



# WEIGHLOG

SCALE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.  
6724 Lone Oak Blvd. • Naples, Florida 34109  
<http://www.scalemanufacturers.org>

SUMMER 2006

## SMA Member Companies

### REGULAR MEMBERS

Avery Weigh-Tronix, Inc.

Cardinal Scale Manufacturing Co.

Fancor, Inc.

Hobart Corporation

Hottinger Baldwin Measurements

LTS Scale Corporation

McKesson Automation Systems

Mettler-Toledo, Inc.

Sartorius Corporation

Systems Associates, Inc.

Vishay Transducers

### ASSOCIATE MEMBERS

A&D Engineering, Inc.

Doran Scales, Inc.

Flintec, Inc.

NCR

Rice Lake Weighing Systems



SCALE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION, INC.

## SMA ANNUAL MEETING



As promised in November, when the SMA met at 9,700 feet above sea level in Colorado, the SMA met at sea level for its Annual Meeting. The SMA's Annual Meeting convened at the Naples Beach Hotel and Golf Club in Naples, Florida (GPS Altitude 3 feet above sea level) from April 19 through 21, 2006.

Eighty two percent of SMA Regular Member Companies and sixty percent of Associate Members were in attendance. Members had an opportunity to directly hear and discuss the status of national and NTEP issues before the National Conference on Weights and Measures from NCWM Chairman, Don Onwiler. Members also had an opportunity to directly hear and discuss the status of proposals and programs at the NIST Office of Weights and Measures from Carol Hockert, the new Chief of that division. Those attending the Technical Committee meeting also had an opportunity to interface directly with Clark Cooney, the Chairman of the NCWM S&T Committee as well as Carol Hockert.

The assembled members adopted SMA Positions on issues on the agenda of the NCWM Specifications and Tolerance Committee at the upcoming Annual Meeting of the NCWM in July. Those positions are at the back of this newsletter.



L-R: Doug Biette (Sartorius), Steve Langford(Cardinal Scale), Lou Straub (FANCOR), Carol Hockert (NIST/OWM), Don Onwiler (NCWM), BRob Upright (Vishay), and Jim Sexton (Rice Lake).



L-R: Bob Schuller (Hobart), Nigel Mills (Hobart), Paul Lewis (Rice Lake), Joseph Antkowiak (Flintec), Leon Lammers (Avery Weigh-Tronix), Steve Bitzel (Systems Associates), and Sal Cardaci (Sartorius).



The gavel is passed

The gavel of SMA President was passed from Rick Norden of FANCOR, Inc., who has held the position for the past two years, to Todd Manifold of Mettler-Toledo, Inc. Additionally, Stephen Langford of Cardinal Scale Manufacturing Co. was elected SMA Vice President. Steve Langford was also elected to a three year term on the Board of Directors along with Steve Beitzel of Systems Associates.

An Industry Round Table was conducted and allowed the members to share their perceptions of the business climate and the problems that confront the industry. The consensus appeared to be that business has been very good through the first quarter and that they anticipate continued growth through the rest of 2007. The size of the growth was uncertain but it was indeed positive. Health care costs, while increasing, do not seem to be on as steep a curve as had been experienced in the past few years. Consolidation of manufacturing locations and development of offshore manufacturing/supply capabilities continue to be objects of management concern as global price competition grows.



## OFFICERS

### **President**

Todd Manifold  
*Mettler-Toledo, Inc.*

### **Vice President**

Stephen Langford  
*Cardinal Scale  
Manufacturing Co.*

### **Immediate Past President**

Richard G. Norden  
*FANCOR, Inc.*

### **Executive Director**

Robert A. Reinfried  
*SMA*

## DIRECTORS

### **Term Expires 2007**

Todd Manifold  
*Mettler-Toledo, Inc.*

### **Term Expires 2008**

Doug Biette  
*Sartorius Corporation*

### **Term Expires 2009**

Steve Beitzel  
*Systems Associates*

Stephen Langford  
*Cardinal Scale  
Manufacturing Co.*

## STAFF

### **Secretary**

Philip G. Hannigan

### **Meeting Coordinator**

Kimberly MacLaren

## Technical Committee Members Appointed

At the Annual Meeting, the SMA Board of Directors appointed two people to three year terms on the SMA Technical Committee. They were Doug Biette, Sartorius Corporation, and Nigel Mills, Hobart Corporation. All Regular Member Companies are invited to nominate one person for service on the SMA Technical Committee. Those wishing to do so should contact the SMA President or Executive Director.

