



**Board of Certified Safety Professionals**

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## UNDERSTANDING AND INTERPRETING YOUR EXAMINATION RESULT REPORT

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This publication was created to help you understand how BCSP sets the minimum passing score for its examinations and how you can interpret the result report you received.

### EXAMINATION STRUCTURE

The purpose of the examination is to measure whether candidates have demonstrated at least a minimum standard of knowledge of safety practice at the level for which they are being tested. The current examinations' structures are based on validation studies. Validation studies involve people in safety practice who identify and characterize the subject matter that is important at a specific certification level. The results from these studies are summarized in the examinations' blueprints. The blueprints contain an outline of the subject matter found on the examinations, each subject making up a percentage of the exam.

### EXAMINATION'S MINIMUM PASSING SCORE

An examination has a single minimum passing score against which all candidates are measured. The minimum passing score is based on the total score on the examination; therefore, candidates are not required to earn a minimum score in each subject area, or domain, of practice.

As part of BCSP's item quality processes, BCSP placed a number of items on the examination for developmental purposes. These items were not scored and did not count toward your result, but BCSP obtains item performance information from these developmental items for use on future versions of the examination. Your examination result was based on how many of the scored items you answered correctly. All scored items had the same weighting.

### HOW BCSP SETS THE MINIMUM PASSING SCORE

For accredited certifications, all candidates must have an equal opportunity to pass the credentialing examinations regardless of the population of candidates attempting the examinations. This minimum standard is represented by the minimum passing score on the examinations.

BCSP uses criterion-referenced procedures (the Modified Angoff and Bookmark Standard Setting Methods) to establish the minimum passing scores for examinations. These procedures require convening one or more diverse panels of experts to individually rate each item on the examination against the criterion of the minimally-competent, or minimally-qualified candidate. Once these ratings are obtained, further analysis of the items is performed to verify that the ratings derived by the panels of experts are consistent.

The combination of the Modified Angoff and Bookmark methods results in a minimum passing score based on the aggregated difficulty of each item. With each examination revision, the passing score may change in response to the assessed difficulties of any new scored items that are placed on the examination revision. In the end, an objectively-established minimum passing score is determined for measuring every candidate, providing every candidate the same opportunity to pass.

### HOW TO INTERPRET YOUR EXAMINATION RESULT

When you completed the examination at the computer-testing center, you received a pass/fail result. If you passed, results are not released. If you failed the examination, you need to understand your domain level results and use that information to develop a mitigation strategy for further preparation before retaking the examination. Certification examinations are statistically reliable. What this means is that if you retake the examination without sufficiently remedying your weaker knowledge areas, you will likely receive a similar result. The solution to this is directed study in the areas in which you are weakest.

The domains represent major safety functions at the level for which you tested. Within the body of the official result report is a diagnostic account describing your result within each of the domains. The first column shows the number of questions in a particular domain or task/topic. The second column shows the number of questions you answered correctly.

### HOW TO USE YOUR RESULT REPORT FOR RETESTING

Evaluate your examination performance from the information presented on your result report. Identify the domains where your performance was below that required to pass the overall exam.

Using the examination blueprint, stimulate your recollection of concepts and theories from the examination you failed. Though it is impossible to memorize precisely everything you experienced on the examination, it is likely that there are some concepts and practices with which you were unfamiliar. The examination blueprint can help you recall these.

The final step is to use the study tools you have at your disposal to help remedy your weaknesses based on your customized study guide. Your study tools likely will include books related to practice, examination preparation materials, and online searches to assist you with understanding some of the concepts and theories that you need to study.

To access the most recent list of examination references, visit the BCSP website for the certification for which you are testing.