

**UK WEIGHING FEDERATION**  
**PRIVATE & CONFIDENTIAL**

Minutes of a meeting of the Regional Meeting, held on Thursday, 7<sup>th</sup> October 2021 at the British Motor Museum, Gaydon, UK

Present:	Graham Spink	AWM Ltd	President
	Kevin Cartwright	Avery Berkel	
	Jim Cameron	Avery Weigh-Tronix	
	James Hobbs	AWM Ltd	
	Charles Pullen	Bizerba (UK) Ltd	
	Lisa Haughton	Bizerba (UK) Ltd	
	Tom Marren	Coventry Scale Company Ltd	
	George Cox	Dini Argeo UK Ltd	
	Steve Cox	Dini Argeo UK Ltd	
	Gareth Roberts	Flintec UK Limited	
	David Weeks	Flintec UK Limited	
	Steve Hart	Flintec UK Limited	
	Julian Hope	Herbert Group Ltd	
	Richard Herbert	Herbert Group Ltd	
	Ian Hodgson	Ishida Europe Ltd	
	Tao Zhu	Ishida Europe Ltd	
	Brian Onuonga	John White & Son (Weighing Machines) Ltd	
	Andrew Goddard	Marel GB Limited	
	Samuel Jones	Ohaus	
	Tim Watson	Ohaus	
	Mark Clifford	Minebea Intec UK Limited	
	Martin McDermott	MPM Scales LLP	
	Adrian Rudd	NMI Certin B.V.	
	Lucy Bennett-Poole	Positive Weighing Solutions Ltd	
	Tony Bennett-Poole	Positive Weighing Solutions Ltd	
	Derek Johnstone	Precia-Molen UK Ltd	
	Guy Thompson	Precia-Molen UK Ltd	
	Marina Campbell	Precia-Molen UK Ltd	
	Laurence Greene	Solent Scale Services Ltd	
	Paul Moody	Solent Scale Services Ltd	
	Dave Clark	Weightron Bilanciai Ltd	
	Nick Catt	Weightron Bilanciai Ltd	

**Speakers & Guests**

Tim Hammers	CECIP
Chris Goodacre	UKWF Admin
Ian Turner	UKWF Technical

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

**Apologies**

Apologies had been received from 5 people as follows:

County Scales Limited	Paul Hodgkinson
Flintec UK Limited	David Weeks
Northern Balance Ltd	Daniel Egan-Sheath
Promptek Limited	Catherine Jones
Radwag UK Ltd	Martin Ross

## 1. President's comments

So, 18 months on and I finally get to present my Presidents report in person - a year and a half of video conferences and muted microphones, it really is great to be here with you all. I hope you are enjoying the day so far and the opportunity to chat face to face, catching up on the last year and a half!

As you'll hear later today, we certainly have lots of challenges ahead as an industry –the on-going repercussions of Brexit, type approval transitions, the NMO's withdrawal as a Conformity Assessment Body, Covid, labour and product shortages and of course the government's love of imperial measures.

I am looking forward to discussing all of this with you today and working out how we navigate our way through each one as a united industry, facing the challenges together as a Federation.

Amid these difficult times, the UKWF team have driven the Federation forward and achieved great things regardless. We have modernised, rebranded, and restructured and are in great shape to tackle these challenges head-on, ensuring the best outcomes for our members.

In my last Presidents report for the AGM, I wrote about the changes we have implemented, and I would like to reiterate them here in person.

Back in 2017, the UKWF Board had a vision of creating focus groups tasked with improving the UKWF in three key areas - Skills, Quality, and Marketing. When I became President in 2020, I could see we had already made good progress in all three areas but there was much still to do.

The Quality focus group had worked towards raising standards with the introduction of ISO certification requirement, but support was still needed for some members to achieve this. The Skills focus group had started on its journey of building an apprenticeship scheme for our industry and while the board were trying to get it off the ground, they were running into barriers at every turn. In addition, the Marketing focus group were finding it challenging to have the time and skillset to promote the Federation successfully.

As a board member prior to becoming President, I believed in all three of these goals and one of my first objectives as President was to drive forward the work each group had already done. Equally, I wanted to modernise the UKWF brand and improve its perception within the membership and with key stakeholders. I felt strongly that the UKWF needed to evolve to provide a clear united voice for the weighing industry that reflects the views of all members.

Nearly 18 months later and here we are at our Regional Meeting after what has been a hugely productive period for the Federation. We have worked to increase the skill level in the weighing industry and finally completed the apprenticeship scheme. We have only been held back from embedding it due to Covid and hope to make it available to all members in 2022.