### **The Members of the SMA Technical Committee are:**

Chair: Darrell Flocken, *Mettler-Toledo, Inc.*

Vice Chair: Stephen Langford, *Cardinal Scale Manufacturing Co.*

### **Committee Members**

**Term Expires 2007:** Darrell Flocken, *Mettler-Toledo*, Leon Lammers, *Avery Weigh-Tronix, Inc.*, and Mark McCombs, *Vishay Transducers.*

**Term Expires 2008:** Stephen Langford, *Cardinal Scale Manufacturing Co.*, Mark Knowles, *Hottinger Baldwin Measurements*, Louis Straub, *Fancor, Inc.*

**Term Expires 2009:** Doug Biette, *Sartorius Corporation*, and Nigel Mills, *Hobart Corporation.*

## NTEP Directors Questions for 2006 Published

The NTEP Directors Questions for 2006 have been compiled and published on the SMA web site.

Since 1997, the Scale Manufacturers Association and the National Conference on Weights and Measures have hosted breakfast meetings at the regional Weights and Measures association venues throughout the year. Each year we have asked for candidate questions about the NTEP program from SMA, NIST/OWM, NCWM, and State Directors. The candidate questions were balloted and scored by degree of interest. We then selected the top three or four questions to ask that year. In order to ascertain the degree of uniformity and interpretation of selected W&M practices, the same questions are asked at each regional meeting.

The following questions will be discussed in the 2006 round.

1. Wireless communication between load-receiving elements and primary indicators is becoming more and more common.
  - Do you feel your inspectors should be concerned with testing the integrity of the wireless communications in initial verification or in subsequent evaluations or both?
  - Should NTEP include testing of the wireless communications in the evaluation process?
  - Do you have any specific recommendations for such evaluations?
2. A device as originally supplied by the manufacturer has an NTEP Certificate of Conformance. Installation of a replacement part supplied by the same manufacturer renders the device out of conformance with Handbook 44. Should a disclaimer be included in all advertising and literature for the replacement part? If so, how should it be stated and how prominent should it be?
3. Shortly after arriving at a site to conduct an inspection on a livestock scale you observe racks have been added to the deck of a vehicle scale for livestock weighing. What administrative, inspection and test procedures do you follow to determine the scale is suitable for this application(s)?

## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF INTEREST TO SMA MEMBERS

### NCWM 91st Annual Meeting

Chicago Marriott, Chicago, Illinois  
July 9 - 13, 2006  
<http://www.ncwm.net>

### Western W&M Association Annual Meeting

Radisson Downtown, Salt Lake City, UT  
September 10-14, 2006  
<http://www.westernwma.org>

### Central W&M Association Annual Meeting

The Lodge, Bettendorf, IA  
September 17-19, 2006  
<http://www.ncwm.net/central>

### NTEP Weighing Sector Annual Meeting

Annapolis, MD  
September 26-28, 2006  
<http://www.ncwm.net>

### Southern W&M Association Annual Meeting

Annapolis, MD  
October 22-25, 2006  
<http://www.swma.org>

### SMA Fall Meeting

EIDorado Hotel & Spa, Santa Fe, NM  
November 14-16, 2006  
<http://www.scalemanufacturers.org>

### NCWM 92nd Interim Meeting

Omni Jacksonville, Jacksonville, FL  
January 21 - 24, 2007

### NCWM 91st Annual Meeting

Snowbird Resort, Salt Lake City, UT  
July 8 - 12, 2007  
<http://www.ncwm.net>

## NEWS YOU CAN USE

### Do You Need The Services of A State Metrology Lab?

Many companies require metrology services and seek out State Laboratories as a possible resource. All Laboratories are not equal. Georgia L. Harris of NIST has an article in the March edition of the NIST Weights and Measures Quarterly that identifies the State Metrology Laboratories and their accreditation status. <http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/230/235/wmquarterly.pdf>

Moreover, NIST has a great document called State Laboratory Contact Information that has, in addition to normal contact information, downloadable documentation of the status of accreditation of each state lab. You can access the contact information document at <http://ts.nist.gov/ts/htdocs/230/235/statelabcontact.htm>.

