

Report of the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) Committee

Mr. John Gaccione, Chairman
Westchester County, New York

500 INTRODUCTION

This is the report of the NTEP Committee (hereinafter referred to as the “Committee”) for the 100th Annual Meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM). This report is based on the Interim Report offered in the NCWM Publication 16, testimony heard at public hearings, comments received from the regional weights and measures associations and other parties, the addendum sheets issued at the Annual Meeting, and actions taken by the membership at the voting session of the Annual Meeting. The informational items presented below were adopted as presented when the Committee’s report was approved.

Table A identifies the agenda items and appendix items. The agenda items in the Report are identified by Reference Key Number, title, page number and the appendices by appendix designations. The acronyms for organizations and technical terms used throughout the agenda are identified in Table C. The first three digits of the Reference Key Numbers of the items are assigned from The Subject Series List. The status of each item contained in the report is designated as one of the following: **(D) Developing Item:** the Committee determined the item has merit; however, the item was returned to the submitter or other designated party for further development before any action can be taken at the national level; **Informational (I) Item:** the item is under consideration by the Committee but not proposed for Voting; **(V) Voting Item:** the Committee is making recommendations requiring a vote by the active members of NCWM; **(W) Withdrawn Item:** the item has been removed from consideration by the Committee.

Table B provides a summary of the results of the voting on the Committee’s items and the report in its entirety. Some Voting Items are considered individually; others may be grouped in a consent calendar. Consent calendar items are Voting Items that the Committee has assembled as a single Voting Item during their deliberation after the Open Hearings on the assumption that the items are without opposition and will not require discussion. The Voting Items that have been grouped into consent calendar items will be listed on the addendum sheets. Prior to adoption of the consent calendar, the Committee entertains any requests from the floor to remove specific items from the consent calendar to be discussed and voted upon individually.

Proposed revisions to the handbook(s) are shown as follows: 1) deleted language is indicated with a **bold face font using strikeouts** (e.g., ~~this report~~), 2) proposed new language is indicated with an **underscored bold faced font** (e.g., new items), and 3) nonretroactive items are identified in *italics*. When used in this report, the term “weight” means “mass.”

Note: The policy of NIST is to use metric units of measurement in all of its publications; however, recommendations received by NCWM technical committees and regional weights and measures associations have been printed in this publication as submitted. Therefore, the report may contain references to U.S. customary units.

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Reference Key Number	House of Senate Representatives		House of Delegates		Results
	Yeas	Nays	Yeas	Nays	
To Accept Report	Voice Vote				Adopted

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Glossary of Acronyms and Terms

Acronym	Term	Acronym	Term
CC	Certificate of Conformance	NCWM	National Conference on Weights and Measures
CIML	International Committee of Legal Metrology	NIST	National Institute of Standards and Technology
DoMC	Declaration of Mutual Confidence	NTEP	National Type Evaluation Program
IV	Initial Verification	OIML	International Organization of Legal Metrology
MAA	Mutual Acceptance Arrangement	OWM	Office of Weights and Measures
MC	Measurement Canada	R	Recommendation
MDMD	Multiple Dimension Measuring Devices	VCAP	Verification Conformity Assessment Program
MRA	Mutual Recognition Arrangement	WG	Work Group

Details of All Items
(In order by Reference Key)

510 INTERNATIONAL

510-1 Mutual Recognition Arrangement (MRA)

Background/Discussion:

The Mutual Recognition Agreement (MRA) between Measurement Canada (MC) and NTEP labs originated April 1, 1994. Since that time, the original MRA has expanded, and a second MRA covering measuring devices was developed. On Tuesday, July 19, 2011, NCWM Chairman Mr. Tyson and MC President Mr. Johnston signed a renewal MRA that combines the weighing and measuring devices into one document and provides for continued cooperation between the two organizations and continuation of the beneficial partnership. The new MRA is effective for five years.

