

UK WEIGHING FEDERATION
PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Meeting, held on Thursday, 19th May 2016 at the National Space Centre, Leicester.

Present:

John	Swinburne	Precia-Molen UK Ltd	Vice President
Michel	Steiger	Bizerba	
Kevin	Cartwright	Avery Berkel	
Jim	Cameron	Avery Weigh-Tronix	
Andrew	Dutton	Avery Weigh-Tronix	
Graham	Spink	AWM Ltd	
James	Hobbs	AWM Ltd	
Tom	Marren	Coventry Scale Company Ltd	
Helen	Crowther	Coventry Scale Company Ltd	
Tom	Brosnan	D Brash & Sons Ltd	
Steve	Cox	Dini Argeo UK	
David	Weeks	Flintec UK Limited	
Julian	Hope	Herbert Group Ltd	
Stephen	Hart	Ian Fellows Ltd	
Edwin	White	John White & Son (Weighing Machines) Ltd	
Brian	Onyangi	John White & Son (Weighing Machines) Ltd	
Martin	Parrack	Lorrimar Weighing Ltd	
John	Hammond	Lorrimar Weighing Ltd	
Tony	Kitchen	Lorrimar Weighing Ltd	
Martin	Course	Mettler Toledo Ltd	
Phil	Webb	Mettler Toledo Ltd	
Adrian	Chapman	Norfolk Calibration Service	
Lucy	Poole	Positive Weighing Solutions Ltd	
Tony	Bennett	Positive Weighing Solutions Ltd	
Mitch	Ballard	Positive Weighing Solutions Ltd	
Allan	Mackenzie	Precisa Ltd	
Ian	Webster	Select Scales	
Richard	Millan	Select Scales	
Paul	Moody	Solent Scale Services Ltd	
Jeremy	Sage	Stringer & Co (Scales) Ltd	
Gerald	Carr	Variohm Eurosensor Ltd	
Roy	Taylor	Vandome & Hart Ltd	

In attendance:

Chris	Goodacre	UKWF Secretariat
Ian	Turner	UKWF Technical Officer
David	Templeton	Trading Standards
Jim	Harper	MWS Ltd
Mark	Cheetham	MWS Ltd
Ian	Farnsworth	MWS Ltd

President's comments

JAS welcomed everyone to the meeting, and went through the general housekeeping points.

JAS introduced David Templeton who will be presenting today.

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from 5 people as follows:

Mark (Charlie) Haworth	Bizerba (UK) Ltd
Richard Herbert	Herbert Group Ltd
Sam Jones	Precision Instruments
Charles Williams	Promtek Limited
George Christie	Seca Ltd

2. **President's Update** – Given by John Swinburne

Nick Catt is not present at the moment due to a bad ski accident which had him hospitalised. It will be a couple of months before he is recovered and back to work. He has asked me to step in and give a report on the UKWF.

Since Nick took over in October the UKWF has been very busy. We have been lobbying on Revocation of legislation in the weighing industry and I would like to thank all the members who took the time to write to their MP's. It certainly got the UKWF noticed and we had replies from Anna Soubry the Small Business Minister and Sajid Javed the Minister for Business, Innovation and Skills.

We followed up the letters with a meeting in Portculis House in January. We had 30 UKWF members and 14 MPs at this meeting. The message was listened to and the UKWF have been invited to meet with people such as the NMRO which, as you will be aware, became part of the BRDO on the 1st April this year.

The BRDO have issued guidelines and have asked for a restructure of the weights and measures industry. Your Board were invited to meet the assistant directors of the BRDO. The heads of the BRDO come from an active TSO background and they understand the issues with have with the industry. They are moving forward and there are some exciting issues we can get involved with working in partnerships with industry and government.

In 2 weeks' time members of the board are meeting the chief exec of the BRDO.

Hopefully by the time we get to the AGM in October Nick should be able to give you an update on the progress of our lobbying. We would like to keep the pressure on for changes but need to bear in mind that the government focus is currently on the EU referendum campaign.

I hope you will find this meeting interesting and useful. As usual Ian Turner our Technical Officer will cover the changes and implementation of any regulations.

There were no questions following this presentation.

3. **Technical Officer's Update**

IT gave a presentation to the members on a number of topics. The presentations can be found on the website.

In addition to the presentation, IT made these additional points, and the following questions were

asked:

IT - EN45501 Since the last meeting it is now officially the new standard. All of our verification procedures should be reflecting this new legislation.

Question - David Templeton TSI advised this is the case unless the instruments have already been placed on the market.

New Directives - No Implementation regulations for these directives that came into force on 18th April but the UKWF are advising to meet the new requirements.

