



February 2023

Latest News from the UK Weighing Federation

A message from the UKWF President, Graham Spink

Welcome to the latest edition of the UKWF newsletter. We're looking forward to seeing as many of you as possible at our AGM and in the meantime, we hope you enjoy reading all about our recent activities and our plans for the future.

The March AGM in York will see the end of my tenure as UKWF President. Looking back over the past 3 years, it has been both an honour and a pleasure to lead the UKWF team. I've particularly enjoyed reigniting and rebranding the Federation and creating a clear and united voice for the UK weighing industry.

And we have achieved this goal whilst simultaneously dealing with some of the biggest challenges in our industry's recent history.

We have navigated a course through the endless current of Brexit backwash whilst undertaking a modernisation agenda that includes not only the palpable changes to branding, media and comms but also fundamental changes behind the scenes.

The UKWF Officers and Board are united in our focus on driving the short- and long-term plans for the Federation.



These plans are designed to raise our profile among key stakeholders and provide even greater benefits to our members.

I could not be more proud of what the team have achieved, and I am pleased to leave the Federation in great shape with a bright future under the leadership of our new president.

The Retained EU Law Bill and its implications



With the UK still negotiating the process of Brexit, there remain question marks over the future of regulation of our industry. The UKWF has been engaging fully with the Retained EU Law Bill as it progresses through the UK Parliament's legislative process. This Bill has significant implications on the future regulatory framework for legal metrology.

What is the EU Retained Law Bill?

The EU Retained Law (REUL) Bill is a piece of legislation that the Government has introduced that will remove all EU Retained Law from the UK's statute book, with the intention that it will be replaced with UK law. It is viewed by Government as the final piece of the Brexit puzzle – decoupling all UK law from European law. At time of writing, it is passing through the House of Lords public bill stages, and will return the House of Commons for final stages later in March.

What does it mean for us?

The regulatory standards imposed on the UK's weighing industry are based on European law. After Brexit, they became retained EU law and remained in place. However, the REUL Bill currently includes a sunset clause meaning that on 31st December 2023, all retained EU law will cease to be in force. This means the Government's Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) has until the end of this year to replace the retained EU regulatory system for legal metrology with a new UK system.

Why is this an issue?

The REUL Bill affects over 4000 pieces of UK regulation and legislation. While the natural consequence of Brexit is that these will need to be replaced with UK-specific law, there is significant concern that the sunset clause of 31st December means that Government departments will simply not have time to adopt replacement regulations before retained law is removed. If OPSS has not adopted a new regulatory framework for legal metrology by 1st January 2024, there will be a regulatory vacuum for the weighing industry which risks allowing inaccurate, unsafe products and systems to enter the market.

What is the UKWF doing about this?

Over recent months, the UKWF has working to promote understanding of the implications of the REUL Bill for our industry, and campaign to remove the sunset clause, and allow sufficient time for Government departments to fully consider, and consult with industry experts on, what the new regulatory framework should look like.

The UKWF has undertaken the following activities to mitigate the risk of the removal of the UK's regulatory framework for legal metrology:

- Joined the CTSI's Safeguarding our Standards campaign, which highlights the value of good regulation
- Produced our own briefing paper outlining why high standards in weights and measures supports patient safety, consumer rights and safety, industrial and transport safety, government revenue collection and a robust UK weighing industry and sent out to members of the House of Lords
- Engaged with OPSS to try and find out what support we can offer

For more information please contact Katie Begg at comms@ukwf.org.uk

An update from our UKWF Technical Officer, Ian Turner

It's been an incredibly busy period for the UKWF. We apologise that it's been a longer gap than usual between newsletters, but with so much happening, now feels like a great opportunity to update you.

It's been really interesting to see debate on the REUL Bill and how many Members of Parliament have reflected on the need for robust regulatory systems to ensure consumers and industries alike are protected. In weighing, strong regulation protects the integrity and reputation of the instruments and systems that we produce, as well as ensuring consumer safety and rights.

Don't forget that you can continue to use CE marks and EU approvals until the end of 2024. Between the 1st 2025 and the end of 2027 you must use the UKCA mark, but this can be with EU type approvals and EU self-verification certification. As soon as we know how the recent announcement with regard to Northern Ireland affects the use of the CE mark and the UKCA in that part of the UK, we will let you know

We know that regulations are only useful if they are properly understood by their enforcers. This is why I am so excited by the work we are doing to grow our partnership with CTSI. At the AGM, we'll be outlining how we propose to support CTSI in ensuring their officers get the training they need to carry out effective inspections.

Last month I led a technical webinar on the Packaged Goods Regulations. If you missed out, my slides are available on the UKWF website. The next webinar is scheduled for May. Please email me if is a particular topic you'd like me to cover.

I'm looking forward to catching up with many of you at the AGM in March and thank you for your support of the UKWF.



GAMBICA

Don't forget that as part of our partnership with GAMBICA, UKWF members can receive discounts on paid for events, hosted by GAMBICA. More information about what's coming up can be found on the UKWF website.

Check out my latest Vlog!

Every month I record a short video blog with some of the key technical updates to accompany the usual monthly email activity report.

You can find my video blogs on the members section of the UKWF website.

UKWF Regional Meeting and AGM – 30th March 2023

The UKWF's next AGM and regional meeting will take place in York on 30th March.

Our keynote speaker is John Herriman, CEO of the UK Chartered Trading Standards Institute. He will be talking about the future opportunities for closer collaboration between UKWF and CTSI, including our proposals for supporting the training of CTSO officers, and how we can work together towards good regulation of our industry.

We have a jam-packed agenda for the meeting - and topics up for discussion include:

- Plans for the UKWF apprenticeship scheme
- CTSI open day training programme
- Our new UKWF website

...any much more! Attendees are also invited to attend the UKWF dinner on the evening of 30th.

For more information and to book your place, visit www.ukwf.org.uk/ukwf_agm_march_2023



UKWF Current Projects

We know that many members are involved in the individual projects being run by Board members. At the AGM and regional meeting, we'll be updating attendees on all aspects of our work, but we thought it might be a helpful reminder for anyone wishing to know more to see what we're working on and who is leading on each project!

UKWF Apprenticeship Scheme

- Led by Kevin Cartwright, UKWF Board Member and Avery Berkel

UKWF Membership Offer Development

- Led by Marina Campbell, UKWF Board Member and Precia Molen

UKWF Policies Review

- Led by Mark Clifford, UKWF Board Member and Minbea Intec

UKWF CTSI Training Offer

- Led by Ian Turner, UKWF Technical Officer

UKWF Website Upgrade

- Led by Tom Marren, UKWF Board Member and Coventry Scale Company

UKWF External Comms Capability

- Led by Katie Begg, UKWF Comms Officer

Please contact us for more information on any of our projects – admin@ukwf.org.uk

ICW
INTERNATIONAL
CONFERENCE
OF WEIGHING

WEIGHING IN A GLOBAL
DIGITAL WORLD!

24.–26. April 2023
Hotel Hafen Hamburg,
Germany

Registration is still open for CECIP's 2023 World of Weighing Conference.

The event programme will include presentations on legal, scientific, and applied metrology, with a wide range of discussions and plenary sessions hosted by senior executives from national metrology institutes and major weighing instrument manufacturers.

Book now at: www.weighingconference.com

Dates for your diary...

16th March 2023

Member's online meeting on CTSI open day training offer

30th March 2023

UKWF AGM and Regional Meeting - York

24th – 26th April 2023

CECIP International Conference of Weighing – Hamburg, Germany

9th June

CECIP General Assembly – online event

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