



TM

International
Well Control
Forum

UPDATED PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT METHOD INFORMATION PACK

WWW.IWCF.ORG



UPDATED PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT METHOD

Background:

IWCF is committed to increasing safety across global well control operations. Our mission is to define, deliver and maintain the highest possible standards in well control training, accreditation and certification, provide competency assurance and continuous development globally.

In alignment with our mission, we have improved the Drilling Well Control (DWC) practical assessment. Following a successful pilot in 2023, this will be gradually rolled out globally to all training centres.

The updated practical assessment aims to provide candidates with a fair, valid and reliable evaluation of their performance. The improved process enhances the overall candidate experience by ensuring consistency, enhancing objectivity, improving accuracy and increasing efficiency.

Summary of changes:

The changes to the practical assessment are detailed in the tables below:

LEVEL 3 DRILLER – CHANGES TO ASSESSMENT	LEVEL 4 SUPERVISOR – CHANGES TO ASSESSMENT
The candidate is given posted instructions before the assessment starts.	The assessment starts with the well shut in.
The assessment finishes after shutting the well in.	The candidate is not required to complete a kill sheet.
New criteria added: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Transfer a volume of fluid into the trip tank.• Set the correct SPM – not previously scored.• Set the correct RPM – not previously scored.• Run to bottom and apply WOB – not previously scored.• Correctly monitor the well for flow on the trip tank.	New criteria added: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Check fluid into the trip tank.• Ensure the trip is lined up to circulate over well.• Set the trip tank alarm.
The candidate is not required to record 'kill rate circulating pressures' and 'choke line friction'; this information is included in the posted instructions. However, it is still required to teach this during training.	Bit nozzle washout has been added to the problem options (problem 5).
Level 3 candidates will receive one of three BOP problems: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• BOP Actuator not functioning.• Leaking BOP.• The BOP Actuator functions but the BOP does not close.	Control of bottom hole pressure (BHP) after the problem starts until the evacuation of the initial influx has been divided into three critical sections (see section 4 of the grading sheet).
The scoring for the BOP problem is incorporated into the 'kick detection and well shut-in section' of the grading sheet, rather than standalone scoring.	The average time to assess a Level 4 candidate is 40 minutes (based on data from the pilot).
The average time to assess a Level 3 candidate is between 28 and 37 minutes (based on data from the pilot).	

If you have any questions on the updated practical assessment method, please email assessmentdevelopment@iwcf.org



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GENERAL CHANGES

Only one candidate is assessed at a time.

A pre-assessment checklist has been added to the front of the grading sheet for the assessor. This includes standardised wording to explain the scenario to the candidate.

Scripted wording has been added to the grading sheet for the assessor to use during the assessment.

The grading sheets are not BOP specific.

Notice to Candidates (AC-0022) and Notice to Assessor (AC-0021) are no longer required.

Benefits:

The benefits of the updated practical assessment are as follows:

- 1. Enhanced realism:** The assessment is more realistic as the trip tank is now used to monitor the well, BOP failures are tested, and the Level 3 driller candidate is given posted instructions.
- 2. Role reversal:** Assessors now play the opposite role (Level 3 driller or Level 4 supervisor) instead of another candidate. This ensures a consistent, fair, and unbiased assessment.
- 3. Reduced assessment time:** Candidates spend less time out of the classroom as their assessment time has been reduced.
- 4. Focused assessment:** Efficient use of assessment time, promoting a more valid assessment by focusing on the critical tasks required for each role and removing criteria that no longer add value to the assessment.
- 5. Standardised instructions:** Candidates receive standardised instructions from the assessor. This minimises potential bias or variability in the assessment process, eliminates ambiguity, and promotes a more objective and fair evaluation of the candidate's performance.
- 6. Improved assessment tools:** The use of assessor checklists, standardised instructions and automatic score calculation increases the reliability, fairness, efficiency and objectivity of the assessments. Creating a more robust and effective assessment process.
- 7. Focused assessment:** Only one candidate is assessed at a time. This means that the assessor is able to focus all their attention on the candidate without any distractions or interruptions from another candidate, ensuring that each candidate receives a focused and comprehensive assessment of their performance.

These improvements mark a significant step forward in our commitment to maintaining the highest possible standards in well control training, accreditation and certification.

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Updated practical assessment documentation:

All new and updated documents are available to download from the Instructor Hub in the [members area](#). Instructors must ensure that they are using the correct documentation.

- Practical Assessor Handbook (AC-0018) – **UPDATED**.
- Level 3 Driller Practical Assessment Grading Sheet (PD-0039) – **NEW**.
- Level 4 Supervisor Practical Assessment Grading Sheet (PD-0040) – **NEW**.
- Level 3 Driller Practical Assessment Posted Instructions (PD-0041) – **NEW**.
- Simulator Model Checklist (AC-0062) – **UPDATED**.
- Virtual Simulator Model Checklist (AC-0126) – **UPDATED**.

The below documents are no longer required and will be made obsolete.

- Practical Assessment – Notice to Assessors (AC-0021) – **OBSOLETE**.
- Practical Assessment – Notice to Candidates (AC-0022) – **OBSOLETE**.
- Practical Assessment Grading Sheet – Subsea BOP Operations (AC-0019) – **OBSOLETE**.
- Practical Assessment Grading Sheet – Surface BOP Operations (AC-0020) – **OBSOLETE**.

Simulator requirements:

We have updated the simulator model checklists (AC-0062 and AC-0126) to ensure alignment with the changes made to the practical assessment.

The simulator model checklists are available to download from the Instructor Hub in the [members area](#).

Feedback:

Feedback is important to us and something that we encourage. To make it easy for you to leave feedback, you can simply scan the QR code below.

Alternatively, email your feedback to the Training and Development team:
assessmentdevelopment@iwcf.org.





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