



CANDIDATE PERFORMANCE REPORT

September 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.

Contents

<u>Core</u>	1
<i>Areas that candidates performed well in:</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>Areas that candidates found demanding:</i>	<i>1</i>
<u>Road</u>	2
<i>Areas that candidates performed well in:</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Areas that candidates found demanding:</i>	<i>2</i>
<u>Rail</u>	4
<i>Areas that candidates performed well in:</i>	<i>4</i>
<i>Areas that candidates found demanding:</i>	<i>4</i>
<u>Inland Waterways</u>	6
<i>Areas that candidates performed well in:</i>	<i>6</i>
<i>Areas that candidates found demanding:</i>	<i>6</i>
<u>All Classes</u>	7
<i>Areas that candidates performed well in:</i>	<i>7</i>
<i>Areas that candidates found demanding:</i>	<i>8</i>
<u>Preparing candidates for future assessments</u>	9

Core

Diet	September 2023
National pass rate	77.6%

Candidate Performance

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Topic 1 – Classification

Generally, performance in this topic area was quite good. The biggest issue was a failure by candidates to show how they reached their conclusions from the base data provided.

Topic 4 – Marking, Labelling and Placarding

Generally, questions were well answered. Requirements relating to the use of "orientation arrows" were poorly applied in some cases.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

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

As a general comment, candidates need to take care to ensure that they present their conclusions as clearly and concisely as possible, avoiding the necessity for those marking papers to interpret random unconnected statements.

Topic 6 – Exemptions and Concessions

Candidates still routinely struggle to identify and/or explain how they reach their conclusions regarding, for example, the application of Limited Quantities provisions.

Topic 9 – Legal Framework

Candidates need to ensure that they clearly understand the various Reports required by the Regulations.

They should also ensure that they can identify when Security Plans for High Consequence Dangerous Goods are applicable.

Candidates also need to be able to distinguish the difference between Parking/Supervision and Security requirements.

Road

Diet	September 2023
National pass rate	52.5%

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

Candidate Performance

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Candidates performed well in the following topic areas:

Topic 6 – Cleaning and/or Decontamination

Topic 7 – Operational Procedures

Questions on both these topic areas were answered well with the majority of candidates accessing the marks available.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

Candidates did not perform well in the areas of:

Topic 2 – Marking and Placarding

Topic 3 – Documentation

Topic 4 – Compliance Thresholds

Topic 8 – Emergency Response Requirements

Many candidates lost marks by providing an incorrect or incomplete reference, specifically in the following topic areas:

Topic 2 – Marking and Placarding

Topic 3 – Documentation

Candidates failed to provide all required references or did not complete them in full.

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 different roles and obligations of the various “participants” and the application of the UK CDG regulations.

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

Several candidates found the requirements relating to the placement of panels and/or placards on transport units carrying tanks demanding, under both the UK and ADR rules.

Rail

Diet	September 2023
National pass rate	82.3%

The performance of candidates in this diet was generally satisfactory.

A significant number of candidates lost marks for incomplete or insufficiently detailed answers, with general information being provided when the question clearly related to the transport of a specific substance(s).

Candidates also routinely failed to follow the instruction to provide the relevant part, chapter, section and sub-section (as applicable) when using RID, losing marks for references as a consequence.

The examiners and markers for the Rail exam reported that many candidates underperformed when required to interpret and apply requirements arising from the UK national regulations – CDG2009 (as amended). This issue has been repeatedly highlighted by the examiners and markers.

Candidates preparing for the Rail exam need to understand the extent to which the requirements of RID are varied for UK national rail operations.

Candidate Performance

Areas that candidates performed well in:

The performance of candidates on most syllabus topics was good or satisfactory.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

The performance of some candidates was below expectations on questions relating to the following specific topic areas:

Topic 1 – Transport Equipment

A number of candidates failed to appreciate that the requirements applicable, respectively, to RID tanks and UN portable tanks are not fully aligned and that the reference sources are in different chapters of RID.

The distinction between 'tank' and 'bulk' load requirements was not appreciated by a number of candidates.

Topic 2 – Marking and Placarding

Questions relating to the application of provisions under the UK national CDG regulations – CDG2009 (as amended) - in particular, the requirements concerning the use and interpretation of the Emergency Action Code - were not well answered and/or referenced.

Topic 5 – Filling, Stowage, Loading and Segregation

“Mixed packing” and “mixed loading” requirements were confused.

