



UNDER MANAGER CERTIFICATE OF COMPETENCE | MARCH - JUNE
2014

EXAMINATION PANEL REPORT

22 October 2014

Summary of results and general comments

Applications

Number of applications: 23

Number of applications approved: 23

Written examination

DATA

Date: 14 March 2014

Candidates: 23

Passed all papers: 11

STATISTICS

Legislation (out of 100 marks)

Lowest mark: 22.5

Highest mark: 80

Average mark: 61.5

Ventilation (out of 200 marks)

Lowest mark: 84

Highest mark: 146

Average mark: 117.5

Coal Mining Practice (out of 100 marks)

Lowest mark: 60

Highest mark: 76.5

Average mark: 64.5

COMMENTS

Legislation

- The exam targeted the legislative requirements of the *Work Health and Safety Act 2011* and the *Coal Mines Health & Safety Regulation 2006* as pertaining to the role of Under Manager. The WH&S questions were generally answered well.
- Note: answers can be in dot point form, it is not necessary to provide legislation verbatim.



Ventilation

- Current format of the ventilation paper 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 relied heavily on 'rules of thumb' or used assumptions that were not explained or justified. Each candidate should briefly explain why their assumptions were appropriate.
- Some candidates demonstrated a good understanding of the principles of recirculation and the process to remove the hazard, including an investigation into the cause of the problem. Despite this, quite a few struggled to answer the question with the level of knowledge expected from an Under Manager. In many cases candidates missed the opportunity to demonstrate their knowledge of recirculation. It is expected that an Under Manager has this technical knowledge to enable him/her to competently provide assistance, information and instruction to deputies and crews regarding the hazards associated with recirculation.
- The candidates who obtained good marks in the ventilation paper provided answers from the perspective of an Under Manager. They could identify potential hazards associated with ventilation arrangements and provide specific measures to control the risks from those hazards.

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 is a wide range of controls which they are expected to have a working understanding of. These include frictional ignition and goaf gas drainage
- The role of Under Manager often has a direct role in the implementation and monitoring of contractor activities. Candidates are encouraged to fully understand the Contractor Management Plan implemented at their site and the specific additional legislative requirements for the management of contractors.

Oral examination

DATA

Dates: 5 & 6 June 2014

Eligible: 27

Attempted exam: 24

Competent: 6

COMMENTS

- A significant number of candidates had trouble identifying notifiable incidents, particularly whether the incidents required immediate notification or a non-disturbance period. As it is common for a shift Under Manager 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 Under Manager'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 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 what the mine does.
- 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 Under Manager. By doing this the candidate can more readily demonstrate his/her knowledge, both technical and practical. Furthermore an Under Manager 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

Under Manager Examination Panel

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