

UK WEIGHING FEDERATION
PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Meeting, held on Thursday, 3rd October 2019 and the National Conference centre, Solihull, UK

Present:

Richard Herbert	Herbert Group Ltd	President
Ian Edge	A&D Instruments Ltd	
Derek Higgins	A&D Instruments Ltd	
Martin Lister	Applied Weighing Group	
John Treacy	Applied Weighing Group	
David Hopkins	Avery Berkel	
Darren Morley	Avery Berkel	
Ian Taylor	Avery Berkel	
Jim Cameron	Avery Weigh-Tronix	
James Hobbs	AWM Ltd	
Graham Spink	AWM Ltd	
Lisa Haughton	Bizerba (UK) Ltd	
Charles Pullen	Bizerba (UK) Ltd	
Tom Marren	Coventry Scale Company Ltd	
George Cox	Dini Argeo UK Ltd	
Steve Cox	Dini Argeo UK Ltd	
Lynne Topley	Globeweigh UK Ltd	
Julian Hope	Herbert Group Ltd	
Steve Hart	Ian Fellows Ltd	
Ian Hodgson	Ishida Europe Ltd	
Edwin White	John White & Son (Weighing Machines) Ltd	
Paul Welton	Marel GB Limited	
Sean Mills	Marel GB Limited	
Tim Watson	Mettler Toledo Ltd	
Phil Webb	Mettler Toledo Ltd	
Nick Parsons	Minebea Intec UK Limited	
Paul Cooke	MWS Ltd	
Gary Pook	MWS Ltd	
Daniel Egan-Sheath	Northern Balance Ltd	
Derek Johnston	Precia-Molen UK Ltd	
Guy Thompson	Precia-Molen UK Ltd	
Sam Burr	Precisa Ltd	
Allan Mackenzie	Precisa Ltd	
Steve Gillard	SG Weighing & Controls Ltd	
Maxine Oyns	SG Weighing & Controls Ltd	
Paul Moody	Solent Scale Services Ltd	
Nick Catt	Weightron Bilanciai Ltd	

In attendance:

Chris Goodacre	UKWF Secretariat
Ian Turner	UKWF Technical Officer
Mannie Panesar	NMO
Michael Kearney	OPS&S

RH welcomed everyone to the meeting and went through the general housekeeping points

1. **Apologies**

Apologies had been received from 5 people as follows:

Keith Gresham	Axle Weight Technology Ltd (AXTEC)
Paul Hodgkinson	County Scales Limited
Adrian Chapman	Norfolk Calibration Service
George Christie	SECA
Paul Hammond	UK Inspection Systems Ltd
Jeff Jackson	Williams Medical Supplies Ltd

2. President's comments

Good afternoon everyone and welcome to the National Conference Centre.

I'd like to briefly cover how the Board has been progressing a number of matters since the AGM in April.

Primary Authority Advice

The UKWF have used the Primary Authority agreement with Hampshire County Council Trading Standards to request advice on topics such as affixing stickers and placing an instrument on the market. We will be setting up a link on the member only pages of the UKWF website to all PA advice given.

Data Sharing Project

The sharing of detailed data on specific equipment (including location) to enable local authorities to focus their resources on equipment that is not regularly calibrated by UKWF Members has been trialled in the retail sector, with a small number of UKWF Members. This information should allow Safety & Standards to 'add value' to the existing S70 return data, and use risk assessment / targeting to find types of equipment that are less likely to be compliant.

Apprenticeship Scheme

The National Physical Laboratory are approaching their board to provide a Legal Metrology module which the UKWF would write. This would be available for apprentices going through post GCSE training or for existing and new field engineers.

Ian and UKWF members are working closely with them to provide the information they need to create the business case.

Brexit Influence

The UKWF are still represented by Ian Turner on the Office for Product Safety and Standards' virtual stakeholder group on International Trade. We continue to stress the need for the legal metrology legislation to mirror EU legislation post Brexit to avoid additional costs for UK business to access the European market, which is by far the largest trading partner of the UK.

Ian is liaising with the Brexit team on legal metrology requirements for the industry post Brexit. You will be hearing an update on Brexit from Mike Kearney from OPS&S later on and a presentation from Mannie Panesar on the NMO 's role post Brexit.

Now, I do not want to be overtly political, but some of you may have seen coverage of the memo that Jacob Rees-Mogg sent out to his staff after he was appointed Leader of the House of Commons. He banned the use of certain words and phrases – hopefully, unacceptable, due to, etc. – but he also advised his staff to always use imperial measurements.

This prompted press correspondence, one particular letter from a Dr. 'M' stating 'there is such a mix of units in use today that a revival of imperial units would be very easy.' I repeat 'a revival of imperial units would be very easy'.

We could not let such a ridiculous statement go unchallenged. Unfortunately, at present we have too many politicians making statements that are at best wrong, at worst an outright lie.

