

2.1.1 EC DIRECTIVES

Listed below are the key EC Directives that are linked to the weighing industry. They will also appear in section 2.1.2, which covers how they are regulated and implemented in UK legislation.

Directive 2009/23/EC on Non-automatic Weighing Instruments

The directive consists of 19 articles and 8 annexes. Article 1 includes the definition of a non-automatic weighing instrument and the often quoted second clause (article 1.2(a)) providing a list of categories of use, for which the essential requirements of the directive must be satisfied. The remainder of the articles are largely administrative or procedural and refer to the annexes.

The annexes form the bulk of the directive. Annex I specifies the essential requirements that must be satisfied for all categories listed in article 1.2(a). The essential requirements specify the criteria that must be met (for example the maximum permissible errors) but not the methods of testing and proving conformity. Detailed test methods are specified in the relevant harmonised standard which is EN 45501 (equivalent in content to OIML R76).

The remainder of the annexes cover type approval, verification, notified bodies, documentation and markings required.

Directive 2004/22/EC on measuring instruments

The Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) consists of 27 Articles and a large number of Annexes. The MID covers a whole range of measuring equipment, including automatic weighing instruments of the following types:

- Automatic Gravimetric Filling Machines
- Automatic Checkweighers
- Automatic Catchweighers
- Continuous Totalisers
- Discontinuous Totalisers
- Automatic Rail Weighbridges

The MID contains general and instrument specific “essential requirements” (Annex 1 plus MI Annexes) which the equipment must meet if it is used for controlled applications. However, unlike the NAWI Directive which details applications that must be controlled in all Member States, the MID leaves it up to each Member State to define the applications that it will control. If a Member State decides not to control a particular type of automatic weighing instrument, it cannot then impose any country specific requirements. For example, the UK has decided it will not control automatic checkweighers and therefore, a manufacturer can place any design of checkweigher on the UK market without the need for any form of Type Approval or verification. As well as the general essential requirements in Annex 1, for example for automatic gravimetric filling instruments, these can be found in Annex MI-006, Chapter I and Chapter III.

Other Annexes deal with the various forms of conformity assessment, including Type Approval, Design Examination, and verification. Requirements in relation to notified bodies technical documentation and markings required can be found in the directive itself.

OTHER METROLOGICAL DIRECTIVES

71/317/EEC on 1 g to 50 kg medium accuracy weights

74/148/EEC on weights from 1 mg to 50 kg of above medium accuracy

73/360/EEC on non-automatic weighing machines

Superseded by 2009/23/EC (the NAWI Directive).

75/410/EEC on continuous totalizing weighing machines

Superseded by the MID.

78/1031/EEC on automatic checkweighing and weight grading machines

Superseded by the MID.

References

All of the directives are available from the commission website for legislation (EUR-Lex): <http://eur-lex.europa.eu/en/index.htm>

Note that the first part of the number of a directive (2 or 4 digits) represents the year of issue and the second is the document number. The most direct method of finding a document is to search by "Natural number" and enter the two figures.

