



WEIGHLOG

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<http://www.scalemanufacturers.org>

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FALL-WINTER 2001

Strategic Plan Approved by SMA Membership

During the SMA Annual Meeting, April, 2001, in San Diego, it became apparent to the SMA leadership that it was time to develop a strategic plan. While there was no question about the effectiveness of SMA's W&M Liaison and Technical Committees, it was clear some new direction was needed. Some highlights of the plan are as follow:

1. Expand membership to include manufacturers worldwide. Could possibly require a name change to Association to better reflect changing membership base.
2. Consider affiliation with other Weights & Measures Organizations.
3. Increase CEO level support and participation.
4. Create valuable statistical program, whether it be internal or external.
5. Increase Public Relations effort to promote Association.
6. Continue valuable networking and technical liaison with W&M officials.

SMA's president, David Castle (Weigh-Tronix), asked Paul Huber (A&D), to chair this important committee. In addition to Castle and Huber, members of the Committee are: Bob Schuller (Hobart) and Bob Reinfried (SMA)

New Kid on the Block

Buyers of SMA member scales will see something new on some devices appearing in the market after January 1, 2002, the SMA Production Meets Type mark. Equipment bearing this mark has been produced under the SMA Conformity Assessment (Production Meets Type) program for devices subject to NIST Handbook 44, T.N.8. Influence Factors requirements.



The "pathfinder" companies eligible to use the new logo January 1 are A&D Weighing, Milpitas, California, Mettler-Toledo, Columbus, Ohio and Weigh-Tronix, Fairmont, Minnesota.

The SMA program was developed after learning that the NCWM will require manufacturers to provide assurance that their statistical quality control systems were adequate to insure that their T.N.8 production meets type.

These companies have met all the requirements of the SMA Production Meets Type program including an audit of their quality systems by Bureau Veritas Quality International, BVQi. The program is a SMA pro-active response for long existing concerns in the weights and measures community regarding the quality of production equipment being placed into service in the marketplace.

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Following an interviewing process, SMA selected Phil Kuehl as the facilitator. The committee met in Chicago in late October to tackle the task of developing a strategic plan. In attendance in addition to the above mentioned committee members were both member and non-members of SMA. Members were: Darrell Flocken (Mettler-Toledo), Michael Katz (Tede-Huntleigh) and Steve Langford (Cardinal). Non-members were: Mark Johnson (Rice Lake), Jim O'Haus (O'Haus) and Tom Ulicny (Detroit Testing Lab).

After two days of intense meetings, those present adopted a plan for

submittal to SMA's membership. Members and non-members took off their company hats and worked together as one, something that can really only be achieved under an Association umbrella such as SMA.

One week later, SMA held its Fall Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. SMA's Board of Directors had the task of creating an operational document from the plan documents. Under Paul Huber's guidance, the Directors finalized the operational plan for SMA's membership to review and approve.

SMA's membership received a copy of the operational document and

were led through the plan by Paul Huber during the General Business Session on Friday, November 9. On November 10, during an executive session of SMA's membership, the plan was approved as submitted.

Before implementation of the plan can occur, SMA assigned member participants (from the meeting in Chicago) to conduct telephone interviews with past members and non-members to get their input on the future direction of SMA. That assignment has yet to be completed.

For a copy of the approved plan, visit SMA's web site <http://www.scalemanufacturers.org>.

Although there has always been language in NCWM Publication 14 that production devices shall be representative of the devices submitted to NTEP for evaluation, there has been evidence that these levels were not consistently maintained.

Publication 14, 2001 edition contains more language to this effect but lacks specific requirements for manufacturers to demonstrate their production meets type.

It is understood that this language will also appear in Publication 14, 2002 edition. The NTEP Director is forming a task group to address specific requirements. The result of this work is expected to be reported to the National Conference on Weights and Measures sometime next year (2002).

The SMA understands that there is thinking in the NCWM, which will create a two-tier conformity assurance

system for all manufacturers. For products not subject to T.N.8, an ISO 9000 type system with added initial verification steps is expected to be proposed. In addition, for products subject to T.N.8, an ISO Guide 65-type system is be expected to be implemented. The SMA proposes to self-declare conformance with the Guide 65 requirements early on 2002.

The SMA Conformity Assessment (Production Meets Type) program is offered for domestic and offshore production facilities. It is offered to both member and non-member companies. The program has been carefully structured to safeguard the details of a company's production quality methods.

For a more complete article on the history and genesis of the SMA Conformity Assessment program, visit the SMA website, <http://scalemanufacturers.org> and click on "Conformity Assessment".

The 2001 Canadian Forum On Trade Measurement (CFTM) was held in Vancouver, BC, November 7-9. The dates were the same as those of the SMA Fall Meeting in San Antonio; therefore, SMA member representation was light. However, there was notice of a proposed Draft Bulletin which generated considerable discussion among U.S. manufacturers in advance of the meeting. The draft bulletin incorporated a proposal that any changes to an approved device would have to be submitted to Measurement Canada.