Question – Jeremy Sage, Stringer & Co

Is there an obligation for national governments to implement these as law. Are the EU regulations in force in the UK legally now.

IT – yes EU law overrides laws in each member country, however enforcement in the UK will be very difficult if the implementation regulations do not exist.

Question John Swinburne, Precia Molen

Can we clarify, the markings required under the new legislation are different to the markings under the old regulations. As far as TS are concerned, are both currently acceptable until the implementations

Which markings are our members required to comply with.

IT – no concise information has been given on this. I will refer to David Templeton Tsi

David Templeton – the position currently is that the metrology panel has advised that the new directive is legally in force under the treaty obligation, but as there is no enforcement regulations in force Tsi will not be able to enforce. The guidance is that all markings should confirm with the new directive as that is the responsible approach to apply.

IT – if we meet the new regulations requirements we can't be wrong.

Changes at NMRO – has now been amalgamated with the BDRO and is now known as the Regulatory Directive

Question – Jeremy Sage, Stringer & Co

Can you clarify what you mean by the Regulation Directorate, is this a subset of the BDRO?

IT – BDRO has officially ceased to exist and NMRO has ceased to exist so we now have this new organisation called the Regulation Directorate

They are now official civil servants and the government position is that there will be no change in service.

Notified Bodies relating to the NMRO have also been amalgamated.

UKWF Code of Practice this has been updated and will now be endorsed by the Regulation Directorate. It will include a paragraph that states this Code is supported by government.

The challenge we have had for a number of years has been the medical weighing sector and the code has been updated for this sector. The price paid by the medical sector does not allow for a full calibration.

Question – John Swinburne – is that going to help our members who are involved in the medical weighing sector as our CoP is not the single point calibration

IT – we have divided medical weighing into categories and for example any instrument involved in paediatric medicine, dosage calculations (chemo etc) will need to have the same calibration as any normal instrument i.e. a 5 point calibration. Any other instrument used for a medical purpose and not falling into those categories can have 2 points of testing and max and min tests. If you want to use anything with the UKWF CoP logo on it, these are the minimum standards for medical weighing.

The intention behind this is to allow our member to use the code for medical weighing whilst recognising the demands of the medical industry. The test report would also state that these

machines have not been tested to the full code procedure.

We worked on the basis it was better to have a code and include medical weighing at a lower test standard than to have it outside the code altogether.

Question – David Weeks, Flintec UK Limited: What types of instrument would be used in the medical field that does not fall into one of the categories defined for the standard test.

IT – We spent a long time discussing where the assumption lies and when the intention is not to use it for diagnostic purposes ie weighing scales in doctors surgeries. The assumption will be that all medical equipment will be in these categories unless your customer, in conjunction with you, can justify a reason it is not.

Question – Jeremy Sage, Stringer & Co : the documentation is different because a certificate with the machine details and calibration results can only be issued if a full calibration has been done. If you do the lesser test you can only issue a simple pass or fail report.

IT – that is correct, you cannot issue a full certificate unless a full calibration has been completed

It was also noted that all instruments are assumed to be category A unless it is agreed with the customer that they do not require the full calibration procedure. The member must ensure that the justification for this decision is recorded. This allows the member company to stress to the customer the benefits of the full calibration and the risks associated with the lower level

Question – Lucy Poole Positive Weighing: would it not be easier to just do all the testing at the higher standard

IT – it would but the medical sector don't want it and won't pay for it. It is not economically viable to do a full test. This would exclude a number of members from membership. This is the compromise to allow these companies to remain members.

Question – Jim Cameron, Avery Weightronics : I remember this was discussed at a members meeting a couple of years ago and the members present voted not to introduce reduced testing. What has changed?

IT – We wanted to avoid having to exclude members as they could not follow the full code for medical weighing. The amount of money the hospitals are able to pay for the equipment calibration will not change. It would be for the member companies to decide

Question – David Weeks, Flintec UK Limited : is there a requirement for this pass fail test report to be kept

IT – yes documentation is required to be maintained.

Question – John Swinburne, Precia Molen : We have a code of practice that is fine for NAWI but in medical weighing this has never really been followed. But we are now setting out that this code is supported by the RD which adds credence to it. Is it an ideal situation? Probably not but it could be a talking point for our members to go out to the medical sector and say RD recommend full calibration and have a discussion on the benefits of this.

Question – Lucy Poole Positive Weighing : we seem to be lowering standard to comply with the fact the hospitals will not pay.

