



WEIGHLOG

The Newsletter of the UK Weighing Federation
February 2014



Editorial

Welcome to the first edition of Weighlog for 2014. I hope the winter storms (and floods) are behind us and we can look forward more positively to the year ahead. Final preparations are underway for our Regional Meeting which is being held on 3rd April at The Birmingham Botanical Gardens and I look forward to seeing you all there. (Further details on this event are given below).

The UK economy continues its slow recovery, latest government statistics show a year on year increase in GDP in terms of volume of 0.7%, inflation (CPR) is currently 2.0% and unemployment has fallen over the year to its current level of 7.1%, all good signs that confidence is returning to industry, I hope that the same industry confidence is being reflected in your business activities and your order books.

The AGM in October marked the end of my first year as your President – where have the months gone..... it was a busy, but in many ways a frustrating year. Old chestnuts such as EN45501, definition of manufacturer, re-verification following repair, control of software and even market surveillance remain on the agenda, and although progress has been made on these and other relevant topics, at times the result and or progress made does not match the effort applied.

At the April meeting we brought to your attention the government's proposal to remove the mandatory "Metrology Certificate" from a Trading Standards Officer's Qualification and replace it with the more "General" examination. The Federation argued that this represented a further dilution of "Expertise" within the service. I am pleased to advise that we have been successful and that the Metrology Certificate will remain.

The control and/or removal of non-compliant instruments from our market place is a key priority for our industry. Throughout 2013 we continued to lobby and press our case for the need for effective market surveillance. We held meetings with Malcolm Harbour, MEP and the Chair of the Single Market Committee and other civil servants in this regard. In September we were host to the Welmec WG5 meeting. WG5 is concerned with market surveillance. This was the first meeting hosted by a Weighing Association, it attracted 35 delegates from countries throughout Europe and provided us with the opportunity to address the meeting and set out at first hand the importance our industry places on their activity.

As you are aware, the UKWF is an active member of CECIP and Market Surveillance is also recognised as a priority throughout Europe. It has been agreed to increase the funding of CECIP by all the member associations to enable even greater focus and activity in this area. More details will follow.

I look forward to welcoming you all at the Regional Meeting in April.

*John Swinburne,
President*

Technical Updates

NMO - Trading Standards Project for 2014

After recent consultations, the NMO and the Trading Standards Community are planning to undertake a project looking at the compliance of weighing instruments used in Pharmacies, Doctors Surgeries, Health Centres and Mobile Health Visitors.

[Invitation to LAS Training Project](#)

This will bring the members that have contracts calibrating scales in these premises under closer than normal scrutiny from the Trading Standards Authorities and we should ensure that we are meeting all of our obligations, both with regard to the legal obligations and the UKWF Code of Practice

This is a difficult area of work as the downward pressure on prices continues. I would encourage all members who are active in this sector to attend the meeting on the 6th February at the Weighing Federation Offices in Birmingham to discuss the problems that we face.

National Measurement Office Newsletter December 2013

The latest news letter from the National Measurement Office.

[National Measurement Newsletter - December 2013](#)

NMO Section 70 Returns Published

The annual report regarding the S70 returns was published in November 2013. These are the returns that every local weights and measures authority must complete regarding the work they have done in the previous year.

[Section 70 Annual Report 2012-2013](#)

It is interesting to note that weighing instruments above 30kg represent two of the three highest risk categories of weighing and measuring equipment for potential non-compliance. It is interesting to contemplate how the risk of non-compliance will be reduced when the new draft Consumer Rights Bill will require inspectors to give two days' notice before they carry out any inspections of this type of equipment.

The report draws attention to the rapid decline in the number of practicing and newly qualified inspectors. The NMO now estimates that there are 298 full time equivalent inspectors working in the enforcement of weights and measures, a reduction in 205 from the previous year. Perhaps more concerning is the number of candidates sitting the examination for Inspector of Weights and Measures.

EU-US Trade Talks

We were approached about completing the attached survey regarding the cost of gaining approvals in the US.

https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/compliance_costs

This is part of a larger project in attempting to reduce the technical barriers to trade between the EU and the US. If we were successful in this it would bring benefits to businesses both exporting to, and importing from the US. If you could find time to complete the survey, or would like me to complete it on your behalf please let me know.

New Version of R106 Published

This is the new version of the normative document on automatic rail weigh-bridges which can be found on the OIML website.

http://www.oiml.org/en/@_@search?SearchableText=r106

This will be the relevant document that gives a presumption of conformity to the essential requirements of the Measuring Instruments Directive.

