

Non-automatic Weighing Instruments Directive (2009/23/EC) and EN45501

NMO has been informed that the European Commission will be publishing a 'note' in the Official Journal in November 2011 stating that the harmonised standard EN45501 no longer provides presumption of conformity to 2009/23/EC for immunity to radiated electromagnetic fields (test B.3.4). The severity level specified in EN45501 is 3 V/m with a frequency range up to 1 GHz. The European Commission has indicated that the 'state of the art' is now considered to be 10V/m up to 2 GHz as specified in OIML R 76-1:2006.

We understand that the reason for the European Commission decision to publish the 'note' is due to the delay in revising EN45501 to align it with OIML R76:2006. The Commission consider that 3 V/m is no longer sufficient and that the standard will only give presumption of conformity to the essential requirements on all new EC Type Approval Certificates (TACs), including renewals and revisions (where the immunity to electromagnetic fields test is required), issued after the date of publication of the 'note' if immunity has been tested at 10 V/m.

This change in relation to the standard is retrospective and therefore all instruments covered by an existing EC TAC, originally tested at 3 V/m, that are placed on the market one year after the date of publication of the 'note' will be expected to comply with the 10 V/m requirement. This means that there is a year transitional period after which all instruments placed on the market will be expected to comply. Instruments that do not comply with the requirement of 10 V/m should not be placed on to the market.

Work on the revision to EN45501 to align it with OIML R76:2006 is progressing and it is anticipated that the new version of the standard will be published in mid-2013. This will mean that new approvals will be based on the requirements specified in OIML R76:2006. This will require instruments to undergo conducted immunity testing, along with surge and automotive transient testing where applicable. The requirements relating to a 'family' of instruments will also apply. It is understood that all instruments placed on the market, against the requirements of the standard, will need to comply with the new version of the standard after it is published. It is not known at this stage whether there will be a transitional period for existing EC TACs in this instance.

If you have any questions regarding this issue please do not hesitate to contact the Product Certification team at NMO on +44 (0)20 8943 7272 or info@nmo.gov.uk