



WEIGHLOG



The Newsletter of the UK Weighing Federation
June 2012

Editorial

In the last edition, I spoke about the difficult times both Federation members and the weighing industry in general were experiencing and we all hoped for a brighter future.

The economic outlook is still pretty flat and is not helped by the general lack of confidence business has with a government that lacks strong leadership and direction. The consequent results are that capital expenditure is difficult to get, as large companies are sitting tight on the money and despite low interest rates it is difficult for business to get loans or funding.

Also, with the EU, our biggest export partner, continuing to suffer will their slowdown allow China to become even more aggressive in their export markets that include the EU with the knock on affect on us in the UK?

The ongoing political trends that affect our industry specifically are:

- Continued reduction in public spending
- Ongoing general desire to reduce regulation, the danger being that weighing loses visibility in the eyes of the consumer and users alike.
- Continued lack of support and funding for UK manufacturing industries, who are traditionally big users of weighing solutions.
- The ongoing lobbying and influence for de-regulation from strong groups like the supermarkets.

The resultant affect on our industry can be seen in the current trends that prevail in the market place:

- Buyers are splitting into the non sophisticated - "Price will do" or the automated "Only the best will do". Ultimately leads to fewer large orders and more systems driven
- The popularity of the Internet and buying on price. Fewer requirements for service support and reliability of less importance.
- Increase in low cost imports prices decreasing, quality improving but possible compliancy issues.

However, we can't turn back the tide and they'll be no return to the factories of old that utilised 100's of traditional standalone scales to help produce the products they manufactured.

The positive direction for the future of our industry leans strongly towards the growing trends and thirst for technology.

The order of the day is for connectivity, data capture and tractability related systems. Weight is still the key element for most business operations we deal with on a daily basis and the successful companies in the future will probably be the ones who adjusted best to the demands of the market, up-skilled, and moved with the demands of the times.

Finally, the current Federation membership of 84 companies is both healthy and robust with a number of potentials under consideration. I believe the Federation is as relevant today as it ever has been and we shall continue to focus and prioritise on the main issues that are important to our industry as a whole, allowing the member companies to focus on the day to day running of their business's during these trying times.

On that note, and on behalf of the board, I'd like to thank all members for their continued support during these interesting times and wish you good fortune for the future.

Jim Harper
President

Technical Updates

Changes to the RoHS Directive (Restrictions on Hazardous Substances)

The RoHS Directive did not previously apply to most weighing instruments, however, this directive has been recast and weighing instruments will come under its remit.

In the new RoHS Directive 2011/65, most weighing instruments will fall within the category of "monitoring and control instruments" (Category 9). Many types of weighing instruments have, however, been made compliant under the old directive if they were components of other systems. An example of this would be NAWI's in EPOS systems, which were considered to be part of a system that fell within the category of IT equipment.

It is important that you confirm whether the instruments that you supply are already compliant with the Directive. If the instruments do not already comply, you must ensure that steps are taken to ensure that they are. The date that this must be achieved by is the 22nd July 2014.

It is likely that the major impact on members will be with regard to record keeping, which will now apply at all economic operators within the supply chain, including distributors. This will be the new obligation compared to the previous obligations. These records must be in place by 22nd July 2014.

Market Surveillance Conference, 28th November

I recently attended the Conference on Market Surveillance that has been put on by the Enterprise and Industry Directorate of the European Commission.

It was a well-organised conference with a wide range of speakers from industry subjects to the effect of European Directives. These ranged from agricultural machinery, lifting equipment and plastic molding machines. Urs Widmer, the Head of Industrial Weighing at Mettler-Toledo represented the views of the European Weighing industry.

The EU Commission explained their intentions with regard to market surveillance and the recent legal changes. It was intended that these changes would improve the effective enforcement of the Directives. It was felt that the intentions of the EU with regard to this are commendable and reasonably considered. After listening to a wide range of industry speakers, it became apparent the good intentions would not be sufficient to ensure the proper functioning of the market place and that all of the industry sectors were subject to the problems of insufficient market surveillance.