Changes to Weights and Measures Law with regard to Cosmetics

The schedule in the Weights and Measures Act that relates to cosmetic products has gone and is now covered by The Cosmetic Products Enforcement Regulations 2013. These regulations require cosmetic products to meet the requirements of Article 19 of the EU Cosmetic Products Regulations. A link to these regulations can be found at:

<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2009:342:0059:0209:EN:PDF>

Changes to chapters 41 and 1251 of the United States Pharmacopeia

Chapters 41 and 1251 have been altered and will become obligatory for pharmaceutical applications in the USA. Chapter 41 relates to balances and chapter 1251 relates to the weighing on analytical balances.

I have discovered some links that appear to throw some light on this issue. If you would like more information on this please do not hesitate to give me a call. The first link outlines the changes and the second link is a useful video that explains the changes:

<http://bradysystems.com/revised-usp-chapters-41-1251/>

http://uk.mt.com/gb/en/home/campaigns/product-organizations/labtec/marketing/usp/movie_tutorial.html

NEW DRAFT OF THE BLUE GUIDE

The Blue Guide is the document which outlines the operation of the new approach directives that we work under and is a very important text for all stakeholders. This draft is probably the last one before it is published. It appears to be a well thought out document and an improvement on the previous one.

[Blue Guide Draft](#)

The chapters that are important for us to look at are:

Chapters 1 and 3 which outline the new requirements for the New Legislative Framework and how it will affect all of the stakeholders in the supply chain.

Chapter 5 outlines the requirements of notified bodies.

Chapter 7 outlines the procedures relating to safe-guard clauses. I think we may have to become a little more familiar with these procedures as some member states appear very enthusiastic about these processes.

Guide on Directive 75/107/EEC Measuring Container Bottles (WELMEC 6.12)

There is new guidance on Measuring Container Bottles.

[Measuring Container Bottles](#)

This is a useful document if you are involved in supplying equipment to any customers that use Measuring Container Bottles.

NMO Market Surveillance Report 2012-13

The NMO issued the market surveillance report on a range of instruments.

Market Surveillance Report 2012-2013

One of the areas that they considered was Class III Non-automatic weighing instruments. Three shop scales were bought and subject to type approval testing. All three passed the type approval testing.

There were concerns relating to a lack of understanding with regard to Declarations of Conformity and the absence of the last two digits of the year in which the CE mark was applied. The recommendations of the report with regard to NAWI's were:

- Declarations of Conformity should be complete and accurate and cover each specific measuring system. All involved parties in the supply and use of instruments should have ready access to this documentation and be aware of its significance.
- Declarations of Conformity should include compliance with all pertinent Directives.

With regard to the application of the last two digits of the year in which the CE mark was applied, I would draw your attention to the advice offered on the 30th July.

*Ian Turner,
Technical Officer*

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

UKWF Regional Meeting April 2014

We are pleased to announce that the next Regional Meeting will be taking place at **The Birmingham Botanical Gardens**, on **Thursday 3 April 2014**.

The meeting will commence at 11.30am but allow yourself ample time to meander through the tropical glasshouses which make up your route to our designated room. There will be a presentation by Ian Turner who will provide his Technical Update and further information on the rest of the day's events will follow shortly.



Your day at this beautiful venue will include entry to the Gardens themselves, together with a buffet lunch overlooking the stunning Japanese Gardens.

We hope you will be able to join us at this tropical haven in the heart of England.

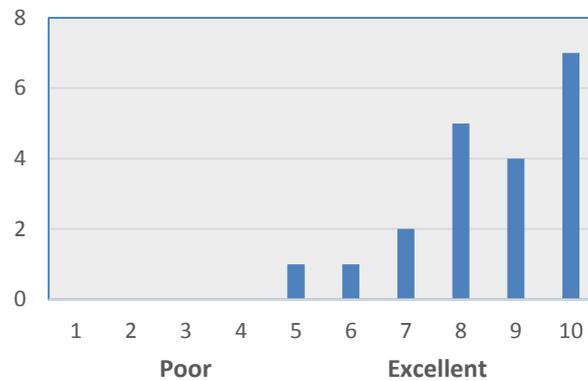
Further information and a booking form will be issued to members shortly.

Be sure to book your place early by returning the booking form to Nicola Adams-Brown.

