

## **Potential Changes in requirements for electromagnetic immunity**

It is felt that manufacturers and importers should be made aware of a potential problem that may develop with regard to instruments produced in accordance with a type approval certificate that has been granted on the basis of application of the European Harmonised Standard EN45501.

This relates to the immunity that a weighing instrument must show in relation electromagnetic radiation.

The international recommendation that applies to non-automatic weighing instruments (OIML R76:2006) specifies a severity level of 10 V/m for radiated electromagnetic immunity. This is specified in Annex B.3.5

The present version of the European Harmonised Standard EN45501 (1992 with an addendum from 1993) specifies a severity level of 3 V/m. This is specified in paragraph Annex B.3.4 of the standard.

The revised version of EN45501 is due to be published and the revised version will mirror the international recommendation (OIML R76:2006) and require 10V/m as the requisite severity level for electromagnetic immunity.

However, due to the timescales associated with revising EN45501 to bring it into line with OIML R76:2006, it appears likely that the European Commission will issue a note in the Official Journal of the European Union (The OJ) in the next three months. This note will state that an instrument, which has been tested with an electromagnetic immunity to 3 V/m, will not meet the essential requirements of the Directive 2009/23/EC, and as such it would be illegal to place it on the market. It appears that they are going to state that all instruments placed on the market must meet the immunity requirement of 10 V/m, and perhaps most importantly there will be no transition period with regard to this.

A number of matters remain unclear at this moment:

1. How will this affect instruments that are already in the market place?

It is assumed that such instruments will be considered to have been in compliance with the existing requirements when they were subject to a verification procedure and as such will not be considered to be in contravention of the "altered" legislation

2. How will this affect instruments that are presently under manufacture, and will be manufactured, in accordance with an existing type approval document?

It is not clear if a manufacturer or importer can continue to place these instruments on the market even if they comply with an existing type approval certificate.

The UKWF is making its view known to the NMO and the Commission via CECIP (The European Manufacturers Association) that it is unhappy with the potential absence of a transition period with regard to this matter and would wish to see manufacturers and importers being able to use existing type approval certificates until they expire.

We must accept that there will be a change to the requirements for the level of electromagnetic immunity and recommend that all new type approvals (and renewals/revisions to existing type approvals) should be tested with field strength of 10 V/m.

Whilst this matter is being resolved it is recommended that you consider identifying which instruments you supply which may not meet the proposed field strength of 10 V/m.

If you would like to discuss this matter further please do not hesitate to contact me.

**Ian Turner**  
**Technical Officer**