

**Saint Louis University Emerson Leadership Institute  
Consumer Product Safety Professional Certification Program**

**SAMPLE MULTIPLE-CHOICE QUESTIONS EXERCISE**

*The following questions are designed to provide potential candidates for the professional product safety certification program an idea of the format and nature of questions included in the final examination. The questions below are illustrative in nature, and are not questions that will be included in the examination. The questions reflect the knowledge areas defined in the Certification Program "Scope of Program" document at the Society of Product Safety Professionals ([www.productsafetyprofessionals.org](http://www.productsafetyprofessionals.org)) that will be included in the 2019 final examinations. Note: The multiple-choice questions on the final examination will be provided by the individual instructors and reviewed by an Examination Committee that will confirm all questions and answers were based on material taught during the program's workshop and webinars.*

*Answers to these sample questions appear at the conclusion of the exercise.*

1) When considering a product, why should more attention be paid to "Design Defects", than to "Manufacturing Defects"?

A Manufacturing defects, due to their very nature, are uncontrollable

B If enough effort is directed at eliminating design defects, it will be impossible for manufacturing defects to occur

C Manufacturing defects are the producer's problem, from a risk assessment perspective one would only have control over design defects

D Manufacturing defects will only occur in a limited amount of the product, whereas design defects will affect 100% of the product

2) How is the risk equation most effectively used?

A Managing the exposure of a product in the market place is the most effective way to manage risk

B Controlling the severity of injuries and not allowing fatalities will effectively manage risk and avoid potential recalls

C Telling users how to properly use products, including how to foreseeably use them, will effectively reduce risk

D Working to drive hazards out of products, or reasonably minimize hazards through effective design changes is the best way to manage risk and reduce recalls.

3) How are risk assessments used in a product safety program?

A Risk assessments are complex and expensive tools and should be primarily used in high risk products or long-time product lines.

B Different levels of risk assessments can be considered depending on the complexity of the product, so long as an effective process is used to understand the basic risk components related to a given design

C Government and industry standards for consumer products have progressed to the point where compliance to standards equates to an acceptable risk, therefore a formal risk assessment is optional.

D Risk assessments are best conducted by independent outside agencies or consultants to ensure an unbiased result.

4) According to the design safety hierarchy, the first priority in addressing product hazards is to eliminate the hazard, the second is to guard against it, and the third is to warn about it. This hierarchy is:

A A rule used to determine whether the risk posed by a product is acceptable

B A regulatory requirement for consumer products sold in the U.S.

C A safety engineering concept that is useful in helping product designers minimize risk

D A tool for determining whether a hazard control is economically and technologically feasible

5) A product is considered "safe" under the CPSIA when:

- A It presents no risk
- B It presents a reasonable risk
- C It follows the design safety hierarchy
- D It meets all applicable regulations and standards

6) The practical application of risk is best described by:

- A Physical injury or damage to health of people either directly or indirectly as a result of damage to property or to the environment
- B A combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm
- C A combination of the probability of occurrence of harm and the severity of that harm, as well as the population at risk
- D Acceptable once the design safety hierarchy has been followed

7) Should a manufacturing services agreement completely prohibit subcontracting to other manufacturers in all circumstances?

- A Yes, because the subcontractor will never be liable for product issues
- B No, because doing so would be unnecessarily restrictive and manufacturers always expect to be able to subcontract some or all of the production
- C Yes, because subcontractors never comply with the product specifications and will use substandard inputs
- D No, because the agreement can require that subcontractors be reviewed and approved prior to their engagement

8) The Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act requires testing by an accredited third party laboratory of:

A All consumer products subject to standards or bans

B All recreational products

C All children's products

D All electrical products

9) Which of the following events does not require a manufacturer to report to the CPSC?

A A product does not comply with a mandatory safety standard

B A product poses an unreasonable risk of causing injury or death

C A product has a defect which could create a substantial product hazard

D Any death or serious bodily injury

10) The CPSC penalty authority allows it to pursue:

A Criminal penalties

B Civil penalties

C Liquidated damages

D Civil and criminal penalties and forfeiture of assets

11) Internal Investigations of product failures maximize their value add to an organization when Safety Professionals do which of the following?