There was insufficient surveillance to ensure the correct functioning of the market and all market sectors were suffering financially and losing jobs. It was generally agreed that all sectors were prepared to bear the cost of compliance, but were unable to continue to bear the cost of the market distortion when non-compliant goods were placed on the market.

It was agreed that the control of the market should take place both via the market surveillance authorities and the customs authorities. The challenge was to ensure that customs authorities have the necessary level of competence to check products as they entered the single market. There was general support for the idea of the European Commission providing customs authorities with the necessary information and check sheets to assist them in controlling products at the borders. CECIP are actively involved in producing a check sheet to ensure that weighing instruments are on the list of priority goods to be checked.

There was concern that market surveillance authorities were making the decisions as to where to allocate resources based on the criteria of consumer protection. It was brought to the attention of those involved in running market surveillance authorities that market control and consumer protection was often different outcomes. If they were treated in the same light, it would always be the consumer protection that would gain the limited resources of market surveillance authorities. There were discussions on how this problem could be remedied, but it was generally felt that more support from the authorities was necessary.

It is felt that being part of these larger processes is crucial in ensuring that the profile of the industry is maintained in the eyes of the national government and to ensure we are being considered at a European level.

[WELMEC Software Conference](#)

I recently attended the WELMEC WG7 workshop "Data Protection in Legal Metrology and Related Challenges" and the following WG7 meeting.

The workshop was very useful. The presentations ranged from policy based papers outlying some of the challenges that all stakeholders in legal metrology will face over the next few years, to the very technical. All of the presentations will be on the PTB website in the next few days and I will send the link as soon as they have been placed there.

I think it is good to note that the themes expressed by WELMEC were very similar to those expressed by CECIP, and it was very clear that there was a common understanding of the problems that we all face.

The last presentation from Dieter Richter of the PTB, the chairman of WG7, gave a paper that outlined the potential direction that we should take with regard to software. It is felt that this offers a potentially pragmatic and sensible way forward and a discussion that I feel we should be part of.

The following WG7 meeting was very interesting and posed a number of matters that we must consider and decide a view on:

1. There was a discussion regarding the uploading of software changes to automatic weighing instruments. The background behind this was a report from the Dutch authorities. Automatic Weighing Instruments had been found with the incorrect software version numbers. The correct version of the software was then remotely uploaded to the instrument and no record of the software change was recorded.

At present, the risk class B is applied to all type P automatic weighing instruments (Page 93 of the Guide 7.2 (Version 5)). There was a general discussion as to whether this was an appropriate category and whether such instruments should be risk class C.

2. There was a discussion as to whether the Guide 2.3 should be amalgamated with the Guide 7.2. It seemed inconsistent that different criteria should be applied to different types of weighing instruments.

It was intended to set up a "sub-group" to discuss these and other market surveillance issues with regard to software, which I plan to attend on behalf of CECIP. I would seek your views on both of these matters to ensure that a consistent position can be offered in the discussion.

[Proposal to align Nine Directives with the New Legislative Framework](#)

The consultation to align the nine directives includes the NAWI Directive and the MID, so may well have a bearing on manufactures and suppliers of both automatic and non-automatic weighing instruments. It is important to note that these changes will not effect the essential requirements of the directives but are aimed at producing a greater consistency with regard to the different procedures and processes that have tended to develop. It introduces a new notion of a business called a "distributor" and creates an obligation on these businesses to ensure that products that they supply meet the appropriate legal requirements. I am, at present, completing a more detailed review and will pass these on as soon as they are completed.

[Update on EN45501](#)

The latest draft of the standard has now been rejected and will not be in this form. The response for this process can be found on the UKWF website - [Industry News - EN45501](#).

This means that a revision of the standard will now take place, taking into account the objections. It is hoped that this will be completed by mid-July. The standard will then be voted on and if accepted, the old standard will be revoked a maximum of 36 months after the publication of the new standard. The length of the transition period will be confirmed during the voting process and may be shorter than 36 months.

As it is very difficult to estimate the exact length of time that it may be legal to place instruments at the 3v immunity level on the market, it would be advisable to ensure that any new type approvals and amendments to existing type approvals meet the 10v criteria.

Parallel Type Approvals

We are, at present, involved in important discussions with both WELMEC and the EU Commission, relating to the definition of “manufacturer” as used in the Non-Automatic Weighing Instruments (NAWI) and the Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) Directive.

