



UKWF Technical Officers Discussion Presentation

7th October 2021

Changes to the Conformity Assessment Procedures



- Changes in the broader test house and conformity assessment landscape have made it necessary for the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) to consider the way it operates its statutory and commercial metrology services, in particular its role as a Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) for metrology products.
- OPSS will be ending its provision of commercial Conformity Assessment Body (CAB) services under the NMO brand. This will be a managed exit, ensuring alternative provisions for businesses are in place before stepping back from the market.
- OPSS will continue to uphold its statutory metrology services and its place as an expert leader in legal metrology. Ceasing our CAB commercial services will enable us to focus more on our key areas, increasing our support for local government and UK businesses, both nationally and internationally.

What does this mean?

- This means that you will need to have another provider for both the module B type examination certificates
- This means that you will need to have another provider for the module D certification
- Will have significant implications for the status quo of the market
- Will necessitate actions from you

Time lines?



- It will be a managed exit when alternative provision is available
- It is suggested when there is one supplier in the market the NMO will begin to withdraw from the market
- It is likely that there will be another provider for later in the year and early next year
- We must assume that from this point the NMO will begin to transition from the market
- Have suggested that it could be by the end of December 2022
- Unsure as to whether there will be other providers

Time lines - Module B?

- We have been advised that you should continue with module B applications for the NMO if you have begun them
- They will be responsible for then transitioning them to another provider when they enter on to the market
- OPS&S are working on the processes as to how this will occur so that it will be as smooth and cost effective as possible and cause the least disruption to UK industry

Time lines?- Module B - Unknowns?

- Still not clear how TC's , PC's and EC's will be dealt with
- Need to confirm how amendments to type examination certificates will be dealt with once they have been transitioned to a new provider- some companies have only just had 10-year certificates published
- Decide what advice to give to businesses that have not yet begun the process towards obtaining GB type examinations
- Not clear with respect to the use of the UK(NI) mark

Time lines? - Module D



- Many UK businesses have their module D certification with the NMO
- They use the module D certificate to be a manufacturer
- They use this for the re-qualification of instruments after alteration, adjustment, addition, repair or replacement-central to their business model
- The module D certification is done on an annual basis so a new provider will need to be found before the NMO leave the market- potentially by the end of 2022.

Time lines?-Module D-Unknowns?

- Unsure as to sufficient resources of the approved body to ensure that there are sufficient auditors
- Must ensure that we are working with the new approved bodies to ensure that they understand the resource implications
- Useful to know how many companies use the NMO certification body
- Need to understand that future approved bodies will allow manufacturers to be manufacturers using another organizations TEC- Section 68 of the NAWI Regulations (requalification authority)

Future of the NMO



- The NMO will continue to exist into the future
- “Ceasing our CAB commercial services will enable us to focus more on our key areas, increasing our support for local government and UK businesses, both nationally and internationally”
- Keen to be able to feed back to the NMO and OPS&S what this will mean in real practical terms
- Let me know what you think.

Imperial Measures



- TIGGR Report raised the potential use of imperial measures as a potential action for a post BREXIT Britain
- Government is proposing to review the restrictions on selling and ponds and ounces – “We will review the EU ban on markings and sales in imperial units and legislate in due course”
- Reintroducing the Crown Stamp – “We will remove the EU-derived prohibition on printing the Crown Stamp on pint glasses and allowing publicans and restaurants to voluntarily embrace this important symbol on their glassware, should they choose to do so”.
- Nothing that would prevent the use now if it had no legal effect

Imperial Measures



- Except for media outlets we have little further information
- May be practically difficult to implement
- Would need new type examinations
- Would need to alter the Weights and Measures Act
- Would need to alter the approved standard
- Would not appear to have effect in Northern Ireland
- https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1018386 ah