



UNDERMANAGER CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE |

AUGUST - NOVEMBER 2014

Examination panel report

Summary of results and general comments

Applications

Number of applications: 36

Number of applications approved: 36

Written examination

DATA

Date: 19 September 2014

Number of candidates sitting: 31

Number of candidates who passed all papers: 13

STATISTICS

Legislation (out of 100 marks)

Lowest mark: 37

Highest mark: 75

Average mark: 56

Ventilation (out of 200 marks)

Lowest mark: 78

Highest mark: 164

Average mark: 120

Coal mining practice (out of 100 marks)

Lowest mark: 47

Highest mark: 84

Average mark: 64

COMMENTS

Legislation:

- The exam targeted legislative requirements across the Work Health and Safety Act & Regulations as well as the Coal Mines Health & Safety Act & Regulations as pertaining to the role of undermanager. The CMHS questions were generally answered well.
- As can be seen from the spread of marks for the legislation exam, some candidate could demonstrate a broad knowledge whilst others could not. All candidates are reminded that exam questions can, and generally are, drawn from these four pieces of legislation. (i.e. the CMHS and WHS Act and Regulations)
- Note: answers can be in dot point form, it is not necessary to provide legislation verbatim.



Ventilation:

- Despite the average mark for the ventilation exam being 120/200, the majority of candidates passed this exam. The average was drawn down by a number of candidates with low individual marks, who had difficulty demonstrating their ventilation knowledge.
- Current format of the ventilation is consistent with previous papers, forcing candidates to provide an explanation of their understanding of ventilation principles in relation to the details provided in the exam.
- A number of candidates continue to rely heavily on “rules of thumb” or use assumptions which are not explained or justified. Each candidate should briefly explain why their assumptions are appropriate for the ventilation question.
- Question 2 makes reference to the managements systems in place to manage risks associated with ventilating the mine. Candidates are encouraged to consider what aspects will need to be included in the relevant management systems when asked questions such as this.
- Those candidates who obtained good marks in the Ventilation paper provided answers from the perspective of an Undermanager. They could identify the potential hazards associated with the ventilation arrangements and provide specific measures to control the risks from those hazards.
- The spread of knowledge of spontaneous combustion and specifically Graham’s ratio was significant. The candidates who answered this question well demonstrated their knowledge very well but a number showed very little knowledge resulting in quite low marks for this question.

Coal mining practice:

- Generally candidates answered the mining practice questions well.
- Candidates are reminded that due to the range of hazards in the underground coal industry, there are also a wide range of controls which they are expected to have a working understanding of. This includes specialised practices such as goaf gas drainage.

Oral examination

DATA

Dates:	26 & 27 November 2014
Eligible:	32
Attempted exam:	26
Competent:	15

COMMENTS

- The comments below are very similar to those made in all recent reports. This is because those candidates who have not been found competent yet are generally missing the same common opportunities to demonstrate their competence.
- A number of candidates continue to have trouble identifying the notifiable incidents and particularly whether the incidents required immediate notification and/or a non-disturbance period. As it is common for a shift undermanager to be required to deal with the immediate actions following an incident. It is important that all candidates have a working knowledge of the requirements for notification of incidents.
- The need for benchmarking mines across the state has always been an important aspect of a candidate’s preparation for their undermanager’s exam. A number of candidates presented for the oral exam with limited benchmarking behind them. A candidate should approach the task of benchmarking from the perspective of identifying the major coal mining hazards and visiting those operations which provide an opportunity to learn how those hazards are managed.
- Candidates will gain an improved understanding from their benchmarking by seeking to understand why a particular mine operates as it does as opposed to simply looking at how the mine operates. Candidates need to be prepared to communicate their learning outcomes from each benchmarking visit.
- It is common for candidates to approach scenario questions in an oral exam from the perspective of a deputy or their normal role. Each answer provided needs to be from the perspective of an undermanager. By doing this the candidate can more readily demonstrate his/her knowledge, both technical and practical. Furthermore, the importance of the undermanager taking control of the

situation and managing operations is of the utmost importance for a candidate to demonstrate his/her competence.

More information

Business Processes & Authorisations

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Acknowledgments

Undermanager Examination Panel

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