



WEIGHLOG

The Newsletter of the UK Weighing Federation
August 2013



Editorial

Welcome to this late summer edition of Weighlog. At the time of reading this newsletter, final preparations are underway for our Annual General Meeting and Regional Meeting which is being held on 10th October at the National Railway Museum in York. (Further details on this event are given below).

This is a very important time for our industry and I would encourage you to attend the meeting and hear at first-hand about the issues that will affect your business and what action we can all take to ensure we operate and compete on a level playing field. We will also be very pleased to listen to your views.

While in general, 2013 has continued to be a very challenging year, it was pleasing to note from feedback during our April meeting that throughout these on-going difficult trading times, the weighing industry seems to be more resilient and performing better than many other industries.

Our industry continues to be under threat, particularly from some imported instruments from the Far East that are not manufactured to the same exacting standards and consequently do not comply with current EU regulations. It is therefore essential that we continue to lobby as vigorously as possible, both in the UK and Europe to encourage government(s) and the appropriate authorities to ensure there is a credible inspection and enforcement regime to identify these non-compliant instruments and remove them from the market.

The CECIP General Assembly was held in Rotterdam on 2nd -4th May and was well represented by the UKWF. Market Surveillance is recognised as a key issue throughout Europe and special provisions have been taken to improve our activity in this area and press the EU for greater action. I am pleased to advise that on 11th & 12th September we are hosting the WELMEC (Western European Legal Metrology Cooperation) Working Group 5 meeting in Birmingham. WG5 is the committee responsible for Market Surveillance activities. This is yet another opportunity to bring to this committee's attention the concerns of the UKWF and its members with regard to this important topic. Further details will be given at the next Regional Meeting in October.

On the UK front, your board have continued to take every opportunity to lobby government departments and authorities on your behalf. This has resulted in some identifiable successes. Our questioning over the validity of existing Type Approval Certificates once the new EN45501 Standard comes into force and the proposed removal of the mandatory Metrology examination for Trading Standards Inspectors are examples of this and I am sure Ian Turner our Technical Officer will provide further details during his report at October's Meeting. I regret to advise that we have been less successful on other topics, but we continue to lobby and discuss these issues in the belief that attitudes will eventually change.

The UKWF continues to be well represented within CECIP having seats in both the Business & Trade Group and the Legal Metrology Group. May I take this opportunity to thank all the members of the board for their continued commitment and support.

I look forward to welcoming you all at the AGM & Regional Meeting,

*John Swinburne,
President*

Technical Updates

[HSE Advice on portable electrical equipment testing](#)

The most recent advice on PAT testing has recently come to my attention.

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg236.pdf>

This is a useful document as it makes it quite clear that it is not necessary to have all portable equipment tested annually. The table on page 5 gives an indication of the time period between checks that should be carried out on portable equipment.

[Section 70 Returns](#)

The 2011-2012 S70 returns must be made by all Trading Standards Departments to the NMO and relate to the work they have carried out under the Weights and Measures Act. This information is then collated into an annual report by the NMO which is used to improve the awareness of local authorities work in the future.

[Section 70 Returns: Annual Report 2011/2012](#)

It is good to see that 95% of authorities submitted results and the NMO have done some useful analysis with this data. They have discovered that weighing instruments greater than 30kg, including weighbridges and bulk fuel measuring instruments, are the areas with the greatest problems.

It is also good to note that the NMO recognise that the shortage of trained officers is one of the major challenges for the future. Without good enforcement the market place becomes un-regulated and legitimate traders suffer.

The other interesting point to note is that the report begins the process of trying to assign an accurate monetary figure on the consumer detriment caused by inaccurate weighing and measuring equipment. Whilst applauding this objective, we must encourage them to discover a similar value to the detriment caused to businesses by the very low levels of enforcement the report reveals.

[Changes to the Directives](#)

There have been administrative changes to both the NAWI and the MI Directive. These will have no direct bearing on the day-to-day operation of UKWF members.