There is an argument that only the manufacturer who owns the type approval can undertake self-verification (Module D) or verification by a third party (Module F).

The view of the UKWF and CECIP is that the person that can undertake verifications is the person who is prepared to sign the Declaration of Conformity and put the instrument on the market. This means that they do not have to be owner of the Type Approval. This is the system that we presently operate in the UK.

This is an important matter that could result in many manufacturers needing to obtain parallel type approval documents to continue operating their business. This is a type approval that will be the same as the original, with different names and addresses on.

If this could have an effect on your business, I urge you to contact your local MEP to encourage them to pursue the matter for you. A draft letter that you could send to your MEP can be found on the UKWF website - [Industry News - Draft letter to MEP \(Parallel TAC\)](#)

*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

This year's AGM will be held at the Regency Hotel, Solihull on **11th October**.

We are currently putting together an interesting programme of speakers for the event, but it is likely that the meeting will begin at approximately 2pm and will be followed with a Dinner and after-dinner speaker.

In addition, the Board wish to resurrect the UKWF Golf competition (subject to numbers), playing for the Federation Challenge Trophy, which will be held the following morning at Ladbrook Park Golf Club, in Tanworth-in-Arden, just a few miles away from the Regency. If you, or any of your colleagues, are interested in playing, please can you let Martina Farragher know as soon as possible so we can confirm numbers.

Full details will be provided in due course, but for now, please add this date to your diary.

We have selected this particular hotel as it is located just off J4 of the M42, which you will find easily accessible by road, train or air.

The EU Cookie Legislation

(For more information please visit <http://www.ico.gov.uk>)

A year ago on 26 May 2011, a new EU originated law came into effect that requires website owners to make significant changes to their sites. However, the Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) have given a 12 month 'grace period' to allow companies to make the necessary changes for compliance.

This Cookie Law is privacy legislation that requires websites to obtain informed consent from visitors before they can store or retrieve any information on a computer or any other web connected device.

For more information, please read the following ICO article: [Privacy and electronic communications - cookies](#). This latest guidance from the ICO sets out the changes to the cookie law and explains the steps you need to take to ensure you comply.

Whilst the UKWF are unable to provide you with any advice, we wanted to share the information of the new legislations with you. **It is your responsibility as a company to comply!!**

UKWF Buying Group

INTRODUCING THE UKWF BUYING GROUP for INDIRECT CATEGORIES OF SPEND... where savings are guaranteed or your money back!!!

The potential advantages of aggregating spending power are huge - lower cost, supply chain economies and an improved supplier experience. This note is to invite your business to become one of the 5 pilot programmes we are running from June 2012. **The first 5 members will enjoy a 10% reduction on their membership fee of the UKWF Buying Group.**

That's why the UKWF is partnering with Independent Buyers Ltd; the largest spending private sector Indirect Buying Group in the UK (now in its 11th year), to bring you the benefits of buying directly from national market leading suppliers at pre-negotiated prices that are 5-30% more competitive than any one company could achieve leveraging just their own spend.

THE SPEND CATEGORIES

MRO Supplies	Cleaning & Hygiene Supplies	Parcel and Pallet delivery
Stationery and Print	PPE	Tradesman Services
Waste Management	Computer Equipment	Financial Services
Packaging	Property Services	Workwear
Fixed & Mobile Telecoms	Photocopiers & Servicing	Fastenings
Security & Fire Services	Utilities & Fuel	Insurance

HOW MUCH DOES IT COST

UKWF Buying Group has two membership levels. These are 'standard' for companies with 10-30 employees starting at £600 and 'full' for those from 30 to 700 people starting at £2,600 to a ceiling of £6,000. There is a package that is affordable and viable for everyone giving an excellent return on investment with many of the savings being easy to implement. To eliminate your risk, the membership fee payment is protected by a no win no fee guarantee. Because you pay a fee, all the savings are passed on in full to you and our partner does not take rebates or commissions from suppliers.