A Manage the investigation solely to limit legal risk

B Meet the minimum requirement of any applicable compliance standards

C Improve future operations through improved safety while protecting the organization from legal risk

D Identify why an incident occurred

12) In general, voluntary standards are used as tools in the safety community that \_

A Provide specific design guidance for specific products to prevent hazards

B Provide technical guidance that is unanimously agreed to by the best technical experts in a particular subject area

C Provide a minimum level of performance criteria agreed to through consensus.

D Provide comprehensive a risk assessment evaluation model

13) Of the following, which does not relate to requirements for producing consumer products under the Consumer Product Safety Improvement Act?

A CPSC laws, rules

B California Proposition 65

C Product bans

D Standards (ASTM F-963)

14) Which of the following is not a requirement of the CPSIA?

A Certificates of compliance required to demonstrate compliance with any rule, standard, ban or regulation of CPSC

B Public database that allows consumers to submit reports of harm

C Company compliance plans signed-off by the Chief Executive Officer

D Tracking labels

15) Which statement below is based on a provision contained in the CPSIA?

A Every company producing consumer products must have a compliance plan that meets minimum CPSC standards

B Employees of consumer product companies that produce, distribute or sell hazardous products and who allege they were discharged for reporting a product safety violation may seek damages

C Exports of recalled or non-conforming products must limit their distribution to countries that permit such products

D Companies that are in violation of any law, standard, or rule of the CPSC is subject to a potential civil penalty up to \$10 million for a series of violations.

16) Which of the following expands CPSC enforcement authority under the provisions of the CPSIA?

A Enhanced recall authority and power to require corrective action programs

B Join with state and local governments in prohibiting certain chemicals in children's products

C Require regulators in foreign countries to certify that products exported from that country to the U.S. comply with all U.S. safety standards

D Make it permissible to substitute General Certificates of Conformity (GCC) for Children Product Certificates (CPC) provided that they have the necessary documentation to substantiate their compliance.

*(The following 3 questions refer to the Certification course Scope of Program document found at the SPSP web site, [www.productsafetyprofessionals.org](http://www.productsafetyprofessionals.org))*

17) Which of the following statements is considered as a positive sign of *company culture*?

A Ensure that product designs integrate consumer use behavior

B Apply safety analytical tools such as Design Failure Mode and Effects Analysis (DFMEA)

C Advice to company leadership including safety—related fact-based assessments

D Coordination of testing to validate product compliance with mandatory and voluntary standards

18) Which statement best reflects the purpose of an incident management program?

A Be cognizant of regulations in all applicable markets to keep abreast of changing laws, regulations, and standards

B Elevate consumer safety to a heightened prominence in corporate decision-making

C Maintain a system to investigate, evaluate, and when appropriate act on safety-related incidents

D Ensure awareness of standards development panels, committees and industry groups relating to standards development activities

19) What is considered to be an important element in a company's corrective action program?:

A Promote procedures that ensure that product safety is considered in all relevant corporate processes

B Have knowledge of consumer safety information sources such as the CPSC's SaferProducts.gov website and other regulatory agencies.

C Communicate lessons learned through a post-mortem on all product safety corrective actions with a broad team from across the company

D Assessment of marketing materials and product instructions for safe use of products.

20) According to the Certification Program "Scope of Program" document found at the Society of Product Safety Professionals' web site ([www.productsafetyprofessional.org](http://www.productsafetyprofessional.org)), which of the follow is not considered to be a reflection of a company's culture with respect to product safety?

A Elevation of consumer safety to a heightened prominence in corporate decision making

B Quality of training of product safety personnel

C Promotes building respect within and outside of the company for its commitment to product safety

D Assessment of processes, test methods, and standards to validate final product risk;

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Answers to Questions: Q1-D; Q2-D; Q3-B; Q4-C; Q5-B; Q6-C; Q7-D; Q8-C; Q9-D; Q10-D; Q11-C; Q12-C; Q13-B; Q14-C; Q15-B; Q16-A; Q17-C; Q18-C; Q19-C; Q20-D