Topic 11 – Legal Framework

Candidates incorrectly assigned responsibility for duties applicable under RID.

Inland Waterways

Diet	September 2023
National pass rate	100%

The results for this diet were very good.

Candidates showed a good understanding of how to navigate around the ADN Agreement and interpret and apply its provisions.

Candidate Performance

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Candidates performed well on questions relating to topic areas across the syllabus.

Questions relating to the transport of dangerous goods in tank vessels and those relating to vessels carrying packages were addressed equally well and the standard of referencing was generally good.

Areas that candidates found demanding:

There were no topic areas that candidates found particularly demanding.

All Classes

Diet	September 2023
National pass rate	54.5%

Marks were lost by candidates failing to ensure that all elements of a question were answered. For example, where questions required more than one detail in the answer, these were not all provided.

Unless otherwise stated, references are required to support answers. Many of the questions require candidates to visit two or more areas of text to establish the answer(s). In such cases, references are required for each area of text consulted to provide the full answer.

Candidates failing to provide sufficient references is a common fault and some references quoted 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 some cases, candidates added incorrect and/or irrelevant details to their answers which led to a loss of marks. Only relevant information relating to the question should be included and, where applicable, it should be presented as required in the regulations.

In this diet, candidates were not considering all details provided in the question that had a bearing on establishing the correct answer. Candidates must ensure they read questions thoroughly and in full before attempting to answer them.

Candidate Performance

Areas that candidates performed well in:

Candidates performed well in the following topics:

Topic 1 – Classification

In general, answers identifying UN numbers and proper shipping names were of a high standard.

Topic 2 – Packaging and Tank Provisions

Candidates demonstrated a good understanding of package selection requirements for specific substances.

The question on package testing requirements was well answered.

Topic 3 – Marking and Labelling

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

Areas that candidates found demanding:

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

Topic 1 – Classification

Many candidates were unable to correctly apply the procedure for identifying solutions/mixtures.

Some candidates failed to demonstrate an understanding of the classification procedures for self-reactive substances.

Topic 2 – Packing and Tank Provisions

Several candidates failed to demonstrate an understanding of “Limited Quantities” packing requirements, incorrectly referring to the substance packing instruction for an answer.

Candidates had a tendency to provide test drop heights for all three packing groups instead of just the example given in the question. This action can cast doubt on the candidate’s understanding.

Many candidates failed to recognise there are differences between the requirements applicable to (UN) portable tanks and those relating to RID/ADR tanks.

Topic 3 – Marking, Labelling and Placarding

Many marks were lost by candidates placing incorrect mark(s) and label(s) on a package and/or failing to correctly identify where the required mark(s) and label(s) should be located.

Some candidates incorrectly identified a package as an “overpack”.

Topic 4 – Documentation

Many candidates did not provide accurate transport document entries, failing to provide a technical name in brackets after the PSN and/or include a subsidiary hazard.

Topic 7 – Legal Framework

Some candidates failed to demonstrate an understanding of the regulatory relationship between the modal regulations.

Preparing candidates for future assessments

General

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

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

It is important that candidates show the key steps in their decision making.

Candidates should also ensure they provide full references where required including the relevant part, chapter, section and sub-section (as applicable).

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

Core

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

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

Candidates should ensure that they are familiar with the use and application of the UK CDG Regulations and areas where the marking and placarding requirements differ from ADR.

Candidates should ensure that they develop the habit of showing the steps they took to reach their answers and the appropriate referencing.

It is important that candidates are familiar with the various packaging types as well as the coding and testing requirements associated with them.

Road

Candidates are encouraged to read and understand the DGSA syllabus prior to the sitting of the exam.

They are also encouraged to attempt the sample questions provided on the DGSA website in preparation for the exam.

Candidates should familiarise themselves with the UK CDG Regulations and the requirements relating to the use of the Emergency Action Code.

Rail

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

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

Inland Waterways

All candidates are encouraged to read and understand the DGSA Inland Waterways syllabus prior to the sitting of the exam.

Candidates should ensure that they read questions carefully and provide complete answers and references.

All Classes

Candidates should study the DGSA syllabus prior to sitting examinations.

In preparation, they are encouraged to attempt the sample questions provided on the DGSA website. This will go some way to giving (particularly new) candidates a good idea of what to expect within each examination.

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 their written answers cover all elements asked within the question.