### Do You Need Export Assistance?

For U.S. Manufacturers wishing export support for any country in the world, the U.S. Department of Commerce has an organization called the U.S. Commercial Service which is the trade promotion arm of the International Trade Administration and helps U.S. small and medium sized business grow international sales by providing:

- \* World class market research
- \* Trade events that promote your product or service to qualified buyers
- \* Introductions to qualified buyers and distributors
- \* Counseling and advocacy through every step of the export process

The Commercial Service has a network of export and industry specialists located in more than 100 U.S. cities and over 80 countries worldwide. These trade professionals provide counseling and a variety of products and services to assist small and midsized U.S. businesses export their products and services. The U.S. Commercial Service's worldwide network of offices and trade experts can help your company expand its international sales. They can be contacted at 1-800-USA-TRAD(E) or at <http://www.ita.doc.gov/cs/index.asp>.

### RF Wireless Communication for Weighing and Measurement Applications

Many companies are implementing RF wireless technology in their weighing and measurement displays. The SMA Technical Committee is aware of a growing unease among regulators and inspectors about the technology. To assist the community in understanding what the technology can and cannot do, the SMATC is developing a Powerpoint presentation to show to regional weights and measures associations and other interested parties. The topics will include the following:

- Provide an overview of available technologies such as 802.11, Wi-Fi, and Bluetooth and identify their strengths and weaknesses vis-a-vis weighing and measuring issues.
- Show that deliberate facilitation of fraud is very unlikely when these RF technologies are being used.
- Insurance of data integrity
- What happens when interference and loss of signal occurs with regard to erroneous values, frozen values, etc.

Any reader interested in contributing to the presentation should contact Phil Hannigan at SMA Headquarters [phil@scalemanufacturers.org](mailto:phil@scalemanufacturers.org).

## Don Onwiler Reports on NCWM and NTEP Issues at Fall Meeting



Don Onwiler, Chairman, National Conference on Weights and Measures, and Program Manager for the Nebraska Department of Agriculture's Weights and Measures Division presented a briefing on the activities of the NCWM Board of Directors as well as issues they deem of mutual concern with SMA members. Items of particular note include the following:

- **NCWM and NIST:** He is very optimistic about the relationship between the NCWM and NIST going forward and is very encouraged by the appointment of Carol Hockert to head the NIST W&M Division.
- **Marketplace Surveys:** They plan to expand the marketplace surveys, using the 1999 Product Survey Protocol, to include virtually all product categories. The purpose of marketplace surveys is to demonstrate the effect of weights and measures on the marketplace.
- **Review Panels:** The Review Panels helped educate all levels of the NCWM as to what it takes to develop quality items for NCWM Committee consideration for national implementation. They will be promoting universal use of a revised form 15 for all items.
- **Software Sector:** The first meeting of the new Software Sector was a great success. They had a lot of software engineers which is very desirable. They plan to have a second meeting in Annapolis, MD October 18-19, 2006. They are dealing with software protection and security, field verification issues, and documentation required for NTEP testing.
- **NTEP Laboratories:** The labs are looking for opportunities to improve. They have updated Pub 14 Checklists with an eye to streamlining tests and evaluations. There has been a significant reduction in backlog but they are now seeing a large influx on NTEP submissions and are not sure what is causing this increase.
- **Conformity Assessment:** They have an Initial Verification Checklist that is being tested, on a pilot basis, in seven states. The checklist is designed to insure that the instrument works properly and is traceable to an NTEP certificate. They are looking to add more pictures and other visual data to the CoCs to make them more useful. The VCAP program is almost ready to go to the NTEP Committee for review and approval. The Board of Directors is committed to a strong conformity assessment program.
- **Mutual Acceptance Agreements (MAA):** The NCWM has signed on as a B country for R60. As for R76, they have no U.S. lab capable of being an issuing authority for R76. No NTEP labs are 17025 accredited. They will only sign on to the MAA for R76 when the U.S. can be an A country.

## Carol Hockert Attends First SMA Meeting

The SMA was delighted to welcome Carol Hockert, newly appointed Chief of the Weights and Measures Division of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST/WMD). This was her first SMA Meeting.

She was just getting started in the position and has just begun planning her agenda going forward. One thing she emphasized is that NIST and the NCWM will move forward together. They appreciate and value their relationship with the SMA and want us to continue to be intimately involved in both the NIST initiatives and NCWM programs. She also promised to continue to update us on the continuing saga of Olie and Lena who live in her home state of Minnesota.