Articles 14 of the MID and 7 of the NAWI Directive have been removed. These relate to the procedures that would need to be followed if a member state believes a harmonised standard does not meet the essential requirements. The procedures can now be found in another EU Regulation 1025/ 2012.

[Consolidated CoP- Enforcement Weighing of Vehicles](#)

It is worth remembering that this Code is still in force and any official bodies that take actions for overloaded vehicles must be mindful of the code.

Point 3.1.1 of Section 3 states that the instrument must have been tested within the preceding six months of when it was used. This is confirmed in point 2.1 of Annex 2.1 that states that any weighbridge that is used for the enforcement weighing of vehicles must be tested at 6 monthly intervals when the machine is in use.

Although this is only a code of practice and not a legal requirement, if you have customers who have instruments that are being used for the enforcement weighing of vehicles it may be worth bringing the code to their attention.

A copy of the Code is available here - [Consolidated Code of Practice- Enforcement Weighing of Vehicles](#).

[The Issue of Manufacturer](#)

I have received the following document relating to questions raised in the European Parliament on the issue of manufacturers.

[Definition of the term "Manufacturer"](#)

Although I am sure that this is not the last word on this issue, it is very positive and a great indication of what can be achieved.

[The Product Safety and Market Surveillance Package](#)

The EU Commission has recently issued the product safety and market surveillance package. More information can be seen on the following link. It is a positive attempt to raise the profile and significance of Market Surveillance and we should support this procedure.

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/policies/single-market-goods/internal-market-for-products/market-surveillance/index_en.htm

[Revised Blue Guide](#)

The 1st draft of the revised Blue Guide has been issued. [Revised Blue Guide, draft 1](#)

It reflects the attempt to ensure that the guide reflects the changes brought about by the development of the New Legislative Framework. To date, it appears to be a beneficial development and a much needed modernisation of the existing guide.

There is a good opportunity to broaden out the issue of "manufacturer" from the weighing sector to all other sectors covered by the Blue Guide and this is presently being pursued by CECIP. It has been noted that the guide needs further clarification on "intended misuse" of weighing and measuring equipment and the advice it offers with regard to repairs and alterations. If you have any comments on this please let Ian know.

[EN45501 - Existing Type Approvals at 3v/m](#)

When the existing EN45501 ends there was a lot of discussion as to whether the existing type approval document could continue to be used until the type approval naturally expires.

[Response Letter from Mr Ingels, May 2013](#)

The above letter from the Commission of the European Union makes it clear that you will be able to use existing type approvals until they expire. This is good news and reflects hard work done by the members of the UKWF in lobbying to their MEP's.

It must be remembered that after the existing standard has expired, if you continue to place instruments on the market tested to 3v, the Declaration of Conformity must be made to the essential requirements of the Directive 2009/23/EC, not to the standard.

This will avoid you claiming compliance to the 10v immunity level which will be in the new standard.

The best estimate of when the existing EN45501 will expire is the second quarter of 2016. It is advised that all new type approvals should, where possible, meet the 10v immunity requirements by this date.

[Consumer Rights](#)

After approximately 1 year, the response to the consultation has been published along with the draft bill. It was excellent to see the following in the response:

"To retain the existing statutory weights and measures qualification and to support the development of a non-statutory competency Code of Practice by the Trading Standards Community and Local Authorities. The Government proposes to retain the existing statutory position without the need for further regulation. It would also provide an opportunity for a new non-statutory Code of Practice building on the existing Trading Standards Institute (TSi) & Better Regulation Delivery Office (BRDO) qualification and competency frameworks which would give business and consumers assurance of officers' competency".

It was good to see the Government listening to the concerns of both the UKWF and the Trading Standards Community, especially after the concerns raised by the Weighing Federation at the diminution of the competence of Inspectors. It was felt that the removal of the exam would only increase this decline.