WHAT SERVICES DOES A FULL MEMBER RECEIVE

- Exceptionally competitive pricing from market-leading suppliers on 130 categories of spend.
- UKWF Buying Group visit and build a representative spend database directly from your purchase invoices; hence your own resources are not distracted from their current duties.
- The detailed [savings analysis](#) file subsequently shows a comparison between the price you paid and that available through the Buying Group. We take specific care to ensure we compare like for like and the data is presented in summary and line by line for your subsequent decision making.
- UKWF Buying Group facilitates your savings workshop where category by category we talk your team through the options. If you wish you can use our prices to re-negotiate with your existing incumbent suppliers.
- Comprehensive insurance audit and a proactive [energy negotiation service](#).
- Regular visits from your appointed local account manager with full telephone & email help-desk.
- **Our no win no fee guarantee.**

HOW DO I FIND MORE INFORMATION AND PERHAPS BECOME A 'PILOT' MEMBER

Independent Buyers will provide free one hour introductory visits to UKWF members. Just telephone Alan Lynes at Independent Buyers on 07952 746275 or email alan.lynes@independentbuyers.com.

'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.

The minimum quantity of labels is only 100 per order.

To order labels, please contact Martina Farragher for an order form or visit our website [UKWF - Green M Labels](#).

Training

We have organised an ATEX Training Course which will be held on 27th June 2012. If you would like to attend this course, please complete a booking form and return to the Secretariat. For more information and a copy of the booking form, please visit the UKWF website - [UKWF - ATEX Training](#)

If you are interested in attending any other course, please advise the secretariat. If there is a high demand in a specific session, we will be more than happy to organise training.

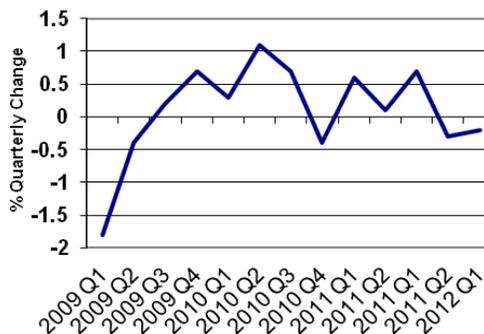
The other training we provide courses for are:

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

Economic Update

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

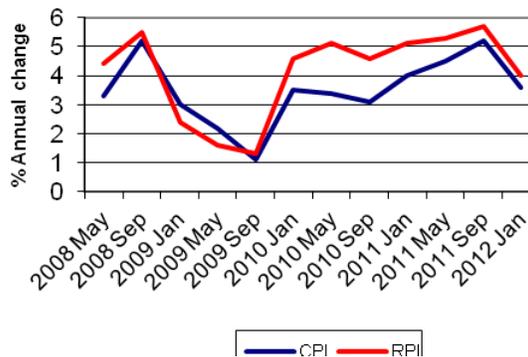
GDP



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

- The chained volume measure of GDP decreased by 0.2 per cent in Q1 2012
- Output of the production industries decreased by 0.4 per cent in Q1 2012, following a decrease of 1.3 per cent in the previous quarter
- Construction sector output decreased by 3.0 per cent in Q1 2012, following a decrease of 0.2 per cent in the previous quarter
- Output of the service industries increased by 0.1 per cent in Q1 2012, following a decrease of 0.1 per cent in the previous quarter
- GDP in volume terms is flat in Q1 2012, when compared with Q1 2011

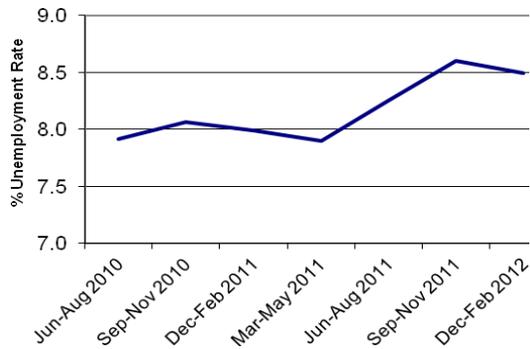
Inflation



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

- The Government's inflation target for the United Kingdom is defined in terms of the CPI measure of
- Inflation.
- The all items CPI annual rate is 2.8%, down from 3.0% in April.
- The RPI is used for a variety of purposes including indexation of index-linked gilts. Historically the
- RPI has also been used for indexation of pensions and state benefits.
- The all items RPI annual rate is 3.1%, down from 3.5% last month.