IT – I have written a document to hand out to hospitals to outline why they should go for the 5 point calibration. They need to understand the implications of going for the lower standard and talk to their insurers etc. But when they are only prepared to pay £5 per scale it is not viable to do a full calibration.

IT - We clearly need more feedback and to look at this situation again. The updated code is still in draft form.

John Swinburne Precia Molen – Question: We only have one other option which is to go back to the requirement for full calibration procedure and anything outside that would be outside CofP.

We then have the issue that all members have to comply with the code of practice for every calibration that is done or they cannot be members.

IT – This would affect about 40% of our members

Lobbying Parliament

IT advised TSI are keen to understand how they could use our engineers on the ground to get more market information. We will discuss this in more detail this afternoon.

4. Local authority weights and measures enforcement 2016 – how does it affect you?

David Templeton CTSI Lead Officer – Legal Metrology gave a presentation. A copy of the presentation can be found on the website.

John Swinburne Precia Molen commented – it is quite clear from some slides that some form of mandatory checking would help alleviate some of the discrepancies found. UKWF have been talking to RO to see how we could work in partnership to assist with the reduction of resources of TSO's and there are opportunities where we can help.

Question – given your experience in the field is the situation with standards in the EU any different to the UK?

DT – In Germany it is a federal system and is far better than the situation here. Many other European states are much better placed to tackle regulation of standards.

John Swinburne Precia Molen – government response to our lobbying issues seem to be that withdrawal of legislation is done on a risk assessment process. The risk assessment they use is the section 70 report. It is interesting to note that on the report 23% of medical devices are inaccurate and this is considered acceptable. The report says there are 8000 weighbridges in the UK and they tested 6.6% of them. I think there are more like 20000 so their sample is more like 2.7%. We are going to discuss helping with increasing these figures.

5. UKWF Lobbying update and discussion

IT gave a presentation to the members on the up to date position regarding our lobbying on deregulation. The presentation can be found on the website.

Discussion: There is a shortage of TS officers and inspectors. We began to discuss informally ways in which we could make use of UKWF engineers to help bridge this gap. What we have said that we need is better inspections and better inspectors and we need to continue to push for this when lobbying, we would like mandatory inspections etc. but if deregulation is the order of the day what are our alternatives.

Question – Lucy Poole, Positive Weighing: Our Engineers passing on information to our customers to Trading Standards, this would breach all confidentiality and be corporate suicide. How can we even consider this?

IT – That's what we need to discuss and see if the federation wants to take this forward. I will go through the proposals on this presentation and then you can comment.

Question – Lucy Poole, Positive Weighing: So the government (TS) would just get data and they would not know who it was about or where it was from?

IT – Yes it would come through a central point (possibly UKWF)

John Swinburne Precia Molen – you can just say this month we tested x, y were found to be inside the limits and z were re tested. This would allow more data for the section 70 report. This is to get feedback into government to get them to see there is a need for inspection and periodic

reverification. We are trying to create credibility as an organisation with TS.

We are not going to do this for free. We could advise we can do the same as Trading standards but at a lesser fee.

Jeremy – it may be like an MOT whereby the government regulate certain people to re-verify and UKWF could be one such organisation, then TSO's could concentrate on customers that do not get verified by UKWF Members.

David Templeton CTSI Lead Officer: Using risk for making decisions TSO already use this and where they know someone has a robust process then they are less likely to get TSO inspection as the risk is lower.

The number of competent LM trained TSO's are very low.

6. **Discussion Groups – UKWF Apprentices schemes**

Blue Group Discussion Points

IT summarized the discussions:

Recognise the need to attract more people into the Legal Metrology Field and apprenticeships would be good.

Need 3 modules – electrical , technical & IT, LM and Weighing Technology.

The IT, Electrical & Mechanical parts being done at college and LM and weighing would be a week long course run by UKWF.

The rest of the work would be done in situ filling in log book and this would be signed off as required.

Red group Discussion Points

Weighing Engineer apprenticeship would be a good one to offer as it would encourage more people into the business and we could retain the skills.

It would be advantageous for this to be recognized by an external body such as City & Guilds or NVQ's

They would get qualified by 80% coursework with a framework of modules ticked off and to present that at a residential course to get signed off.

Course would be aimed at younger people such as school leavers or college leavers but with the option for mature people to retrain if they already had some sort of engineer qualification.

IT thanked everyone for their feedback and would go to the next trailblazers meeting and then report back at the next UKWF meeting.

7. **Any Other Business**

JAS asked whether there was any other business or queries from the membership.

Meeting Ends

JAS thanked everyone for attending and for their input, and said he looks forward to seeing everyone at the AGM in York on Thursday 20th October 2016.