CE Marking

It has recently become apparent that many non-automatic weighing instruments have been placed on the market or brought into service without the appropriate marks being applied. Both the NAWI Directive 2009/23/EC and the Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments Regulations 2000 (as amended) make an obligation for all instruments to bear the last two digits of the year in which the CE mark was affixed. The last two digits should apply to the CE mark in relation to the NAWI Directive rather than other relevant directives.

These marks must be clearly visible, easily legible and indelible. There is no obligation that they must be printed so as long as you can meet the requirement of clearly visible, easily legible and indelible any method of application will be appropriate. This should allow you to use remaining stocks of stickers.

It is the advice of the UKWF that you should apply the last two digits of the year in which the CE mark was affixed on any new instruments you are placing on the market.

*Ian Turner,
Technical Officer*

If you would like to discuss any of these Technical Updates, please contact our Technical Officer, Ian Turner.

UKWF Annual General Meeting

We are pleased to advise that this year's AGM will take place at the **National Railway Museum** in York, on **10th October**.

The meeting will commence at 2.00pm with the formal AGM, and shall be followed by an action packed line up of presenters. Of course, Ian Turner will provide his Technical Updates; Chris Smith from the NMO will give an update on the RoHS2 Directive and how it will effect your business; Mark Chapman will provide an insightful overview of how to improve your Search Engine Optimisation; and we will also be joined by Bob Gwynne, Assistant Curator at the Museum who will present on the return of the Mallard.



Following the meeting, it will then be a quick change at the **Royal York Hotel**, ready for dinner which has been organised to give you the opportunity to chat and interact with other members and your peers. We will be joined by Peter McGovern, our after dinner speaker, who is sure to keep us entertained with his stories.

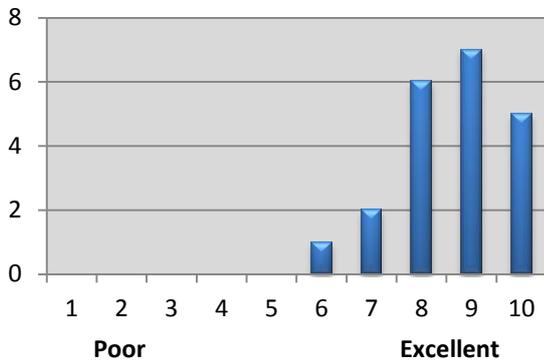
Further information and a booking form will be issued to all members shortly.

Be sure to book your place early by returning the booking form to Martina Farragher.

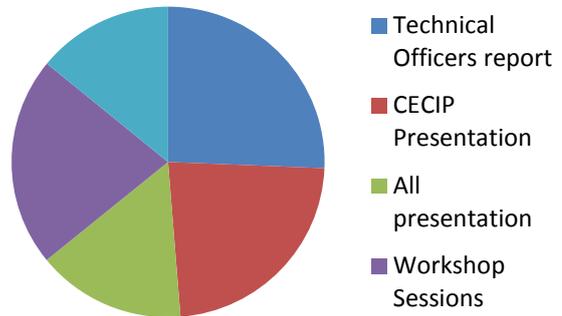
UKWF Regional Meeting, April 2013

The first Regional Meeting of 2013 was held Lotus F1 in Enstone, Oxfordshire on 11th April. It has become our standard practice to ask members to complete an evaluation form. Some of the results are shown below:

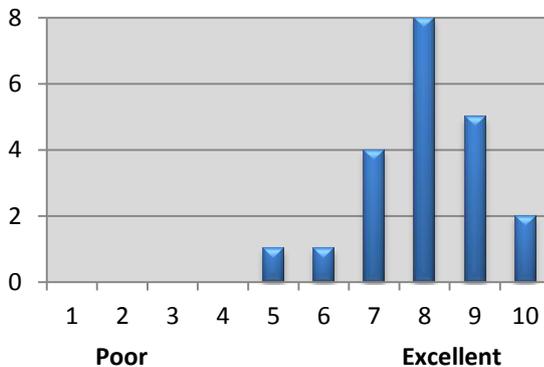
Q1. Please rate Lotus F1 as a venue.



