



WEIGHLOG



The Newsletter of the UK Weighing Federation
January 2012



Editorial

My first year as President of the Federation seems to have flown by.

In that time I have tried to take the opportunity to meet as many members as time permits and will endeavour to continue that activity throughout 2012.

At the AGM in October, we said our goodbyes to John Anthony after 18 years in both his official capacity as Technical Officer at the Federation and as unofficial friend, mentor and counsellor to many of us. A token of our appreciation was presented on the day and John regaled us with both memories of times past and wise counsel of the challenges to the weighing industry that lie ahead.

However, in Ian Turner who has been shadowing John during 2011, we do have the right man to front up those challenges, and the details and main areas of his activity are clearly outlined in the Technical Officers report in this edition of Weighlog.

I know I speak for us all in giving Ian our continued support in the coming years in what I am sure will be a successful tenure of office.

As most of you are aware, at the regional meeting at York in April we introduced a Meeting Evaluation Form that was repeated at this year's AGM venue, St. Andrews, home of Birmingham City Football Club. A summary of the feedback from the members who attended is included for your perusal.

We will continue to use this feedback as the basis for future meetings with regard to Venue, Location, Convenience, Content etc. and I would encourage feedback from all members on any suggestions they may have for 2012.

On the commercial front, the Federation is in a good position financially and with the membership at 82 shows signs of stability and growth in 2012.

In Martina and her colleagues at Federation House, we now have both a professional and capable commercial support team, which helps greatly in underpinning the work done by members of the board on your behalf.

Externally, the economy continues to be a challenge to us all and the foreseeable future will be no less of a challenge for those of us seeking to ply our trade in the weighing industry.

Finally, in difficult times I believe the need for a strong Federation has never been greater as most of the battles, and all the wars, can only be won if we act as one voice on behalf of the UK weighing industry.

On that note I would like to anticipate and thank you, the members, for your continued support on the work to be done and wish everyone a Prosperous outlook for 2012.

Jim Harper
President

Technical Updates

[Revision of the EN45501 Standard](#)

The European harmonized standard is in the process of being revised to reflect the international standard R76-1 (2006) (E). This is an important revision and has some significant changes to the method that will be required in order to comply with this standard. A copy of the most recent draft can be found on the UKWF website. There is also a cross-reference table on the website that outlines the most significant changes between the old and the new standard.

The most important change is the increase in the EMC Immunity from 3V to 10V. This may require significant changes to the design of instruments and it is recommended that you ensure that you begin looking at all of the instruments that you supply.

[Possible changes to the required level of electromagnetic immunity for weighing instruments](#)

It is likely that changes to the revised version of EN45501 will have a significant effect because of the changes in the immunity standard.

This will increase the required immunity level from 3v per metre to 10v per metre. Most importantly, there is pressure from some member states to bring about this change before the publication of the revised standard. The commission will be issuing a note on this topic. At present, there is a proposal that this change may have to be implemented within one year from the publication date.

The UKWF and CECIP are lobbying very hard to have this one-year period increased to a minimum of 3 years and are optimistic that this can be achieved.

There is a European meeting at the end of November where this matter is being discussed. As soon as more concrete information is available I will let you know.

I would advise that you begin to assess the number of instruments that you have that would be compliant with the earlier 3V standards so that when the transition period to the 10V standard becomes clearer, you can begin to ensure instruments are fully compliant with the standard.

[PTB Conference on Software in weighing and measuring instruments](#)

We have been asked to make a presentation on behalf of European Weighing Machine Manufacturers at a conference in late November, regarding the requirements of software in weighing and measuring instruments. The focus of the presentation will be on the present bureaucratic structures and how these can be improved to assist manufacturers. It is felt that the present guidance on software is too complicated and difficult for many manufacturers and importers to understand. We would like to see a simplification of the processes to ensure that all users, including the enforcement authorities, can understand what is required of them.

At the moment, the scope of the guidance attempts to include a whole range of metrological functions within legal control. Often this can include applications that are not within the physical confines of the instrument. As we move towards the increasing use of “cloud” technology, it is anticipated that this will become more and more complicated. The proposal is to reduce the scope of the control and make use of existing and tested IT protocols for applications outside of the instrument.

[EU Conference on Market Surveillance](#)

The Enterprise and Industry Directorate General of European Commission is organising a Conference on ‘Market Surveillance and Machinery’, which will focus on market surveillance in the machinery sector. The conference will take place on 24 November 2011 in the Albert Borschette Conference Centre in Brussels, with an expected attendance of 200 to 300 people from industry, the European Institutions, Member State market surveillance and customs authorities and others. The speakers are from the Commission, European Parliament, Industry and the Market Surveillance Authorities.

