



Five Minute Meeting:

Topic: 80% passing score rate for written OQ exams

Date: 6/2/2022

Audience: All Gas Ops, Construction Management, Gas Inspectors, Contractors and Applicant Installers, Contract OQ evaluators, Service Planning, Quality Management

The key thing you need to know

The passing score rate for written Operator Qualification (OQ) exam will be adjusted from 100% to 80%. The performance based OQ exam will remain at 100% passing score rate. We will implement the changes in two phases.

Phase 1: Effective June 06, 2022, the passing score for PG&E series will be lowered to 80%.

Phase 2: Effective July 06, 2022, the passing score for contractor series will be lowered to 80%.

Why it matters to you

Federal and State regulations (CFR 49.192, Subpart N and GO112F) require that individuals performing covered tasks on the gas pipeline system or in construction of new gas pipeline facilities that will be connected to the gas pipeline system hold the applicable qualifications at the time of performing the work.

Personnel performing covered tasks must obtain their Operator Qualification through a company-accepted evaluation method.

Key discussion points

The current passing score for all the written OQ exams is 100%. The new policy will adjust the required passing score to 80%.

A decrease in the passing score from 100% to 80% reduces failures and retakes significantly with little change in the average performance on examinations. It also reduces resource constraints for critical classifications and increases resource availability to meet customer commitment and compliance due dates.

Below is an example of 80% passing score on an OQ exam:

A test with 20 questions, you need to get at least 16 questions correct to pass the test.

New confirmation process for a passing score of 80% or higher on an OQ exam:

Step 1: For a pass of 80%, the user selects the "I agree checkbox to confirm recorded score".

Step 2: Once the user confirms the recorded score, user is shown the details of all the missing questions.

Step 3: The user is given the opportunity to verify and acknowledge the missing questions and answers.

Step 4: After acknowledgement of the verification of missing questions, the user agrees to the 100% exam knowledge check.

Step 5: Once the knowledge check is complete, the Exam closes.

➤ **What does it mean if I am unqualified for a covered task or OQ?**

Per TD-4008S

Unqualified: An individual who has never been qualified to perform a covered task or tasks, OR an individual who has been previously qualified and able to perform a covered task or tasks but for whom the qualification has lapsed or been removed.

➤ **Will the changes apply to both PG&E employees and external contractors?** Yes, this will apply to both PG&E employees and external contractors. See above for contractor roll-out date.

➤ **Will this apply to the Performance Based OQ exams changes?**
No, the passing score rate for the performance based OQ exams remain at 100%.

➤ **If I've received a passing score, (80% or above) will I receive coaching on the questions I've missed?**
Yes, all questions that are missed will be remediated by the evaluator.

➤ **What happens if I fail a written test?**
Like all OQ's, after a failed attempt, the OQ will be removed, and you will no longer be qualified. The OQ must be successfully passed to regain the OQ. In addition, if the test is failed (3) times, the employee must wait 30 calendar days to retest.

➤ **How do I know if I am OQ qualified?**
Employees can scan their OQ cards to see what they are qualified for. If the OQ does not show up on your card, you are not qualified.

Who do I contact with questions?

Manager, Gas Qualifications - Ronda Shupert (RFSL@pge.com)

OQ Gas Program Manager Kevin Salazar (KDS6@pge.com)

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