We have worked to raise quality in the industry by focusing on our ISO membership criteria and assisting those members who want to become ISO registered by putting training and admin through a vetted provider in place.

We have transformed the way we communicate with members and stakeholders with the appointment of Grace as our Comms Officer. We now have more channels of communications to make sure members are receiving the latest information and have access to updates, such as our quarterly newsletters, monthly activity updates, the introduction of social media channels with regular industry specific content, regular news stories, video blogs from our Technical Officer, and quarterly technical webinars with special guests.

We have developed and maintained relationships with key stakeholders in government, raising the profile of the Federation with regular meetings with Trading Standards, OPSS and NMO that enable us to have input and first sight of key announcements. We were influential in developing and driving forward the transition process from EU to UK Type Approval Certificates and were first to be consulted over the UKCA mark and changes to the Conformity Assessment Bodies at OPS&S. We have also developed new partnerships with other trade bodies including GAMBICA to further raise our profile and bring added benefits to UKWF members.

And alongside this, we have modernised the UKWF brand with our new logo to reflect all of this transformation over the past 18 months.

The UKWF team – Ian, Chris, and Grace – have collectively done an excellent job and I would like to take this opportunity to thank them for their hard work and dedication. The Federation would not be where it is today without them, and the support they show me, and the board daily is hugely appreciated. The board have also been extremely active and instrumental in creating change this year, we all give up our own time freely to work on behalf of our members and I want to thank my fellow Directors on behalf of the Federation.

I hope you will agree that the UKWF is in great shape. We will continue to work hard to promote and further improve our Federation. Creating a strong united voice and working together as an industry is key to a respected and successful Federation.

If you would like to be involved or if you have any comments (good or bad), please do come and find me after the meeting and we can work together to benefit all our members and the wider weighing industry.

There were no questions following this presentation.

2.

Presentation: Tim Hammers, CECIP – Introduction to CECIP and its role in EU Legislation  
Graham Introduced Tim Hammers, Secretary General of CECIP the European Manufacturers of Weighing Instruments. UKWF is a member of CECIP.

Tim gave his presentation which is attached to these minutes.

The following questions were asked:

Julian Hope – Herberts

Will there be a change to EN45501?

Tim advised that as R76 has changed therefore EN45501 will also be updated however R76 has been discussed since October 2017 but there is no first draft legislation at present.

Jim Cameron, Avery Weightronix

Can you update us on the common process for re-verification in Europe? Will this actually come about or will there just be agreements between existing EU countries (mutual recognition)?

Tim advised that he believed Mutual recognition may happen within 2-3 years in countries that are willing to take part. There is no appetite for EU legislation, so a harmonised EU standard is unlikely within the next 5-10 years.

Graham Spink commented that it is important to us to emphasise the relationship with CECIP as it is clearly important for the UK to have a voice in Europe, and we do this via CECIP. Items that CECIP are working on will still have a direct effect on our industries as Republic of Ireland is a large part of UK market and is an EU country.

3. Communications update – Grace Marren, UKWF Comms Officer

Graham advised that Grace was hoping to attend the meeting and looked forward to meeting people in person, but was not able to be here today. He gave the Communications Update presentation on her behalf. This is attached to these minutes.

The following questions were asked:

Tom Marren, Coventry Scale Company

It's important to keep checking the website for information. There is a wealth of information in the members area of the website. We can't send out individual information by email as there is just so much of it. There is general business advice and HR advice etc information and courses from our partners organisations that UKWF members are able to access. Check out the Gambica and CECIP sections in the members area for relevant information as well as Federation news and events.

4. Presentation on OPS&S - changes to Conformity Assessment Body services

Ian gave a presentation on OPS&S – changes to Conformity Assessment Procedures and Imperial Measures, as a starter to the discussion session. The presentation is attached to these minutes.

Richard Herbert, Herbert Group asked if this was an example of us taking back control of our own legislation as per government soundbites, as this would then mean that other EU notified bodies were the only options for TEC, this would seem to be counterproductive.

Julian Herbert, Herbert Group – if we keep the TEC unchanged, would they be honoured for the full period.

UKWF should be pushing for this as our starting position.

Ian advised that when NMO stops being a CAB, someone else has to “own” the certificate and there may be a cost involved in this transfer. The NMO has advised they will not leave the market until this transfer has been assured.

We are encouraging all members to discuss this situation so that the board know what position members would like the Federation to take.

Adrian Rudd of NMI confirmed that NMI had not had a discussion with NMO. NMI were planning on trading in the UK market on a competition basis with NMO. NMI would not like to enter into the political discussions with this situation, but they would need to understand what the market requirement would be in the UK. They are happy working with the UKWF and potentially with OPS&S but they do not want to become the NMO's default supplier without having any say in the matter.