We wrote to the newspaper which had published the letter pointing out that there are approximately 350,000 weighing machines in use for trade in the UK, almost none of which could easily be converted to imperial measures. But did the newspaper publish this rebuttal? NO.

CECIP

We continue to work closely within CECIP, the European Weighing Industry Association. This is of vital importance if we need to maintain and increase common standards across Europe especially post Brexit. We will be hosting the CECIP General Assembly in London June 2020 The General Assembly has open sessions and will be held on 5th June, with a gala dinner afterwards. UKWF members are encouraged to attend.

Membership

Our membership numbers continue to hold steady as we attract new members but lose some to buy outs and mergers. We currently have 71 members. Our newest members are Stevens Traceability Group and Dibal Ltd who both joined in May.

The new membership procedures started last month, and we have had a high response from members confirming their compliance with the criteria and returning their documentation. The suggested procedures to follow to evidence to the UKWF that your quality manuals are included in your ISO registration and Inspection process will be circulated with your membership renewal invoice. As these will become a mandatory part of the membership requirements by December 2020, we would like to encourage as many of you as possible to get these procedures in place in plenty of time.

For those members who are not yet ISO registered, we are in negotiation with another consultant to help you attain it, as Sam is no longer available.

I hope you find today's programme useful and informative. If you have any suggestions of topics you would wish to be covered at future meetings, please let us know.

The Board is here to represent the views of the industry as a whole. If there are any issues that concern you, or issues that you think need to be addressed, please let me or any of the board members know.

There were no questions following this presentation.

Technical Officer Brexit update and Introduction to Speakers

Ian gave a Brief Technical Update presentation, and this can be found on the website.

The following Questions and points were raised during this presentation

Apprenticeships

Jim Cameron, Avery Weightronix – will WELMEC details be included in the syllabus.

Ian would discuss these technical details at the next stage of the process but was planning to include these.

Dan Egan-Sheath, Northern Balance – will coding for software be included on the course.

Ian would like to get this into the syllabus but would need to find someone that could lead this part of the discussions as he is not a software engineer.

Graham Spink, AWM – pointed out that other computer related skills would be needed such as security.

Mannie Panesar, NMO – pointed out that coding and platform work would be required

Julian Hope - Are we teaching people to code or are we giving them the brief on how the software has to communicate. Training up software engineers takes years and most companies would buy in this skill.

Northern Balance - Coding is now taught at school so most school leavers have some understanding, it is an important module to set up in the apprenticeship scheme, but not to expect them to be able to code to pass the apprenticeship.

Graham Spink, AWM - enquired how much of this course is based away from the office, IT advised it would likely be 80% work based and 20% course based away from the office.

Nick Parsons, Minebea Intec - OPC foundation and VDMA and CECIP have been working on an initiative OPCUA for all machines where all manufacturers will use the same standard communication protocol. This will be published in December.

Mike Kearney advised that they have set up an apprenticeship scheme in the Enforcement area of OPS&S which has now been running for 9 months. They are getting good quality candidates including older people who want a career change.

Mannie Panesar NMO – the NMO may also be interested in being involved and putting people through the scheme. Other interested parties should also be listed as interested in the scheme as well as members. IT will amend the document to this effect.

Mannie Panesar NMO – Are your members aware of the WG5 supermarkets project. NMO were involved in collecting the data.

IT Advised that this is not yet published so not all will be aware of this. When it is published this will be circulated. He also advised that the UKWF have done some training with supermarkets on calibration.

Ian Taylor (Avery-Berkel) asked a question on First and Second stage verification and how this may operate if an instrument undergoes this process during the potential departure from the EU

Julian Hope, Herbert Group – there is a worry about RoHS and we need to encourage the government to keep standards aligned otherwise we will have metrology standards diverge.

3. **Brexit Update**

Michael Kearney, The Office gave a presentation. The presentation can be found on the website.

He is Head of Business engagement but was previously head of Enforcement for NMO. His background is in Environmental issues.

In addition to the presentation, the following questions were asked, or points raised:

600 pages 2.25kg of legislation in the Product safety and Metrology EU Exit Statutory instrument

Julian Hope, Herbert Group – when we re-verify do we have to affix the CE Mark and then add the UK CA Mark.

Ian thought this was the case but the legislation seemed to contradict this. Mike asked Ian to write to him to advise his views on the problem and he would get advice for us.

Declarations of Conformity will need to comply with the UK Regulations. This will create problems or businesses that pre-print their Declarations of Conformity which will need to change

Julian Hope, Herbert Group – Will the standards stated in the Declaration of Conformity need to be those when the instrument is placed on the market, which could be EU standards. How will this operate in the future of the harmonised standards diverge

Mike needs to properly understand all the issues – IT to advise.

Paul Moody – are the UKCA mark stickers available yet in sufficient numbers?

Mike advised that they should be available on the website

Ian Turner advised that a lot of companies would have the CE Mark laser printed on the instrument and may well want to do the same with the UKCA mark

Graham Spink, AWM – Will we still be able to print our own UKCA marks - Is there a document available for the size of the UKCA mark etc.