The conference will deal with market surveillance for industrial products, focusing on machinery together with topics such as the New Legislative Framework and the Sectoral Directives including the weighing instrument industry.

CECIP and the UKWF will be supporting the conference and the challenges we all face with regard to market surveillance. If you have any views please let me know.

More information on the conference can be found at the following link:

http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/mechanical/machinery/market-surveillance/index_en.htm

European Platform on Notified Bodies (NoBoMet)

European Notified Bodies are organizing a co-ordination body in an attempt to improve the consistency of services and advice issued by these bodies. Its aim is to “harmonise the conformity assessment procedures among the Notified Bodies and establish a common point of view on implementation of EU directives and WELMEC and OIML guidelines.”

The first meeting of this group has already taken place and it is intended that UKWF and CECIP will be actively involved in the operation of this group. It is felt that this could potentially be a significant improvement on the operation of notified bodies and we are keen to use this forum to maximum advantage.

The proposed UKWF “Approved Engineer” Certificate

A paper explaining the proposed UKWF Approved Engineer Certificate can be found on the website. The exam will be in two parts; a “workbook” exercise that will need

to be completed by the engineer that will relate to type of instrument that the engineer works on; and a written exam on general weights and measures issues. This could be completed at the premises of the business, or at an examination centre. We are seeking the views of the members, and perhaps most importantly whether you would consider sending your engineers on the course. It will only be a success if the membership participates.

The details of the proposal can be found at the following link:

UKWF Approved Engineer Examination

The UKWF moves in to the 21st Century!

You may have noticed three new buttons on the UKWF website. These are for access to a “LinkedIn” page (this is the “IN” button), a “Twitter” page (the “t” button) and a Wordpress blog (the “W” button).

These will lead you to all of the documents that allow you to keep up with the UKWF is doing on your behalf, and will include all of the matters discussed in this edition of Weighlog. The benefit of these is that you can set up automatic e-mails for anything that is published that will come directly to your inbox. It is hoped that it will make keeping abreast of all of the changes much easier.

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

‘Green M’ Labels

You can now 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.

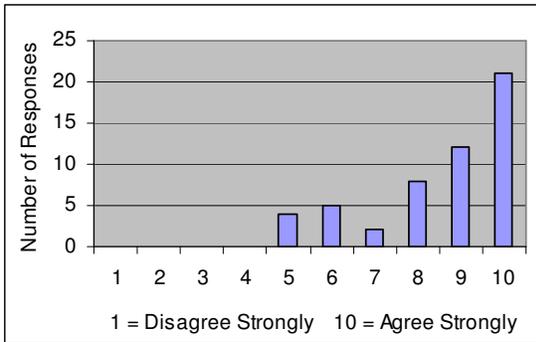
The minimum quantity of labels is only 100 per order.

To order labels, please contact Martina Farragher for an order form or visit our website [http://www.ukwf.org.uk/Green M Labels](http://www.ukwf.org.uk/Green_M_Labels).

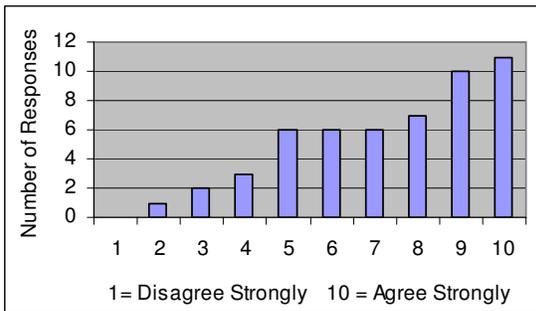
Membership Questionnaire

We asked all members to complete a questionnaire to ensure that we understand and deliver the most valued by our membership. A total of 48 questionnaires had been returned. The highlights and priorities are as follows:

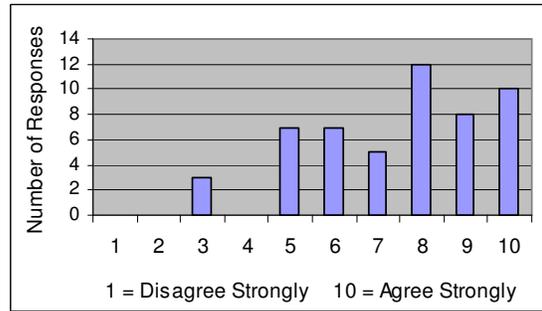
Q2. The UK weighing industry is significantly impacted by National and International legislation and Codes of practice. I would like the UKWF to be pro-actively involved on my behalf, and to provide concise and timely information on what the resulting changes mean to me and my business.



