



June 2023

Latest News from the UK Weighing Federation

A message from new UKWF President, Charles Pullen

Welcome to the latest edition of the UKWF newsletter. It's a real honour to be writing this message as the new President of the Federation, after my election to the post at our March AGM.

I'm very fortunate to have taken over the reins from my predecessor in the role, Graham Spink. When Graham took over three years ago, we were a successful, but relatively simple membership organisation. Under his leadership, we have become a forward-thinking, professional trade federation that has the interests of every one of our members at its heart.

I wanted to give a flavour of some of my priorities for the UKWF for the coming two years.

We will work to retain a strong regulatory framework for our industry by engaging with the Government.

The September launch of our new apprenticeship and training scheme has the potential to increase the number of highly-skilled entrant workers in our industry. In addition, the benefits of our new training and policy collaborations with CTSI promise to be wide-ranging and significant



Finally, it will be rewarding to oversee the continued professionalisation of our Federation – including the development of our new website.

So, a busy but exciting time lies ahead. I want to thank you all for the vote of confidence, and for all the help and advice I know I will be offered. I can't wait to get on with the job of advocating for our vibrant and dynamic industry.

Report from the inaugural International Conference of Weighing – April 2023, Hamburg

From the 24th to the 26th of April, UKWF Technical Officer, Ian Turner, attended the first ever International Conference of Weighing, hosted by European weighing trade association CECIP. He has these thoughts to share on the event....

I enjoyed my time at the International Conference of Weighing in Hamburg, which was attended by around 220 people from 24 countries and 6 continents. The focus of the conference was digitalisation in the weighing industry and there was a wide range of stakeholders from the worlds of legal, scientific, and applied metrology all giving inciteful and interesting presentations.

There were three parallel sessions covering the themes of applied, legal, and scientific metrology and these were all bought together at the end to understand how they all interacted with each other and to discuss the challenges and opportunities for the future.

There were presentations from the EU Commission on the digital transformation agenda and a view from WELMEC about how digitalisation will affect market surveillance and type approval authorities. It was good to see how the development of digital certificate - a project CECIP is actively involved in - fits in with the broader digital agenda infrastructure.

A very interesting plenary session was given by senior members of staff from European weighing companies on the future of the industry. It was good to hear their insight into how they saw the global market was being transformed by digitalisation. These ideas were further confirmed with talks on the future of the retail, laboratory, food, and chemical sector.

Perhaps the biggest glimpse of the future was the connection between scientific metrology and legal metrology. There were fascinating explanations of the latest developments in the definition of the kilogram, and the development of a project to miniaturise a Kibble Balance so that it could be used in a commercial field. This clearly showed how scientific metrologists are looking to ensure their work has real world applications.



Update: Retained EU Law (REUL) Bill

As our members will no doubt be aware, the UKWF has been engaging with the passage of the Retained EU Law Bill through Parliament, both directly, by briefing members of the House of Lords, and via membership of the Chartered Trading Standards Institute's Safeguarding our Standards Campaign. Since our last newsletter, there's been positive movement on the most concerning aspects of the Bill...

What is the REUL Bill?

The REUL Bill is a piece of legislation intended to remove all retained EU law from the UK's statute book, post-Brexit. It contained provision that all retained EU laws – over 3000 pieces of legislation – would cease to be in effect in the UK by 31st December 2023. Weights and measures regulations were among these laws, putting our sector at risk of deregulation in 2024.

What's changed?

Last month, the Government conceded that this 'sunset clause' put important regulations at risk, and that there was simply not enough time to replace over 3000 laws before 31st December – and removed this provision from the Bill. Instead, the Government will produce a smaller list of existing regulations for more immediate review, and replacement of other laws will be given a much longer time frame.

What is UKWF doing to secure our current high regulatory standards?

We do not expect weights and measures regulations to be among those up for immediate review, but we will continue to monitor the situation closely. We are also working closely with the Department for Business and Trade to ensure that when our regulatory framework is reviewed, we can advise them on how to secure high standards within our industry through good regulation.



An update from our UKWF Technical Officer, Ian Turner

It has been a very busy and positive time for the UKWF, and it feels as though we are moving from the recent challenges of BREXIT to new opportunities for the UKWF in future. It is an exciting time for the UKWF.

Don't forget that you can continue to use EU type examinations and self-verification certificates until the end of 2027, although after the end of 2024 the instrument must be marked (or go in accompany documents) with the UKCA mark.

The new UKWF apprenticeship is now underway, and we will have the first course for the UKWF Certificate on the week beginning on the 18th September. There will be sessions on legal metrology theory and practical fault -finding sessions to make sure all aspects of the job of an engineer are covered. There has been a lot of interest in the apprenticeship, and it is hope that this will mark the beginning of resolving a long-term problem for the weighing industry for the future.

We have begun our collaboration with the Chartered Trading Standards Institute (CTSI) and members will be opening their doors to trainee Trading Standards Officers to help them with practical experience during their training over the next year. This will help develop positive relations with local officers and helps establish the UKWF members as leaders in competence and excellence in all aspects of weighing.

We have been working hard with CECIP on a range of agendas and it is clear that digitalisation is increasingly significant for the weighing industry in the future. We have been engaging with other stakeholders on the development of machine-readable certificates and the International Conference of Weighing was significant in showing where the future of the industry lies.

It is good to see a new approved body entering the market as the UK Metrology Board (UKMB). The increased choice of new approved body will undoubtedly bring benefits to UKWF members in the future.

I look forward to seeing many of you at the next UKWF meeting on the 4th and 5th of October, in the meantime do not hesitate to give me a call if I can help with anything.



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 – IWM Duxford 5th October 2023



The UKWF's next regional meeting will take place in the Concorde Suite at the Imperial War Museum, Duxford, on 5th October 2023. We look forward to welcoming as many of our members as possible and encourage you to sign up to attend asap!

The meeting is free to attend, and more information about the agenda, including guest speakers, will be available soon. In the meantime, please visit our website to find out more about the event, including timings and recommendations for travel and accommodation.

Members can also attend the UKWF dinner on the evening of 6th October. We hope to see you all there! For more information and to book your place, visit: [Regional Meeting 2023 \(ukwf.org.uk\)](https://www.ukwf.org.uk/Regional-Meeting-2023)



Dates for your diary...

- 1st September 2023: Initiation of UKWF and CTSI Training Collaboration - *there is still time to sign up to offer an open day for the training of trading standards officers between Sept '23 and August '24. Visit our website to learn more: [CTSI Training Offer \(ukwf.org.uk\)](https://ukwf.org.uk)*
- 18th September 2023: First UKWF Legal Metrology Certificate Training Programme starts
- 5th October 2023: UKWF Regional Meeting, IWM Duxford

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.

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