## SCALE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

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### **SMA Positions S&T Committee Agenda for 91<sup>st</sup> NCWM Annual Meeting July, 2006**

#### **310 General Code**

##### **310-1 (V) G-S.1. (d) Identification; Software for Not-Built-for-Purpose Devices**

The SMA supports this item. The SMA continues to oppose the distinction between built for purpose and not built for purpose devices and recommends that a single set of requirements be created for both.

##### **310-2 (V) G-S.1.1. Location of Marking Information for Not Built-For-Purpose Software-Based Devices**

The SMA supports this item with the understanding that (b) reads as follows.

(b) the Certificate of Conformance (CC) number shall be continuously displayed or marked on the device (see note below), or be accessible through an easily recognized menu, and if necessary a submenu; or

The SMA continues to oppose the distinction between built for purpose and not built for purpose devices and recommends that a single set of requirements be created for both.

##### **310-3 (I) G-S.8.1. Multiple Weighing or Measuring Elements with a Single Provision for Sealing**

The SMA opposes this item and recommends that it be moved to developmental for further input.

##### **Rationale:**

The original item was intended for codes dealing only with measuring devices (codes 3.31 thru 3.38). SMA does not feel there is justification to expand this to weighing devices.

## 320 Scale Code

**320-1 (V) S.1.1. (c) Zero Indication; Requirements for Markings or Indications for Other than Digital Zero Indications**

The SMA opposes this item.

**Rationale:**

The current process, as allowed by S.1.1.(c). is sufficient to prevent facilitation of fraud. The SMA supports the Weighing Sector analysis. Additionally, part (2) of the added Note requires clarification.

**320-2 (I) S.1.4.6. Height and Definition of Minimum Reading Distance, UR.2.10. Primary Indicating Elements Provided by User, UR.2.11. Minimum Reading Distance and Definitions of Minimum Reading Distance and Primary Indications.**

The SMA supports this item.

**320-3 (V) N.1.3.1. Bench or Counter Scales, N.1.3.8. All Other Scales Except Crane Scales, Hanging Scales, Hopper Scales, Wheel - Load Weighers, and Portable Axle - Load Weighers, and Appendix D; Definitions of Bench Scale and Counter Scale.**

The SMA supports this item.

**320-4 (V) Table 4 Minimum Test Weights and Test Loads**

The SMA supports this item.

**320-6 (V) T.N.4.5.1. Time Dependence; Class II, III, and IIII Non-automatic Weighing Instruments**

The SMA supports this item.

**320-7 (V) T.N.4.6. (b) Apportionment Factors, Table T.N.4.6. Maximum Permissible Error (mpe)\* for Load Cells During Type Evaluation, T.N.4.7. Creep Recovery for Load Cells During Type Evaluation, and Appendix D; Definitions of  $D_{min}$  and  $E_{min}$**

The SMA supports this item.

**320-8 (V) UR.1.6. Computing Scale Interfaced to a Cash Register**

The SMA supports this item.

### **320-9 (V) UR.2.6.1. Vehicle Scales; Approaches**

The SMA supports this item.

### **320-10 (V) UR.3.7. Minimum Load on a Vehicle Scale**

The SMA has no position on this item.

### **320-11 (V) List of International Symbols Noted as Acceptable**

The SMA supports this item provided:

1. The description is changed to “List of Common International Symbols”
2. The Symbols themselves are cleaned up and made consistent in size and font.
3. Remove “Not Acceptable” column and “Device Application” column.
4. Change column head “Term” to Function, and column head “Acceptable” to Symbol.

## **360 Other Items**

### **360-4 Developing Issues**

#### **Part 2, Item 1 Scales: S.2.1.7. Tare Rounding on a Multiple Range Scale**

We look forward to reviewing the results of the Tare Rounding Work Group.

#### **Part 4, Item 1 Automatic Weighing Systems: Temperature Limits Scale**

The SMA recommends that the NTEP Laboratories be consistent in the environmental testing parameters and therefore the maximum temperature test range should remain  $-10^{\circ}$  to  $40^{\circ}$  C.

## **END OF DOCUMENT**

### **SMA MEMBER COMPANIES**

A&D Engineering, Inc.  
Avery Weigh-Tronix, Inc.  
Cardinal Scale Mfg. Company  
Doran Scales, Inc.  
Fairbanks Scales  
Flintec, Inc.

Hobart Corporation  
Hottinger Baldwin  
Measurements  
LTS Scale Corporation  
McKesson Automation Systems  
Mettler-Toledo, Inc.

NCR  
Rice Lake Weighing  
Sartorius Corporation  
Systems Associates, Inc.  
Vishay Transducers