Unemployment



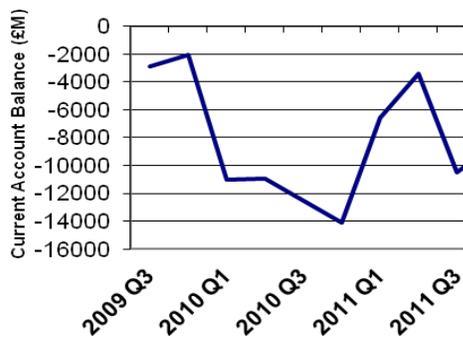
(MGSX: Unemployment rate: UK: All: Aged 16 and over)

- The employment rate for those aged from 16 to 64 was 70.6 per cent, up 0.3 on the quarter.
- There were 29.28 million people in employment aged 16 and over, up 166,000 on the quarter. The number of people employed in the private sector increased by 205,000 to reach 23.38 million but the number of people

employed in the public sector fell by 39,000 to reach 5.90 million, the lowest figure since March 2003.

- The unemployment rate was 8.2 per cent of the economically active population, down 0.2 on the quarter. There were 2.61 million unemployed people, down 51,000 on the quarter.
- The inactivity rate for those aged from 16 to 64 was 23.0 per cent, down 0.2 on the quarter. There were 9.23 million economically inactive people aged from 16 to 64, down 69,000 on the quarter.
- Total pay (including bonuses) rose by 1.4 per cent on a year earlier, up 0.5 on the three months to March 2012. Regular pay (excluding bonuses) rose by 1.8 per cent on a year earlier, up 0.2 on the three months to March 2012.

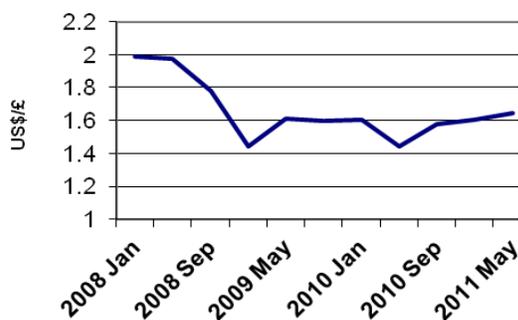
Balance of Payments



(HBOP: Current Account Balance)

- The UK's current account deficit was £8.5 billion in the fourth quarter of 2011, down from a revised deficit of £10.5 billion in the previous quarter.
- The trade deficit reduced to £7.1 billion in the fourth quarter of 2011, down from £8.8 billion the previous quarter.
- The income surplus was £4.6 billion, up from £4.0 billion in the third quarter of 2011.
- The financial account recorded net inward investment of £15.3 billion during the fourth quarter of 2011.
- The international investment position recorded UK net liabilities of £201.9 billion at the end of the fourth quarter 2011.
- In 2011, the UK's current account deficit was £29.0 billion.

Exchange Rate



(LUSS: Middle closing spot rate US\$/£)

Forthcoming meetings

Please note the following dates for your diary:

AGM & Regional Meeting

- 11th October 2012 Regency Hotel, Solihull
Please visit <http://www.corushotels.com/the-regency-corus-hotel/>
- 12th October 2012 UKWF Golf Challenge (TBC)
Please visit <http://www.ladbroomparkgolf.co.uk/>

Board Meetings:

- 12th July 2012
18th October 2012
6th December 2012

Regional meetings for 2013

The venues for next year's regional meetings have yet to be agreed. If you have any suggestions for suitable venues, then please let us know.

Contact details

Head Office:

UK Weighing Federation
Federation House
10 Vyse Street
Birmingham
B18 6LT

Tel: 0121 237 1130
Fax: 0121 237 1133

Technical Officer: Ian Turner

45 Back Street
Ashwell
Hertfordshire
SG7 5PF

Mobile : 07581 499244
Email: technical2@ukwf.org.uk

President: Jim Harper
Email: president@ukwf.org.uk

Secretariat: Martina Farragher
Email: admin@ukwf.org.uk

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.