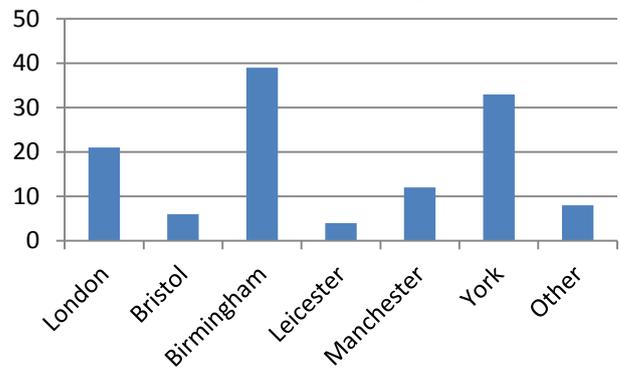
Q10. What did you find most useful/interesting?



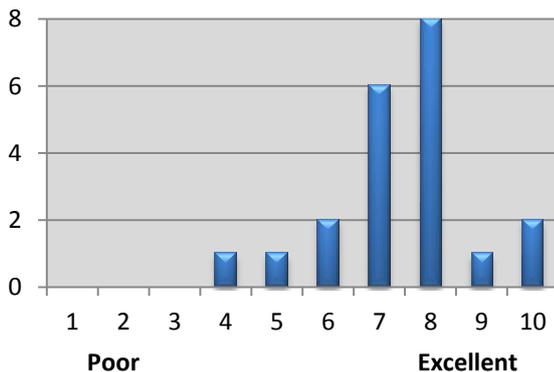
Q4. How beneficial did you find the Technical Officer's Report?



We have also compiled results from the last five meetings. To the question, 'please indicate your preferred location, overall the response was:



Q6. How beneficial did you find the workshop sessions?



Based on these results, we shall continue with the rotation of meeting venues in London/South, Birmingham/Midlands and York/North.

Lotus 'Batak' Competition

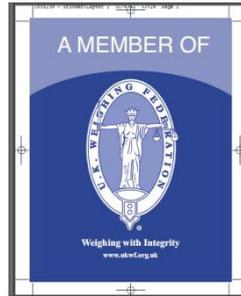
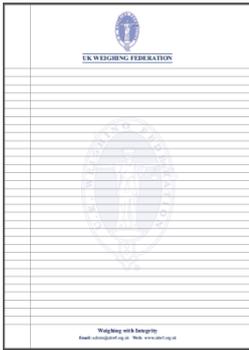
After the Meeting, there was an opportunity for members to test their driving skills on the F1 Simulator, and go up against the 'Batak' reaction test machine. The 'Batak' points were recorded and we can now reveal the winners are...

1st place Adrian Bone, with 41 points
2nd place Graham Spink, with 40 points
3rd place Darren Fisher & Les Rowe, each with 32 points

Well done Adrian!



UKWF Notepads & Stickers



As you will be aware we produced a number of UKWF branded A4 notepads and window stickers. Notepads are available to purchase by simply completing an order form - [order form](#). Notepads will cost just £2.50 each, plus VAT plus discounts are given to any orders of 20 or more.

Window stickers cost less than £1 each and can be used on windows and doors of offices and vehicles.

'Green M' Labels

Don't forget, you can still purchase 'Green M' Labels from the Federation.

We have secured a number of labels for our members to purchase directly from us, giving you the option of being able to source small quantities at affordable rates. Each label costs just twelve pence each plus VAT.

To order labels, please complete for an order form or visit our website [UKWF - Green M Labels](#) for more information.



Training

There are currently no further dates scheduled for any internal training. However, if you are interested in any course, please advise the secretariat. As soon as there is a high demand, we will be more than happy to organise training.

Courses can offer are:

- ATEX Training
- Self-Verification Training
- Calibration Code of Practice
- Compatibility of Modules



The Wonderful Land of Oz!

Some of you may know Martina - she looks after our members as the Secretariat. Well, Martina wants to do some travelling and has decided she's off to the sunny climate of Australia for the winter months.

