

Update on the Non-automatic Weighing Instruments Directive (2009/23/EC) and EN 45501

On the 25th and 26th June the National Measurement Office (NMO) hosted a “Comments Resolution” meeting of the Joint Working Group (JWG) for the revision of EN 45501. The purpose of the meeting of the JWG was to discuss the various technical and editorial comments that had been raised as part of the recent vote on the revised EN 45501 which had resulted in a rejection of the proposed new version.

One of the main topics discussed was the 10 V/m issue and a proposal made by NMO to follow the MID principles and adopt different electromagnetic environment classes (i.e. E1, E2 and E3) and severity levels. Although the NMO proposal gained support at the meeting the majority of the JWG wished to retain the requirements specified in OIML R76:2006 and to specify 10 V/m in the new version of the standard.

However, the JWG supported the NMO view that the new version of the standard should not apply retrospectively to instruments placed on the market under existing approvals and that existing approvals should remain valid until their normal expiry date. This will be raised by NMO at various forums, including WELMEC WG2 and NoBoMet, to promote acceptance of this view. It is unclear at this stage whether this view will be accepted so it is still possible that the new version of the standard will apply to instruments placed on to the market under existing approvals (at the end of the transitional period – see below), and that manufacturers will need to redesign instruments that were certified against the current version of EN 45501 and have them retested to demonstrate conformity with the new requirements.

It is understood from the Convenor of the JWG that a new version of the standard will be circulated for vote at the end of August, with a two-month consultation period. If the required majority of positive votes are received then the new version will be adopted. There will then follow a three-year transitional where both versions (current and new) can be applied. At the end of the three-year transitional period the current version will be withdrawn and the new version will be applied to new approvals (including renewals of existing approvals) and to revisions of existing approvals where the change to the instrument could impact on the EMC performance. It is at this point (i.e. the end of the three-year transitional period) that the new version may also apply to existing approvals, unless agreement can be reached that the new version of the standard should not apply to instruments placed on the market under existing approvals.

If you have any questions regarding this issue please do not hesitate to contact the Product Certification team at NMO on +44 (0)20 8943 7272 or info@nmo.gov.uk