The scope of the current MRA includes:

- gasoline and diesel dispensers;
- high-speed dispensers;
- gasoline and diesel meters intended to be used in fuel dispensers and truck refuelers;
- electronic computing and non-computing bench, counter, floor, and platform scales with a capacity up to 1000 kg (2000 lb);
- weighing/load receiving elements with a capacity of up to 1000 kg (2000 lb);
- electronic weight indicating elements (except those that are software based, that is, programmed by downloading parameters); and
- mechanical scales up to 10 000 kg (20 000 lb).

MC, NTEP, and all of our mutual stakeholders agree that the MRA is a benefit for the North American weights and measures industry. The NTEP Committee appreciates the efforts and cooperation of MC.

Mettler-Toledo commented that their company has experienced MRA application issues due to differences in the test weights used for evaluation of high precision Class I and II balances. NTEP will discuss the issues with MC.

During the 2014 Annual Meeting, MC announced their agreement to accept test data recorded by a NTEP evaluator at a manufacturer's facility, as per the NTEP contingency plan, if the test site and test plan were agreed upon prior to testing.

The NTEP Committee continued their discussion with MC to include Multiple Dimension Measuring Devices (MDMD) in the MRA. MC has requested that they be the primary laboratory for MDMD evaluations conducted under the MRA, which has met some resistance due to concerns that it may delay issuance of certificates. Mr. Gilles Vinet suggested that although MC may typically take more time than NTEP to issue a Canadian type approval, NTEP should not have to wait too long for MC data as MC could send data to NTEP shortly after testing is completed. Time spent evaluating the data and issuing the Certificate of Conformity (CC) and Canadian Notice of Approval would then be conducted separately by NTEP and MC. The Committee is strongly considering MC's proposal and is interested in additional input from U.S. manufacturers and the MDMD Work Group (WG) and other affected parties.

A meeting of the MDMD WG was held October 2014 and again in May 2015. During the meetings, U.S. manufacturers expressed concern about MC being identified as the primary laboratory for the evaluation of MDMD devices submitted under the MRA and a request to consider a recommendation that the MC Evaluation Checklist be the primary document for the evaluation of MDMD devices. The WG discussed these two requests as a single item and developed the following position on the item and offers the counter proposal shown below.

With regards to the MDMD position of the addition of the MDMD addition to the United States/Canada MRA, the MDMD WG submits the following decisions from their May 2015 meeting.

The WG consisting of 17 registered participants rejected the recommendation to add MDMD to the MRA as presented by the NCWM Board of Directors and the NTEP Committee. The recommendation consisted of the stipulation that the MC evaluation checklist be the primary evaluation document and that the MC Evaluation Laboratory be designated the primary evaluation laboratory. The decision was based on a show of hands of the 17 participants present. The show of hands was 1 in favor, 12 opposed, and 4 abstained. (Meeting participants consisted of individuals ranging from users, manufacturers, laboratory personnel, and Canadian and United States Officials.)

The justification for the rejection is:

1. Concerns regarding the device evaluation times.
2. Loss of evaluation knowledge and experience in the U.S. laboratory.
3. Concern of a single lab being impacted by budget and/or personnel changes.
4. A single lab is not conducive to the idea of mutual recognition.

The MDMD WG offers the following recommendation and if agreed to will support the addition of MDMD to the MRA provided:

1. Evaluation data from either a NTEP authorized laboratory or MC can be used by both countries in the issuance of their respective certifications.
2. A MC/NTEP evaluation checklist document be created and accepted by both NTEP and MC.
3. A common performance evaluation results document be created and accepted by both NTEP and MC.

During the 2015 Annual Meeting, the NTEP Committee reviewed the issues and discussed the item with MC. Progress was made towards a solution, and the Committee plans to move forward with expansion of the MRA to include MDMD devices with the renewal of the agreement in 2016.

510-2 Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA)

Background/Discussion:

Information regarding the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) MAA can be found at <https://www.oiml.org/>. NCWM has signed the OIML MAA Declaration of Mutual Confidence (DoMC) for Recommendation (R) 60 Load Cells as a utilizing participant. A utilizing participant is a participant that does not issue any OIML Certificate of Conformance (CC) nor OIML Test Reports and/or Test Reports under a DoMC but does utilize the reports issued by issuing participants.