Martina will be visiting all the places we've only dreamed of - the Great Barrier Reef, Uluru (Ayers Rock), Sydney as well as Tangalooma Island where she'll be swimming with wild dolphins - but she will be returning home after six months.



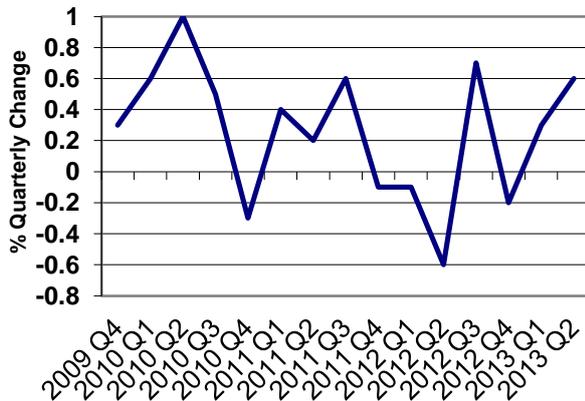
Martina is leaving mid October and will be showing Nicola Adams-Brown the ropes - who joins us on 2 September - ensuring a smooth and seamless hand-over.

You will get the opportunity to meet Nicola at the next AGM & Regional Meeting in October, and to say farewell to Martina; but in the meantime, I am sure you will join me in welcoming Nicola - we hope you enjoy working for the Federation - and wishing Martina 'Bon Voyage'!

Economic Update

(Source: <http://www.statistics.gov.uk>)

GDP

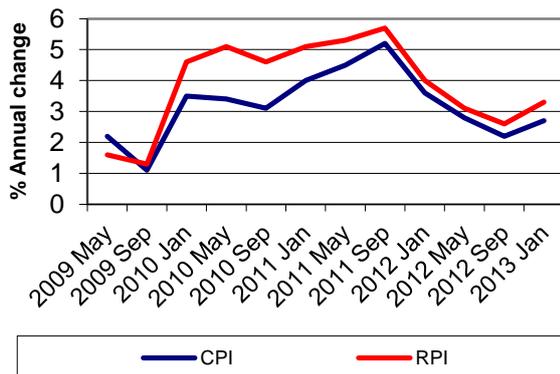


(GDPQ: ESA95 % change on previous period: Gross value added at basic prices)

- Gross domestic product (GDP) increased by 0.6% in Q2 2013 compared with Q1 2013.

- All four main industrial groupings within the economy (agriculture, production, construction and services) increased in Q2 2013 compared with Q1 2013.
- The largest contribution to Q2 2013 GDP growth came from services; these industries increased by 0.6% contributing 0.48 percentage points to the 0.6% increase in GDP.
- There was also an upward contribution (0.08 percentage points) from production; these industries rose by 0.6%, with manufacturing increasing by 0.4% following negative growth of 0.2% in Q1 2013.
- GDP was 1.4% higher in Q2 2013 compared with the same quarter a year ago. Q2 2012 contained an extra bank holiday for the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. Users should therefore show caution when interpreting the quarter on same quarter a year ago growth in Q2 2013.

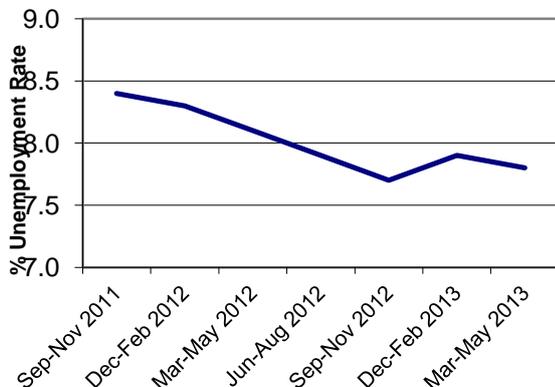
Inflation



(D7G7: CPI Annual rate all items & CDKQ: RPI Annual rate exc. Mortgage interest)

- The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) grew by 2.9% in the year to June 2013, up from 2.7% in May.
- The largest upward contributions to the change in the rate came from motor fuels and clothing & footwear.
- The largest downward contribution came from air transport.
- The inflation rate is slightly above the figures seen over the previous 12 months but below the levels reached between the start of 2010 and spring 2012.
- The Retail Prices Index (RPI) annual inflation stands at 3.1% at May 2013.