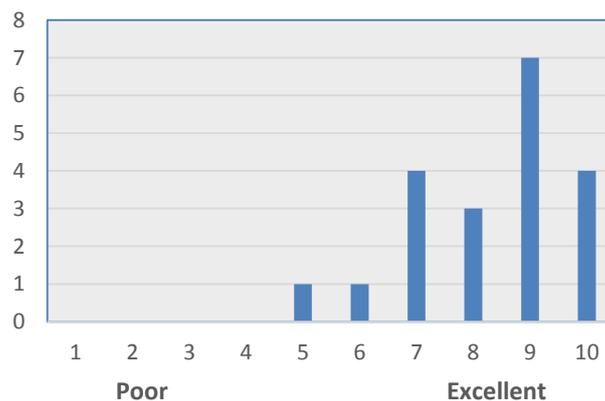
UKWF Regional Meeting, October 2013

The October Regional Meeting was held at the National Railway Museum in York on 17th October. It has become our standard practice to ask members to complete an evaluation form. Some of the results are shown below:

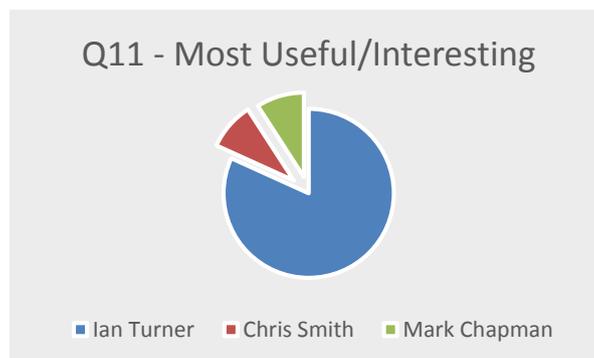
Q1. Please rate the National Railway Museum as a venue.



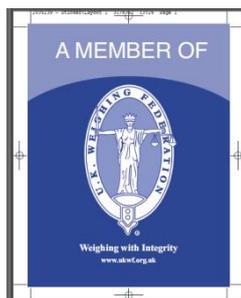
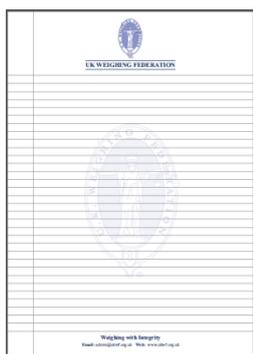
Q4. How beneficial did you find the Technical Officer's Report?



Q11. What did you find most useful/interesting?



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.

Additional 2014 Membership window stickers are available to members on request.

'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

New for 2014 is the UK Weighing Federations training schedule. The following courses are schedule to take place during the year:

- EN45501 - 19 March 2014 - The Hat Factory, Luton
[EN45501 Booking Form](#)
- ATEX Training - 13 May 2014 - Bordesley Hall, Worcestershire
[ATEX Booking Form](#)
- Self-Verification - 19 June 2014 - Federation House, Birmingham
[Self-Verification Booking Form](#)
- Introduction to Weights and Measures - 30 September 2014 - Federation House, Birmingham
[Introduction to Weights and Measures Booking Form](#)
- NAWI Training - 6 November 2014 - Federation House, Birmingham
[NAWI Training Booking Form](#)

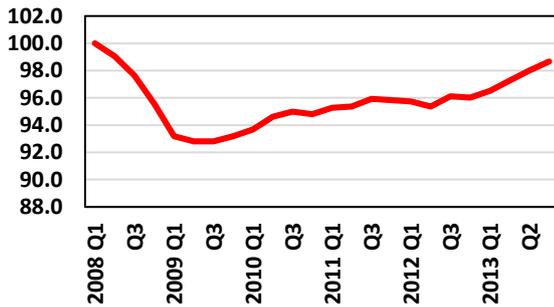


Please book early to avoid disappointment. Full details of each course can be found on the UK Weighing Federation website.

Economic Update

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

GDP



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

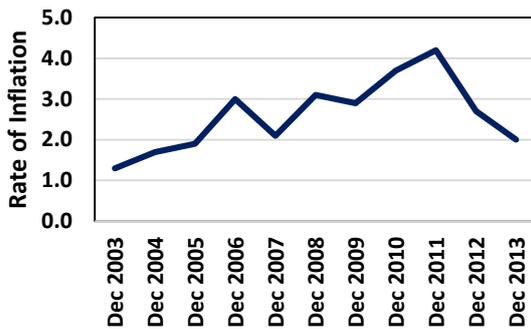
- Change in gross domestic product (GDP) is the main indicator of economic growth. GDP increased by 0.7% in Q4 2013 compared with Q3 2013.

• Output increased in three of the four main industrial groupings within the economy in Q4

2013 compared with Q3 2013. Output increased by 0.5% in agriculture, 0.7% in production and 0.8% in services. However, output decreased by 0.3% in construction.