The last meeting of the Committee on Participation Review (CPR) for R 60 and R 76 was hosted by NIST March 18 and 19, 2014, and was attended by Dr. Charles Ehrlich, National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), Office of Weights and Measures (OWM); Mr. Barton, NIST, OWM; and Mr. Darrell Flocken, NCWM.

The United States (NTEP) supported the OIML B 10 documents for the MAA with the provision that the use of manufacturer test data was clearly identified on the MAA test report because NTEP cannot use manufacturer test data towards issuance of an NTEP certificate. Consequently, the CIML voted and approved the Amendment to B 10 to allow the inclusion of test data from manufacturers, on a strictly voluntary basis, at its October 2012 meeting in Bucharest, Romania. Dr. Ehrlich gave an update to the Committee during the 2013 Interim Meeting, reviewing the history of the above discussions, deliberations, and CIML votes, confirming that the outcomes aligned with the NTEP Committee's recommendations and the instructions provided by the NCWM Board of Directors.

Dr. Ehrlich requested in January 2013 that NCWM review its MAA policy regarding participation in R 76. The NCWM Board recapped the decision process to participate as a utilizing participant for R 60. Existing policy from 2006 is not to participate in R 76 until NCWM is able to do so as an Issuing Participant. The Board revisited the 2006 discussions leading to that decision, including considerations for NTEP labs' work load, potential lost expertise, concerns with quality of evaluations at some foreign labs, etc. Dr. Ehrlich wanted NCWM to reconsider and, if there was no possibility in sight that the NCWM could become an Issuing Participant, then it should consider becoming a utilizing participant for OIML R 76. Some U.S. manufacturers support NCWM policy, but others would like to have one-stop shopping. The MAA also includes R 49 (water meters) and R 117 (RMFD) may be added soon. Since there are no new developments to effect the decision, the NCWM Board of Directors agree to maintain existing policy at this time.

Dr. Ehrlich again raised the matter of MAA participation to the NTEP Committee in January 2015, indicating that perhaps some things have changed, and requested a study be undertaken by the NTEP Committee to identify the current barriers to NTEP's participation in the MAA as an Issuing Participant for R 76.

From January 2011 to June 2015, forty-two NTEP certificates for load cells were issued under the MAA. The NTEP Administrator reviewed all MAA test data and drafted the CCs.

520 ACTIVITY REPORTS

520-1 NTEP Participating Laboratories and Evaluations Reports

Background/Discussion:

The NTEP weighing and measuring laboratories held a joint meeting March 10 - 12, 2015, in Sacramento, California.

The NTEP measuring laboratories met in October 2014 prior to the NTEP Measuring Sector meeting in Raleigh, North Carolina.

NTEP routinely surveys customers pertaining to NTEP administration and laboratories customer service. The survey is released to active CC holders. The board routinely reviews the results of the survey to form a continuous improvement plan for NTEP. With any survey, the challenge is to develop a document that is concise enough that customers will respond, while also providing a meaningful set of data. To date, the NCWM Board of Directors is finding general approval of NTEP services.

During the 2015 Interim Meeting, Mr. Truex, NTEP Administrator, updated the Committee on NTEP laboratory and administrative activities through December 2014. The Committee reviewed NTEP statistics through December 2014. During the 2015 Annual Meeting, the Committee reviewed statistics through June 2015. The review of statistics shows incoming applications are relatively comparable to normal, and there exist no significant laboratory backlog issues.

The State of Maryland announced that they are resuming their activities as an NTEP measuring laboratory. The States of Oregon and Kansas have expressed their interest to pursue authorization as a NTEP Participating Field Laboratory for large capacity weighing devices. NTEP is working with Oregon and Kansas toward this goal.

520-2 NTEP Sector Reports

Background Discussion:

All NTEP Sector reports were available to members at the time NCWM Publication 15 was published. The NTEP Committee is committed to ensuring that electronic versions of Sector reports are available with NCWM Publication 15. Please note that the Sector reports will only be available in the electronic version of NCWM Publication 15 at <https://www.ncwm.net/meetings/interim/archive>; they will not be available in the printed versions of NCWM Publication 15.

