of the regulations and the associated terminology e.g. package types, marks versus labels, etc.

Candidates should ensure they understand the principles in deciding whether Limited Quantities provisions/concessions apply and the resultant marking and labelling rules.

Candidates should ensure they are familiar with the use of the UK CDG Regulations and areas where marking and labelling may differ from ADR/RID/ADN.

Where requested to do so, candidates should ensure they show the steps taken to reach their answer and provide complete references.

It is important that candidates are familiar with the various packaging types and the UN testing and marking requirements associated with them.

## Road

Candidates are encouraged to read and understand the DGSA syllabus prior to sitting the exam. They are also encouraged to attempt the sample exam questions provided on the SQA's DGSA website in preparation for the exam.

Candidates should also remember to familiarise themselves with the UK CDG regulations including the Emergency Action Codes and placarding.

## Rail

Candidates are encouraged to study the DGSA Rail syllabus prior to taking the exam.

Candidates need to ensure they understand the structure and content of the UK national CDG legislation and not just the requirements of the international RID regulations.

## **All Classes**

Candidates should read and understand the DGSA syllabus prior to sitting examinations. In preparation, they should attempt the sample questions provided on the DGSA website.

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

Before submitting a completed paper, candidates should carefully check that they have answered all elements of each question.

It should be noted that the All Classes paper relates to the classes, containment systems and preparation of the consignments.