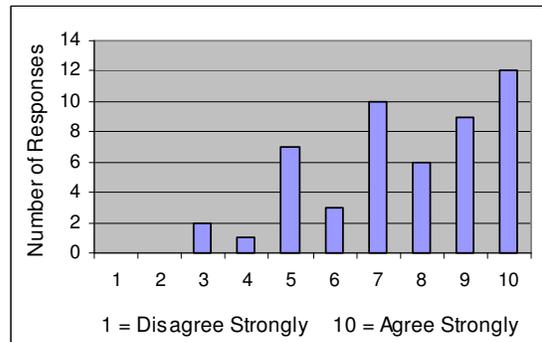
Q3. More and more Weighing legislation is being driven by European or International regulatory organisations. I would like the UKWF to lobby strongly for the UK's interests in these forums - even if it means a small increase in my annual fees.



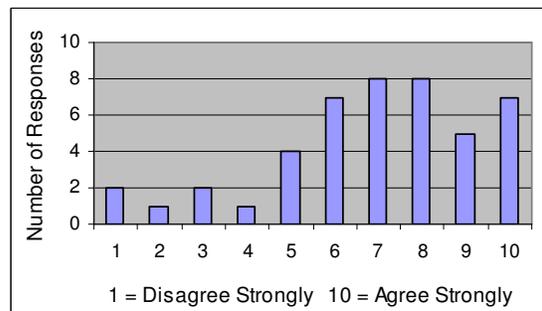
Q9. I would like the UKWF to run relevant training courses on subjects relevant to the weighing industry.



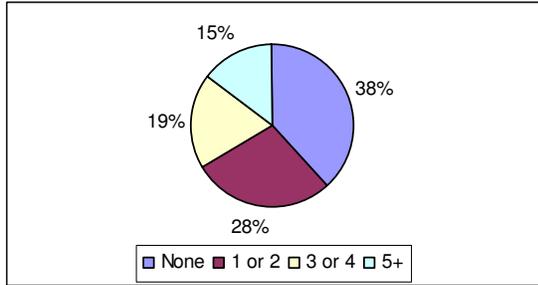
Q15. I would like the key feature at the meetings to be related to the weighing industry.



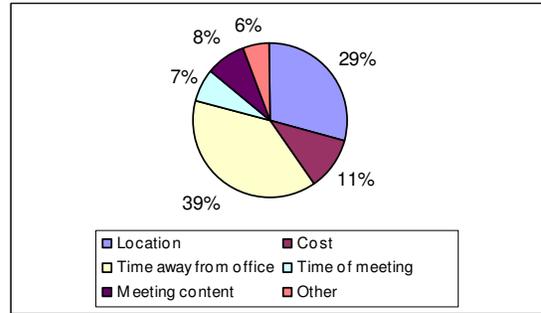
Q17. The main benefit I get from the regional meetings is the report from the Technical Officer.



Q12. During the last 3 years there have been a total of 6 regional meetings. Please indicate the number of meetings a representative of your company has attended.



Q13. If company attendance is less than 3, please indicate reason(s) for non-attendance.



Therefore, the emphasis of all future meetings will be based around what the ‘Voice of the Member’ is telling us.

Farewell to John Anthony

You will all now be aware that John Anthony officially left his post of Technical Officer to the Federation at this year’s AGM in October, after 18 years service to the UKWF.

We were also pleased to be able to present John with an antique Brass Beam Scale which we felt represented his association with the weighing industry very aptly.

We couldn’t let John leave without some recognition, and much appreciation, and presentations were made by the board which included an engraved tankard which we were able to present to John at the home of Birmingham City Football Club where John has been a season ticket holder for many years.



I’m sure I speak for us all as members of the federation in wishing John a long and happy retirement

Jim Harper
President

Training

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

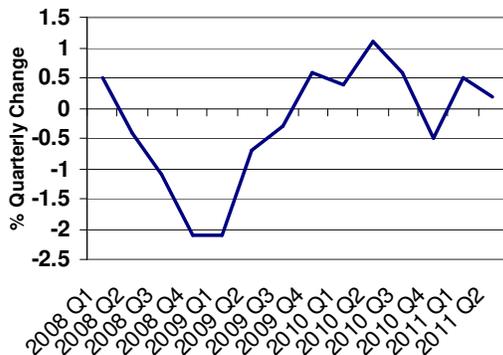
Courses we have previously run are:

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

Economic Update

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

GDP



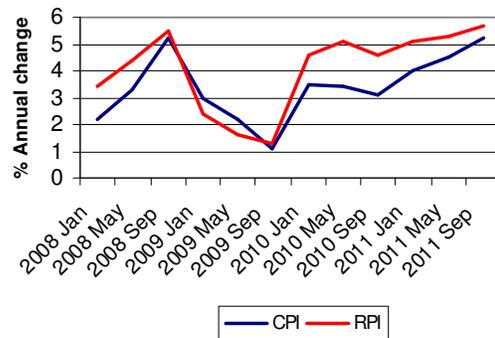
(GDPQ: ESA95 % change on previous quarter: Gross value added at basic prices)

UK gross domestic product (GDP) in volume terms increased by 0.5 per cent in the first quarter of 2011, unrevised from the 0.5 per cent increase published in May. GDP in volume terms rose by 1.4 per cent in 2010.