- In Q4 2013 GDP was estimated to be 1.3% below the peak in Q1 2008. From peak to trough in 2009, the economy shrank by 7.2%.
- GDP was 2.8% higher in Q4 2013 compared with the same quarter a year ago. GDP is estimated to have increased by 1.9% in 2013, compared with 2012.
- The preliminary estimate of GDP is produced using the output approach to measuring GDP. At this stage, data content is less than half of the total required for the final output estimate. The estimate is subject to revision as more data become available, but these are typically small between the preliminary and third estimates of GDP. All figures in this release are seasonally adjusted.

Inflation

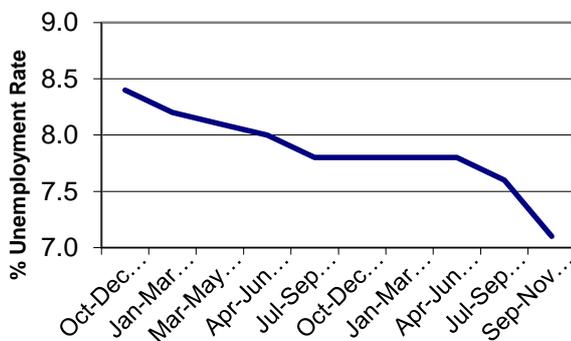


(D7G7: CPI Annual rate all items & CDKQ: RPI Annual rate exc. Mortgage interest)

- The Consumer Prices Index (CPI) grew by 2.0% in the year to December 2013, down from 2.1% in November.

- The largest contributions to the fall in the rate came from prices for food & non-alcoholic beverages and recreational goods & services. These were partially offset by an upward contribution from motor fuels.
- The overall price increase for gas and electricity in December 2013 was slightly larger than the rises a year earlier resulting in a small upward contribution to inflation.
- CPIH grew by 1.9% in the year to December 2013, unchanged from November. RPIJ grew by 2.0%, also unchanged from November.

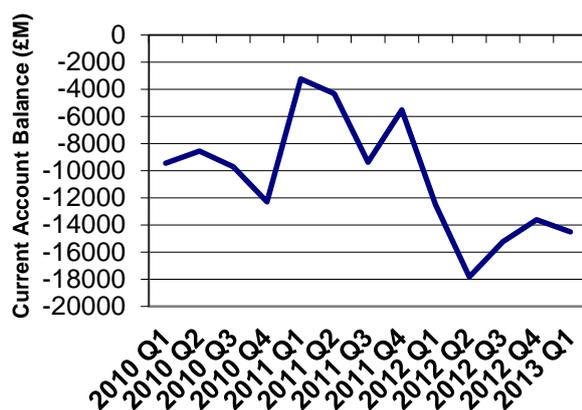
Unemployment



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

- The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for August to October 2013 was 72.0%, up 0.4 percentage points from May to July 2013. There were 30.09 million people in employment aged 16 and over, up 250,000 from May to July 2013.
- The unemployment rate for August to October 2013 was 7.4% of the economically active population, down 0.3 percentage points from May to July 2013. There were 2.39 million unemployed people, down 99,000 from May to July 2013.
- The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 for August to October 2013 was 22.1%, down 0

Balance of Payments



(HBOP: Current Account Balance)

- The United Kingdom's (UK) current account deficit was £20.7 billion in Quarter 3 2013, up from a revised deficit of £6.2 billion in Quarter 2 2013. The deficit in Quarter 3 2013 equated to 5.1% of GDP at current market prices, up from 1.5% in Quarter 2 2013.
- The trade deficit widened to £10.0 billion in Quarter 3 2013, from £5.0 billion in Quarter 2 2013.
- The income balance switched to a deficit of £3.7 billion in Quarter 3 2013, from a surplus of £6.0 billion in Quarter 2 2013.
- The financial account recorded net inward investment of £30.0 billion during Quarter 3 2013.
- The international investment position recorded UK net assets of £97.6 billion at the end of Quarter 3 2013

Forthcoming Meetings

Please note the following dates for your diary:

2014 Dates:

AGM & Regional Meetings

- | | |
|------------------------------|---|
| 3 rd April 2014 | Regional Meeting - Birmingham Botanical Gardens |
| 2 nd October 2014 | AGM & Regional Meeting |

Other Meetings:

- | | |
|--------------------------------|---|
| 27 th February 2014 | Board Meeting, East India Club, London |
| 24 th April 2014 | Board Meeting (prior to Regional Meeting), Birmingham Botanical Gardens |
| 10 th July 2014 | Board Meeting, East India Club, London |
| 2 nd October 2014 | Board Meeting (prior to AGM/Regional Meeting), Venue TBC |
| 11 th 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.