It appeared that the Measurement Canada drafter of the bulletin may not fully have appreciated the engineering and manufacturing implications of terminology like "every material respect" and "identical" let alone the enormous administrative burdens which these terms would place upon both



(left to right) Dick Suiter and Tina Butcher NIST/OWM are welcomed to the SMA Fall Meeting Banquet by Dawn and Steve Beitzel Systems Associates, Inc.



(center) SMA President Dave Castle Weigh-Tronix, Inc. and his wife, Susan, share a moment at the SMA Fall Meeting Quenton Olson Tedeo-Huntleigh (left) and Jeff Robidoux Flintec, Inc. (right).



(left) Darrell Flocken Mettler-Toledo, Inc. and Daryl Tonini (right) receive ace shopper Shirley Tonini's report on the amazing bargains to be had in downtown San Antonio.



(left) Steve Langford Cardinal Scale Mfg. Company and SMA Vice President, Bob Schuller Hobart, Corporation (right) welcome Tom O'Connell Weigh-Tronix, Inc. and his wife, Susan, to their first SMA meeting.



(right) Paul Huber A&D Weighing, Inc. and his wife, Nicki, congratulate Tom Luna Scales Unlimited, Inc. and his wife, Cindy, on Tom's announcement that he is running for the State Superintendent of Public Instruction in his home state of Idaho.



(left to right) Prospective SMA member, Chuck Prince Tec America, Inc. is welcomed to the SMA Fall Meeting by Leon Lammers Weigh-Tronix, Inc. and his wife, Rose Marie.

the manufacturer and on approval authorities.

SMA member companies have stated that as many as 60 to 80 changes per month could be made by a company across their entire product line.

Presumably the great majority of these are non-metrological in their nature. Once the changes are reported, the MC approval authority apparently will have to determine to what extent, if any, the changes affect the device's approval certificate. In that approvals are based upon defined legal metrology requirements, the question arises as to what will be the basis for evaluating production changes to non-metrological features of a device?

It appears to SMA that considerable work needs to be done on the draft. We suggested that further development on reporting of production changes of non-metrological features be dropped. The balance of the draft dealing with manufacturing process changes for scale devices which affect the approval certificate requirements may be more gainfully pursued.

Both the Gas Pump Manufacturers Association and the Meter Manufacturers Association were represented at the meeting and voiced their concerns at the CFTM Volumetric Standing Committee meeting.

The Organization of American States, *Sistema Interamericano de Metrologia* Legal Metrology Working Group met in Miami Beach, Florida December 11-14, 2001. The meeting was preceded by a two-day workshop on packaging and labeling. The workshop was chaired by Cesar Luiz Leal M. da Silva (INMETRO/Brazil) The packaging and labeling subject flowed out of the Legal Metrology Seminar 2000 held in Richmond, Virginia in conjunction with the July 2000 National Conference on Weights and Measures. LMS 2000 was preceded by the Workshop on Legal Metrology for the Americas (WLMA). Both WLMA and LMS 2000 had an emphasis on legal metrology equipment. Eleven delegates plus NIST, U.S. industry, and OIML represented a total of eight countries. Participation levels may have been affected by the events of 9/11/01 since the meeting had to be rescheduled due to travel uncertainties.

The main features of the meeting were industry and government panel presentations. The industry panel on "Issues Confronting Industry" was moderated by Chris Guay, Proctor and Gamble/USA with presentations by Maria Edith de Andino (empresas molineras/El Salvador) and Newman Debs (Unilever/Brazil). The regulator panel on "What Are the Packaging and Labeling Trade Issues?" was moderated by Maria Milagros Toro (SENCAMER)/Venezuela. A survey of Basic Labeling Re-

quirements for Consumer Packages, presented by Henry Oppermann, was well received. An effort will be made to complete the matrix as a matter of interest to the efforts to the Working Group.

J. F. Magana, BIML, addressed the plenary session of the delegates strongly encouraging stronger ties with the ongoing work in OIML. He reported that the OIML Development Council has requested that regional legal metrology organizations such as SIM designate their representatives to form a Development Council "think tank". One of the topics he mentioned requiring regional coordination was the OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement.

The 2002 budget was discussed. The SIM budget is estimated to be \$180,000, down from 2001 of \$250,000. The Legal Metrology Working Group should be allocated about ten percent of the SIM budget. However, there is the possibility of supplemental funding which may keep the 2002 budget in line with 2001.

It was suggested that the next meeting of the Working Group be in Brazil, April 10-12, 2002. Brazil will be hosting a workshop on metrology and quality at that time and proposed that the two activities be combined.

Minutes of the meeting and the SIM Directory are available through the SMA office.

SMA Member Company News

Tom O'Connell was named V.P. and General Manager of North American operations by Weigh-Tronix effective 9/1/01.

SMA will be happy to include member company news in its next edition of members will have their Official Representatives or Public Relations Departments

copy SMA Headquarters by mail, fax, or e-mail when they distribute press releases or other information that they want our readers to know.