



October 2020

Latest News from the UK Weighing Federation

A message from the UKWF President, Graham Spink

Welcome to the first of our quarterly newsletters that we will be sending to keep you up to date with the latest news from the UK Weighing Federation and the wider industry.

It's been a busy quarter for everyone as we adjust to a new normal and work to overcome the challenges that Covid-19 has presented. Despite the restrictions, the Federation has kept working hard throughout - albeit remotely - to continue providing you, our members, with the latest weighing information and insights, and to provide a strong voice to government on all legal metrology matters.

A big topic over the last few months has of course been Brexit and the impact that key decisions being made by Government will have on our industry both now and post-Brexit.

We have written to the Business Secretary, Alok Sharma and have been lobbying stakeholders at the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy to share our concerns and ultimately try and drive the best outcomes for our members.



You can read more about this work in the newsletter, and of course if you have any questions about Brexit, the work of the UKWF, or anything else, please do not hesitate to contact Ian Turner or myself, and we will be very pleased to discuss it with you.

Brexit News

While we might have officially left the EU, Brexit isn't over by a long shot.

As we make our way through the transition period and head into 2021, there's much still to be confirmed about the impact on the weighing industry and how legislation will pan out.

So, what do we know, and what action is the Federation taking?

The UK Weighing Federation has been lobbying government recently, asking for clarity on how the industry practically moves from the CE mark to the UKCA mark without causing unnecessary costs and wasted time for businesses.

In addition, we've raised concerns that our members have about the time limited period for UK certifications being just 12 months.

There was some clarity given on 1 September, as the Government published guidance on the use of UKCA markings from 1 January 2021.

It's worth noting that only weighing companies using a UK notified body, mostly the National Measurement Office (NMO) or SGS, will have to use the UKCA mark from 1 January 2021. Although that said, all weighing manufacturers, suppliers and distributors will have to follow suit before January 2022.

This guidance allows weighing companies to start taking steps to ensure they are compliant with the appropriate dates.

We shared a breakdown of the update when it was published a few weeks ago, but see the next page for a recap...



The guidance so far...

From 1 January 2021

If you use the NMO or SGS as your notified body, you will have to use the UKCA mark from 1 January 2021. This can be attached to the product as a label or go in an accompanying document, but from 1 January 2023 it must be permanently attached.

You will need to produce a UK Declaration of Conformity. This will be broadly similar to an EU Declaration of Conformity, but the standards and regulations must be applicable to the UK one.



This does not apply to Northern Ireland as it remains in the EU frameworks. Further advice on this will be published shortly.

From 1 January 2022

From 1 January 2022 the CE mark will no longer be recognised in Great Britain (it will still be recognised in Northern Ireland). Any product bearing a CE mark will still be valid in the UK as long as it is also marked with a UKCA mark.

The UKCA mark can go on a label or an accompanying document.

From this date it will be necessary to have UK Type examination certificates rather than EU ones.

From 1 January 2023

The UKCA mark must be affixed permanently to the product. It is assumed that this can be in conjunction with the CE mark.

This means that the ‘time limited period’ (transition period) for using a CE mark as well as a UKCA mark will only be for 12 months, ending on the 1 January 2022.

This also means that existing EU type examination certificates will need to be replaced with UK ones even if they haven't expired.

So, what next...?

The Government has made the high-level decisions on what the changes look like for the weighing industry post Brexit, but there is still a lot of detail that needs clarifying.

We've made some good progress on lobbying Government. Most recently, we met with representatives from BEIS, who are largely supportive of the challenges we face.

What became clear in the meeting is that if you need

to mark your instruments with a UKCA mark from 1 January 2021 and need a UK Declaration of Conformity, the UKCA mark can be added in conjunction with the CE mark and can go on accompanying documents.

We've asked BEIS to clarify what “accompanying documents” can be.

Also, it appears that any components that you import can still be marked with a CE until the end of 2021.

However, they will have to be changed by then so it is important that you talk to your suppliers to ensure that they are aware of this.

It will also be necessary for all instruments in England, Scotland and Wales to have a UK type examination certificate by 1 January 2022.

BEIS will be giving more clarity on this and other details, and we will share information as soon as it's available.

An update from our UKWF Technical Officer, Ian Turner

It's certainly been an interesting few months confined to my desk at home in Hertfordshire, rather than travelling around the UK and Europe meeting people face to face.

Many of the European meetings that I would normally attend on behalf of our members have had a very different feel as we catch up virtually, and I must admit that they feel a little more sterile than the face to face meetings where much more progress would normally be made.

