Simulation – Veriforce Guidance

Veriforce and the OQ regulations allow an Evaluator to ask a candidate to “simulate” the observation portion of a covered task. It is highly recommended that the Evaluator require the candidate to perform the function described in the task criteria; however, if it is not possible, or acceptable (due to span of control limits), to observe the candidate perform the actual work then simulation can be used. To ensure that the simulated task function is applicable, all instances of “simulation” should meet the following characteristics.

1. Simulations should reflect the actual work setting sufficiently to reflect work performance. This could include the use of equipment or equipment replicas in a shop or at a yard; and
2. Simulations must require the candidate perform some type of “hands-on” activity that imitates the actual skill to be measured (i.e. actual manipulations of valves, switches, tools, pressurizing of pipe system, etc. with the use of visual aids, models and/or replicas).

Simulation cannot be limited to or defined as any of the following:

a. Oral “talk-through” or “walk-through” of the steps of a task;
b. Strictly using hand gestures;
c. “Imagining” there are tools/equipment present to aid verbal descriptions;
d. Observing other individuals perform a task while describing their activities.

Examples of acceptable simulation:

1. Pressure testing: Utilizing a mock-up system, have the candidate actually perform the steps of pressurizing, monitoring pressure, depressurizing, etc. in accordance with the task evaluation criteria.
2. Coating: Using a piece of pipe on pipe jacks, demonstrate applying coating to the pipe in accordance with the Task Evaluation Criteria
3. Measurement of Wall Thickness with Ultrasonic Device: Using a piece of pipe in a storage yard or shop, not in-service, of known thickness and grade; have the candidate measure the wall thickness at a pre-determined spot on the pipe in accordance with the task evaluation criteria.
4. Inspect Pipe Coating with Holiday Detector: Coat a piece of scrap metal pile. Create a few holidays in the coatings i.e., small pinholes, scratch etc. Have candidate demonstrate the use of a holiday detector in accordance with the task criteria and locate and mark jeeps/holidays.
5. Measure and Identify Mechanical Damage on Installed Pipe and Components:
   a. Preparation: Obtain two pieces of scrap pipe and weld them together (this will create a girth weld that can be used to determine if the candidate can determine the mechanical damage involves a girth weld). Create defects along the pipe; pits, gouges, scrapes etc., and coat pipe using coating (paint may be used to simulate actual coating).
   b. Have candidate demonstrate how to measure mechanical damage in accordance with the evaluation criteria.