

1.7 AUTOMATIC WEIGHING INSTRUMENTS

A full discussion of automatic weighing instruments is outside the scope of this issue of the Technical Articles. However, a brief summary is presented here.

All non-automatic weighing instruments (NAWIs) are governed by the NAWI regulations, whether used for controlled applications or not. In contrast, automatic weighing instruments (AWIs) are only subject to control if they are in use for trade and they are a prescribed type having specific regulations.

Automatic weighing instruments have recently come under new regulations implementing the Measuring Instruments Directive (the MID). The following types of instrument are prescribed for trade use in the UK and an EC type approval will be performed according to the Essential Requirements of the Directive; the instrument will then need to be verified before it can be taken into use:

Continuous totalising automatic weighing instruments (belt weighers)	The Measuring Instrument (Beltweighers) Regulations 2006 – SI 2006 No 1259
Automatic catchweighing instruments	The Measuring Instrument (Catchweighers) Regulations 2006 – SI 2006 No. 1257
Automatic gravimetric filling instruments	The Measuring Instrument (Automatic Gravimetric Filling Instruments) Regulations 2006 – SI 2006 No. 1258
Automatic rail-weighbridges	The Measuring Instrument (Automatic Rail-weighbridge) Regulations 2006 - SI 2006 No. 1256
Discontinuous totalising automatic weighing instruments (totalising hopper weighers)	The Measuring Instrument (Automatic Discontinuous Totalisers) Regulations 2006 – SI 2006 No. 1255

Automatic weighing instruments of these types which were type approved and verified under the previous national regulations can continue in use for trade and can be re-verified to those regulations, although they are now repealed as far as new instruments are concerned.

See also section 1.1 on controlled applications which includes a definition differentiating between non-automatic and automatic instruments and the various sections under 1.4 on type approval and verification.