That said, we are close to confirming a European Guide on the risk assessment for software approval which will hopefully improve harmonisation and consistency in this area. It is then our intention to ensure that the UK Government follows the same guidance for UK approvals, and we will of course share this guidance with you when it's all confirmed.



CECIP (The European Trade Association)

CECIP has had some success in organising meetings with senior civil servants, the EU Commission and the directors of many national market surveillance authorities.

They seem receptive to further discussions on the CECIP policy of trying to harmonise the technical requirements for the re-qualification of instruments, which will be a massive benefit to those businesses who work in more than one country.

GAMBICA

In September we met with GAMBICA. As the Trade Association for instrumentation, control, automation and laboratory technology in the UK, they are a key stakeholder for the UKWF, so we were keen to establish a relationship with them to put the UKWF and its members on their radar. It was a successful meeting and I'll be continuing to work with them moving forward to bring benefits for our members.

Communications update

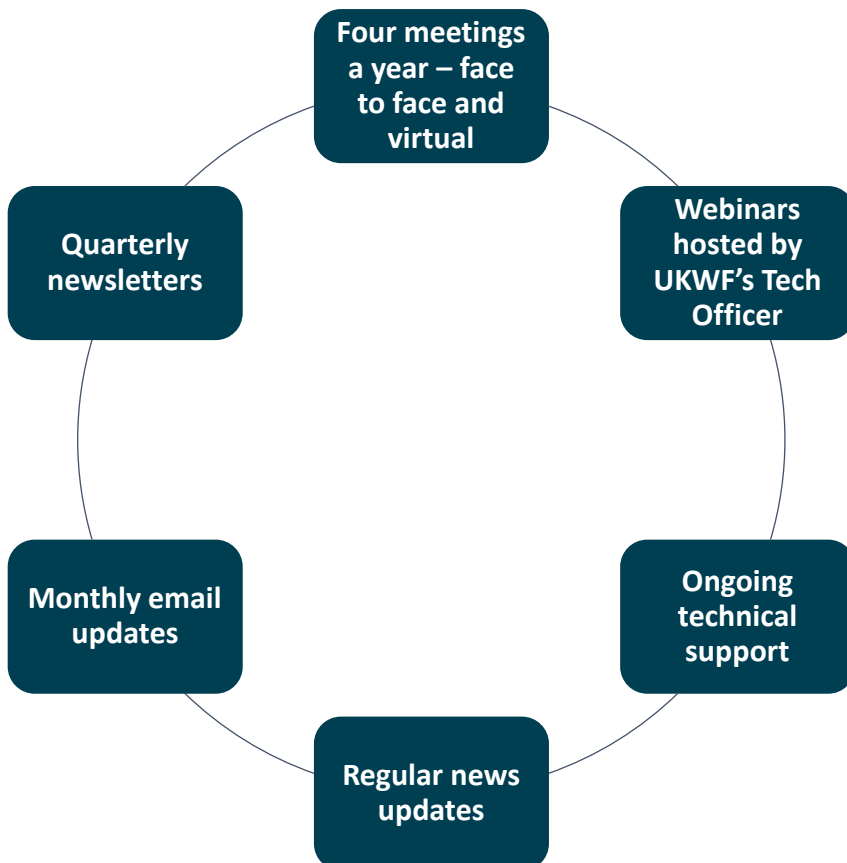
Back in the summer we recruited a comms officer and set up a comms and engagement group to ultimately focus on;

- Raising awareness of the UKWF
- Positioning the Federation as the expert voice for the industry
- Becoming the go-to organisation for legal metrology in the UK
- Improving how we communicate with our members so that you get real value from your membership

Here’s a few things to watch out for over the coming months:

- **New UKWF logo** – the comms and engagement group are working to develop a new logo and brand for the UKWF. There’s still some work to do to get it right and approved, but watch this space.
- **New monthly email update** - From this month you’ll receive a monthly email with highlights from the previous month, technical updates, and key dates for your diary. This means you’ll have everything you need to know in one place.

As members of the UK Weighing Federation, you’ll get access to the latest industry news and technical information through the following communication channels throughout the year:



Social Media

We’re becoming more active on Twitter and LinkedIn so please follow us for the latest info and updates.

You can find us on:

Twitter

@ukwf

LinkedIn -

@UK Weighing Federation



Dates for your diary

8 October 2020

UKWF members meeting

20 January 2021

UKWF Webinar hosted by Ian Turner: Compatibility of Modules

18 March 2021

UKWF AGM & members meeting – York

11 June 2021

CECIP GA – London

7 October 2021

UKWF members meeting – Gaydon

If you have any feedback on the newsletter or there's a topic you'd like to see featured in future editions, then drop us a line at comms@ukwf.org.uk