This is available on the UKWF website.

Mannie Panesar advised that the relevant legislation probably won't be up and running on the 1st November and despite regulators giving a lenient approach this will not help with UKWF members selling instruments to their customers who will demand a legally compliant instrument from day one.

Julian Hope, Herbert Group - Will trading standards be setting up some sort of umbrella approval especially if exporting to Ireland.

Mike Kearney will take this question away and find out the answer.

4. **The Role of the NMO Post Brexit**

Mannie Panesar of the National Measurement office gave a presentation. A copy of the presentation can be found on the website.

In addition to the presentation, the following questions were asked:

Julian Hope, Herbert Group – Pointed out that the NMO seems to have difficulty in getting type approvals through in time. How will this be resourced going forward. It's 8 weeks from applying to getting tested and approved. Industry would be expecting 3-4 weeks to be the norm.

Nick Catt, Weightron Bilanciai - NMI and Force are more expensive, but they offer a much quicker service. NMO can test to OIML CS standard and then client can approach other body to get the actual certification. Can we still use these test results going forward.

Mannie Panesar advised OIML has 2 levels of certification A&B. Scheme A certificates should be accepted by all utilisers worldwide. NAWI is in scheme A. so you can get Practical testing in Teddington and then get certification from EU27 body.

NMO is 2nd largest worldwide in issuing OIML certificates.

Can NMO take a certificate from EU27 body and convert it into a UK.

This can be done after the limited time frame but many companies may want to do this in advance. EU to UK certificate conversion is still to be decided.

Mannie Panesar – we are looking to increase the headcount from 25 to 30+ but there is no plan to use these resources purely for Legal Metrology. Product safety is a primary focus but we want to add to a pool of people and knowledge in the NMO.

5. **Brexit & Legal Metrology Discussion**

Ian Turner, gave a Brexit Update presentation The presentation can be found on the website. The presentation included some detailed questions.

Mannie Panesar – advised that the transition date will still potentially be December 2020. He will check and advise.

A discussion panel made up of Ian Turner, Mannie Panesar and Mike Kearney led a discussion session on Brexit and Legal Metrology.

Derek Johnstone, Precia Molen - Requalification in the UK Stickers
If you have an approval with an EU27 body will you will also need to have an approval for re-verification in UK?

Only a UK approved body will be able to give you UK approval for re-verification

Jim Cameron, Avery Weightronix – continuity for approved verifiers.

On 1 11 19 can approved verifiers still continue - as they will not have time to be approved by a UK body?

Mannie advised that he has been asking this internally but needs to seek guidance from his policy colleagues.

Darren Morley, Avery Berkel - What is the level of practicality on 2 stage verification

We ship products from here to France on 29th October but they will arrive on the 2nd.

Second stage verification is usually done in France which is when the markings are applied.

If the first shipment arrives after the Brexit date with a UK notified body mark on it after the date of exit will the local customs authority accept this.

Jim Cameron, Avery Weightronix - A product originating in the UK and only used in the UK then there would be no CE Mark is this correct?

IT – Believes this would be the case.

What regulations would need to be listed on the declaration of conformity. Are there UK regulations?

You would just reference the original regulations

Would you have to list BS 45501 rather than EN45501 and the UK Regulation 2016/1152

Nick Catt, Weightron Bilanciai - EN1090 Construction products – would also be covered under this?

Manufacture in UK approved body is UK therefore everything would need to be UK approved and a UKCA mark applied.

Mannie Panesar – what is the issue with listing EN not BS n declaration of conformity. MP and MK will get advice on this.

RH – Irish Backstop will Northern Ireland still have notified bodies, and could we use a NI notified body for approvals

MID, NAWI and Regulation 765 and Decision would all apply in Northern Ireland.

The backstop may have changed this morning. Could you take your equipment into Ireland and get TS to certify and to export to EU with a CE mark.

Trading standards do module F in Northern Ireland, but there is no Module B or D notified body registered in Northern Ireland.

Jim Cameron - If there is a suggestion of NMO setting up in Northern Ireland from industry – would this make it feasible?

Time Limited Period – any ideas how long?

The ending of the Time Limited Period would require legislation, and this generally take 12 – 18 months so this would be the shortest period.

10-year approval at present – anything that does not last for 10 years is a cost to business. The best scenario would be a requirement for reapproval at expiry of type approval. Not many other regulations use the 10-year period.

When verifying an EPOS system the DOC needs to have UK and CE mark. Box that turns up from abroad leave the CE mark on. UK mark on the scale and issue the DOC with UK mark.

MP would not dis-agree with that technical approach.

Emetas website still have the NMO tags on there. Will the EU tags still be on there?

6. **Any Other Business**

RH asked whether there was any other business or queries from the membership.

7. **Meeting Ends**

RH thanked everyone for attending and for their input, and said he looks forward to seeing everyone at the AGM in York