



CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

March 2025

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	78%
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Candidate Performance

General Comments:

Many candidates performed well and carefully laid out their answers. However, when required, candidates need to clearly demonstrate how they reached their conclusions. It is also important to ensure answers relate correctly to the questions asked. This is particularly true when addressing questions relating to UN specification packaging codes.

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

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Topic 1 - Classification

Topic 3 - Packing and tank provisions

Topic 4 - Marking, labelling and placarding

Areas that candidates found demanding:

Topic 4 - Marking, labelling and placarding

Many candidates lost marks in this area for relating their answer to an incorrect packaging type.

Topic 9 - Legal framework

A number of candidates found Security a demanding topic, and in particular, the criteria governing the need for a Security Plan.

Road

National pass rate	51.5%
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Candidate Performance

General Comments:

The Road examination gave candidates a good opportunity to demonstrate the breadth and depth of their skills and knowledge of the subject matter with many candidates performing well.

Areas that candidates performed well in:

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 the marks available.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

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

Topic 2 – Marking and placarding

Several candidates found questions relating to the placement of plates and/or placards on tank transport units under both the UK and ADR regimes demanding.

Topic 3 – Documentation

Many candidates lost marks by providing an incorrect or incomplete reference.

Topic 4 – Compliance thresholds

Many candidates failed to understand parking and supervision requirements.

Topic 5 – Filling, stowage, loading and segregation

There appears to be confusion between “mixed packing” and “mixed loading” requirements.

Topic 8 – Emergency response requirements

Candidates displayed a lack of understanding of the regulatory regime, specifically the different obligations under the UK CDG regulations e.g. the use of Emergency Action Codes.

All Classes

National pass rate	62.9%
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Candidate Performance

General Comments:

Candidates lost marks by failing to answer all elements of each question, providing sufficient relevant references or fully researching the regulatory text.

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

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Topic 1 – Classification

Candidates generally performed well when identifying the hazardous properties associated with divisions and compatibility groups and allocating classes, UN numbers, proper shipping names and packing groups for products with specific properties.

Topic 2 – Packing and tank provisions

Candidates performed well in questions where they were required to interpret provisions relating to packaging design requirements for specific substances.

Many candidates were also able to identify a suitable IBC for a specific substance.

Topic 3 – Marking and labelling

Questions regarding package and IBC marking requirements relating to specific substances were generally answered well.

Topic 4 – Documentation requirements

Many candidates were able to provide transport document entries in the correct format.

Topic 5 – Limited Quantities and Excepted Quantities

Questions on identifying an LQ package prepared for carriage by air were answered well by most candidates.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

Topic 1 – Classification

Some candidates struggled with ensuring NOS proper shipping names were completed with technical name(s) in brackets where appropriate.

Topic 2 – Packing and tank provisions

Candidates lost marks for not identifying special packing requirements applicable to the packagings for specific substances and also failing to correctly interpret differing parts of a UN specification packaging approval mark.

Rail

National pass rate	89%
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Candidate Performance

General Comments:

The performance of candidates in this diet was generally satisfactory.

The majority of candidates demonstrated a reasonable knowledge of the rail transport regulations.

However, as is routinely the case, marks were lost unnecessarily due to a failure to fully complete answers and/or provide sufficiently detailed references.

Candidates are reminded of the need to comply with the referencing instructions provided at the beginning of the examination paper.

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Most candidates performed reasonably well across the range of syllabus topics.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

Topic 1 – Transport equipment

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

Topic 2 – Marking and placarding

Questions relating to the application of the UK national regulations – CDG2009 (as amended), in particular questions regarding the use and application of the Emergency Action Code provisions, were not well answered by a number of candidates.

Many candidates are not allocating sufficient time to CDG2009 (as amended) and the associated regulatory texts when preparing for this examination; candidates need to understand the extent to which these UK national CDG regulations amend the provisions of RID.

Inland Waterways

National pass rate	50%
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Candidate Performance

General Comments:

The performance of candidates in this exam was mixed with some candidates appearing generally well prepared.

Marks were lost across numerous syllabus topics due to candidates failing to fully answer questions and/or provide sufficiently detailed references.

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Some candidates demonstrated a reasonable level of knowledge across most syllabus topics.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

Topic 8 – Operations procedures

In particular, questions relating to operational procedures and requirements on inland waterway vessels were not well answered.

Topic 12 – Legal Framework

Candidates also struggled with questions concerning the relationship between the provisions of ADN and the IMDG Code on combined sea/inland waterway journeys.

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 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 the distinction between "marks" and "labels" and are aware of the various marking and labelling requirements and how they might be affected by the contents or the impact of Limited Quantities and Excepted Quantities rules.

Road

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

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.

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

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.

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 “Areas candidates found demanding” in 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

Candidates are encouraged to study the DGSA Inland Waterways syllabus in detail prior to taking the exam and, in particular, address the topics identified under “Areas candidates found demanding” in this report.

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