The volume of output in the production industries fell by 0.1 per cent, within which manufacturing rose by 0.7 per cent. Output of the service industries increased by 0.9 per cent.

Manufacturing output rose by 0.7 per cent in 2011 quarter one, compared with a rise of 1.0 per cent in 2010 quarter four.

Inflation



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

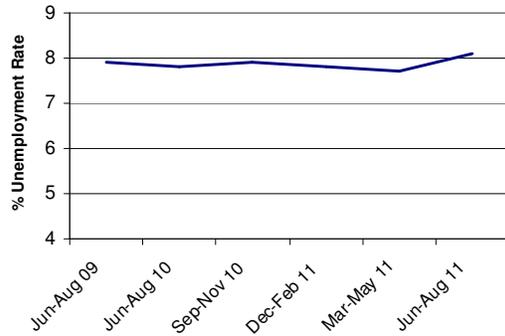
CPI annual inflation - the Government's target measure - was 5.2 per cent in September, up from 4.5 per cent in August. CPI annual inflation has never been higher (but was also 5.2 per cent in September 2008).

The largest upward effects came from housing & household services, which was driven by gas and electricity bills increasing this year by 13 per cent and 7.5 per cent, respectively; and transport, where prices decreased overall by 2.1 per cent between August and September this year.

RPI annual inflation stands at 5.6 per cent in September 2011, the highest it has been for over 20 years. The last time RPI annual inflation was higher was in June 1991 when it stood at 5.8 per cent.

RPIX annual inflation - the all items RPI excluding mortgage interest payments - was 5.7 per cent in September, up from 5.3 per cent last month.

Unemployment



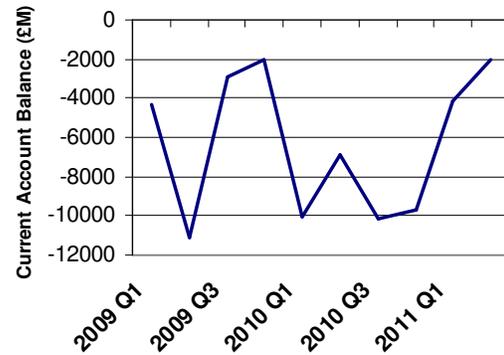
(MGSX: Unemployment rate: UK: All: Aged 16 and over)

The unemployment rate was 8.1 per cent in the three months to August 2011, up 0.4 percentage points from the three months to May 2011 and up 0.3 percentage points from a year earlier.

The total number of unemployed people increased by 114,000 over the quarter (the largest quarterly increase since the three months to July 2009) to reach 2.57 million. The number of unemployed people has not been higher since the three months to October 1994.

There were 1.60 million people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA) in September 2011. This is up 17,500 on August, but the number of people claiming JSA for up to six months fell by 9,100 between August and September to reach 995,700.

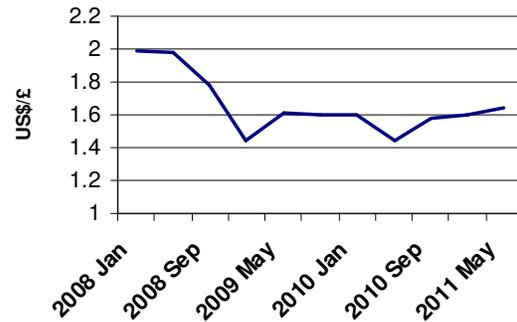
Balance of Payments



(HBOP: Current Account Balance)

The UK current account recorded a deficit of £2.0 billion in the second quarter of 2011, down from a revised deficit of £4.1 billion (originally published as a deficit of £9.4 billion) in the previous quarter. The second quarter balance is equivalent to -0.5 per cent of GDP, compared to -1.1 per cent in the previous quarter.

Exchange Rate



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

Forthcoming meetings

Please note the following dates for your diary:

Regional Meeting

26th April 2012 Venue to be confirmed

AGM & Regional Meeting

18th October 2012 Venue to be confirmed

Board Meetings:

9th February 2012

26th April 2012

12th July 2012

18th October 2012

6th December 2012

Regional meetings for 2012

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

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

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

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

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

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.