NTEP Belt-Conveyor Scale Sector:

The NTEP Belt-Conveyor Scale Sector met February 20, 2014, in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. A final draft of the meeting summary was provided to the Committee prior to the 2015 NCWM Interim Meeting for review and approval. (See Appendix B.).

A meeting of the NTEP Belt-Conveyor Scale Sector was held February 26, 2015, in St. Louis, Missouri. For questions on the current status of Sector work or to propose items for a future meeting, please contact the Sector Technical Advisor:

Technical Advisor

Mr. John Barton
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NTEP Grain Moisture Meter and NIR Protein Analyzer Sectors:

The NTEP Grain Moisture Meter and NIR Protein Analyzer Sectors held a joint meeting in Kansas City, Missouri, August 20 - 21, 2014. A draft of the final summary was provided to the Committee prior to the 2015 NCWM Interim Meeting for review and approval. (See Appendix C.)

It was decided that the NTEP Grain Analyzer (Georgia) Sector will not conduct a meeting in 2015. Neither a face-to-face or web meeting as announced. The decision was made primarily due to a lack of agenda items. Most of the tentative agenda items were updates and reports and the two S&T Committee items (Item 310-1, G-S.1. Identification from the Software Sector and 360-4, Appendix D – Definitions: Remote Configuration Capability) are still developing items. Therefore, Sector Chair Karl Cunningham decided to provide a Grain Analyzer Sector Report of Updates instead of holding a web meeting. A report of updates will be compiled and circulated to all Sector members. A comment sheet for feedback will also be circulated and summary of comments reported back to the members.

For questions on the current status of Sector work or to propose items for a future meeting, please contact the Technical Advisor:

Technical Advisor

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NTEP Measuring Sector:

The NTEP Measuring Sector met October 3 - 4, 2014, in Raleigh, North Carolina. A draft of the final summary was provided to the Committee prior to the 2015 NCWM Interim Meeting for review and approval. (See Appendix D.)

The next meeting of the NTEP Measuring Sector Meeting is scheduled for September 15 - 16, 2015, in Denver, Colorado. The second day of the meeting will be a joint meeting of the NTEP Measuring and Software Sectors. For questions on the current status of Sector work or to propose items for a future meeting, please contact the Sector Technical Advisor:

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NTEP Software Sector:

The NTEP Software Sector met August 27 - 28, 2014, in Atlanta, Georgia. A final draft of the meeting summary was provided to the Committee prior to the 2015 NCWM Interim Meeting for review and approval. (See Appendix E.)

The next meeting of the NTEP Software Sector is scheduled for September 16 - 17, 2015, in Denver, Colorado. The first day of the meeting will be a joint meeting of the NTEP Measuring and Software Sectors. For questions on the current status of Sector work or to propose items for a future meeting, please contact the Sector Chair and/or the NTEP Administrator:

Chair

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NTEP Weighing Sector:

The NTEP Weighing Sector met August 26 - 27, 2014, in Atlanta, Georgia. A final draft of the meeting summary was provided to the Committee prior to the 2015 NCWM Interim Meeting for review and approval. (See Appendix F.)

The next NTEP Weighing Sector meeting is scheduled for August 25 - 26, 2015, in Denver, Colorado. For questions on the current status of Sector work or to propose items for a future meeting, please contact the Sector Technical Advisor:

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NTEP Multiple Dimension Measuring Devices (MDMD) Work Group:

The NTEP MDMD WG met October 28 - 29, 2014, in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. A final draft of the meeting summary was provided to the Committee prior to the 2015 NCWM Interim Meeting for review and approval. (See Appendix G.) The NTEP Committee reviewed and approved all 2014 NTEP Sector and Work Group reports during the Interim Meeting.

The NTEP MDMD WG met again May 12 - 13, 2015, and has scheduled another meeting for September 22 - 23, 2015, in Reynoldsburg, Ohio. For questions on the current status of WG or to propose items for a future meeting, please contact WG Chair, Mr. Robert Kennington at rkennington@cubiscan.com or NTEP Specialist, Mr. Darrell Flocken at darrell.flocken@ncwm.net.