Richard Herbert, Herbert Group commented that NMO apparently refurbished their offices recently and wondered if this meant there was already a deal on the table between NMO and another organisation.

It was also noted that if the NMO were continuing to be an issuing authority for the OIML they would need to maintain the testing facilities for that purpose.

Andrew Goddard, Marel asked if someone does need to own the certificates if they remain unchanged.

Can NMO offer a holding outfit function from anyone that is not amending a TAC.

Ian Turner advised that this still would mean an approved body would have to have authority on this situation.

Julian Hope - Could NMO do a phased 10-year withdrawal?

Ian advised we were told that it is not unrealistic that the NMO would have its doors closed for business as a CAB by end of 2022.

If you are using NMO TA certificates, at some point you will need to have another provider.

For Module D – you will also need another provider for this service.

Andrew Goddard, Marel, could we ask NMO for a copy of the risk assessment for the decision to withdraw as a CAB, for our reference.

IT advised that NMO has asked for feedback on what they could do after withdrawing from CAB, so we need to think of some feedback for them.

5. Round table discussion on issues for the industry with OPS&S plan  
Round Table Discussions on Conformity Assessment Body services table summaries:

1 Jim Cameron's table

OPS&S changes give concerns about continuity of certification. We need clarity on transition.

Can a single replacement body cope with the level of certification required in the UK?

We would like specific information on what the NMO will be left doing i.e., testing, calibration, ISO 9001?

Ideally, we would like them to stay involved in all those processes.

Imperial measures – Is it necessary at all? If there is a market for it, businesses would adapt to suit demand.

Covid – Businesses are getting on with it as best they can under the current conditions

2 Richard Herbert's table

Echo the above concerns. There is a feeling that NMO are walking away from their responsibilities. Not sure that lobbying to keep NMO as CAB would do any good.

Worried that EU type approvals will be supplied into the UK without recertifications. Some EU suppliers are already excluding the UK market as it was so insignificant to their business.

If you have an NMO UK certificate now, are they valid whilst the NMO exists? Would this need to be transitioned to a new AB/NB, would they recognise an NMO EU certificate now we have left EU?

Will EU certs just be supplied into the UK market illegally.

3 Tom Marren's table

Echo other comments. If NMO move away from certification, will they be involved in more market surveillance?

Is there an option for UKWF to be an approved body to assist members?

Are we prepared to let the NMO go without a fight to keep them?

TIGGR – what would the UKWF as a trade association say about it. Should we have a position or should we sit back and wait to see what happens.

Some members could benefit from this move.

4. Mark Clifford's table

What cost there will be for the Certs transition

Checking that the monopoly supplier can cope with the demand, if not what is the fallback plan?

TIGGR – the younger generation has no concept of this system so cannot see that it will come into effect.

5. Kevin Cartwright's table

Echoed many of the concerns already mentioned. Supply chain issues, customs delays and getting items into EU is an issue for companies in this discussion. Have had to hold more stock or accept that service to customers would be detrimentally affected.

Covid has produced delays in service engineer visits due to symptoms.

Sales are higher than people had expected, but service is lower.

6. Steve Hart's table

Business is hard at present but if we can hold on to principles things will improve. There is good business to be had.

Imperial units – no reality to it due to the lack of engagement from younger generation.

NMO – is this all a carefully planned exit with another supplier lined up? Given the general level of incompetence of late in NMO, they haven't usually got the organisation to do this in advance.

IT – NMO – could drive coordinated TS policy and coordinate market surveillance.

- 6.

**Technical Officer update**

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

The following Questions and points were raised during this presentation

Dave Weeks, Flintec – how is the Economic Operator being policed.

Trading standards NI have authority for NI trade and would police this. If there was a breach in regulations authorities in NI would go to the economic operator in NI. If this is a role that your customer takes then there would have to be an agreement to assist, as they may not have appropriate level of expertise.

Lucy Bennett-Poole, Positive Weighing – who would the TSNI come after

If you do not have an Economic Operator in NI then the TSNI would come after you for noncompliance. NI TS have large market surveillance budget and have recruited more TS officers so are much more likely to be in a position to find discrepancies that TS in rest of UK.

Julian Hope – Herbert Group

Designated standards - Does that still fall under NMO responsibility

There is a separate compliance body in OPS&S so not directly NMO.

Andy Goddard, Marel – eco design is there an exemption on Industrial control panel. Could this apply to industrial weighing indicator? Could UKWF have a position on this that they are exempt

This would depend on their function.

Need to develop a strategy on this.

## 7. **Meeting Ends**

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