Unemployment

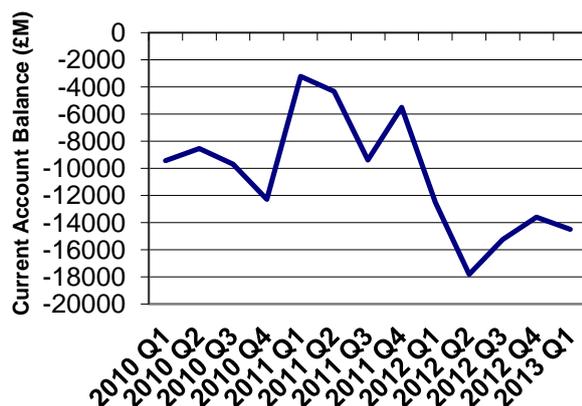


(MGSX: Unemployment rate: UK: All: Aged 16 and over)

- The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for March to May 2013 was 71.4%, down 0.1 percentage points from December 2012 to February 2013. There were 29.71 million people in employment aged 16 and

- over, up 16,000 from December 2012 to February 2013.
- The unemployment rate for March to May 2013 was 7.8% of the economically active population, down 0.2 percentage points from December 2012 to February 2013. There were 2.51 million unemployed people, down 57,000 from December 2012 to February 2013.
- The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for March to May 2013 was 22.5%, up 0.2 percentage points from December 2012 to February 2013. There were 9.04 million economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64, up 87,000 from December 2012 to February 2013.
- Between March to May 2012 and March to May 2013 total pay rose by 1.7% and regular pay rose by 1.0%.

Balance of Payments



(HBOP: Current Account Balance)

- The United Kingdom's (UK) current account deficit was £14.5 billion in Quarter 1 2013, up from a revised deficit of £13.6 billion in the previous quarter. The deficit in Quarter 1 2013 equated to 3.6% of GDP at current market prices, up from 3.5% in the previous quarter.
- The trade deficit narrowed to £6.1 billion in Quarter 1 2013, from £8.3 billion in the previous quarter.
- The income balance switched to a deficit of £2.1 billion, from a surplus of £1.0 billion in Quarter 4 2012.
- The financial account recorded net inward investment of £10.2 billion during Quarter 1 2013.
- The international investment position recorded UK net assets of £5.7 billion at the end of Quarter 1 2013.
- In 2012, the UK's current account deficit was £59.2 billion.

Forthcoming Meetings

Please note the following dates for your diary:

2013 Dates:

AGM & Regional Meetings

10th October 2013 AGM & Regional Meeting

Other Meetings:

10th October 2013 Board Meeting (prior to AGM/Regional Meeting), Venue TBC

17th October 2013 JCC Meeting, NMO Offices, Teddington

2nd December 2013 French Metrology Law Training, NMO Offices, Teddington

12th December 2013 Board Meeting, East India Club, London

2014 Dates:

AGM & Regional Meetings

24th April 2014 Regional Meeting

2nd October 2014 AGM & Regional Meeting

Other Meetings:

27th February 2014 Board Meeting, East India Club, London

24th April 2014 Board Meeting (prior to Regional Meeting), Venue TBC

10th July 2014 Board Meeting, East India Club, London

2nd October 2014 Board Meeting (prior to AGM/Regional Meeting), Venue TBC

11th December 2014 Board Meeting, East India Club, London

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Your details

Do we have your correct details or is there anyone else within your organisation who should receive information from the Federation directly? To update your details or add anyone to our database, please advise the Secretariat.