530 CONFORMITY ASSESSMENT PROGRAM

530-1 Conformity Assessment Program

Background/Discussion:

The Conformity Assessment Program was established to ensure devices produced after the device has been type evaluated and certified by NTEP continue to meet the same requirements. This program has three major elements: 1) Certificate Review (administrative); 2) Initial Verification (inspection and performance testing); and 3) Verified Conformity Assessment (influence factors). This item is included on the Committee's agenda to provide an update on these elements.

Certificate Review:

Certificates are constantly under review by NTEP staff and laboratories. Many active certificates are amended annually because of manufacturer submission for evaluation or issues reported by the states pertaining to information on the certificate. When the devices are re-evaluated and certificates are amended, all information is reviewed and necessary steps are taken to assure compliance and accurate, thorough information is reported on the certificate.

In an effort to keep certificate information up to date, the Committee continues to offer an opportunity for active certificate holders to update contact information contained in the "Submitted By" box on certificates. This is offered during the payment period of their annual maintenance fee. Many CC holders have taken advantage of the opportunity for hundreds of NTEP certificates.

Initial Verification (IV):

The IV initiative is ongoing. Field enforcement officials perform an initial inspection and test on new installations on a routine basis. The Committee recognized that the states do not want IV reporting to be cumbersome.

An IV report form was developed several years ago. The Committee desired a simple form, perhaps web-based for use by state and local regulators. The form was approved by the Committee and distributed to the states. A completed form can be submitted via mail, e-mail, fax, or online. The form is available to regulatory officials who are members of NCWM at www.ncwm.net/ntep/conformity/verification.

During the 2014 Annual Meeting, NTEP acknowledged that the regulators have not bought into the IV report form. Industry representatives stated that IV is very important to ensure conformity assessment, and the NCWM should push harder for reporting non-compliance issues found during IV.

VCAP:

NCWM has been concerned about production meeting type and protecting the integrity of the NTEP CC since the inception of NTEP. The Board has consistently reconfirmed its belief that conformity assessment is vital to NTEP's continued success.

Load cells traceable to NTEP certificates were selected for the initial assessment effort. The NCWM elected to require a systems audit checklist that is to be completed by an outside auditor and submitted to NCWM per Section 221.3.3.3.5 of the VCAP requirements. A VCAP Systems Audit Checklist for Manufacturers and a VCAP Systems Audit Checklist for Private Label Certificate Holders have been developed and are available on the website at www.ncwm.net/ntep/conformity/vcap/checklists-faqs. Additionally, the Committee developed a new NCWM Publication 14, administrative policy to distinguish between the requirements for parent NTEP certificate holders (21.3.3.2) and private label certificate holders. The requirements in 21.3.3.7 track the private label checklist requirements: traceability to parent NTEP CC, traceability of the private label cell to a VCAP audit, purchase and sales records, plan to report non-conforming product and non-conforming product in stock, plan to conduct internal audits to verify non-compliance action, and internal audit records.

As a result of VCAP activities, 27 load cell certificates, involving 15 different certificate holders, were changed to "inactive" status.

In 2012 the Committee announced the next device category to be weighing/load receiving elements, 2000 lb capacity and less, using load cells that are not traceable to their own NTEP certificate. As a result of VCAP, 15 certificates, involving 11 different certificate holders, were changed to "inactive" status.

The Committee had discussions about the required number of audits for facilities that manufacture multiple device types. For example, if a company had successful audits for two device types, they might submit a request for a delay from audit requirements for remaining device types, stating that they are all subjected to the same processes and will be audited in the next cycle. The Committee agreed to the request in principal and directed the NTEP Administrator to develop NCWM policy language for consideration during the next Board meeting. As a result, the following policy was adopted by the NCWM Board in October 2013.

**Adding Device Categories to VCAP:
Policy:**

1. When a new device category is added to the VCAP requirement, NTEP will recognize the current VCAP audit certification in effect, submitted by a certificate holder, for the same certificate holder and same production facility(s), to cover the new device category, continue the manufacturing process for devices covered by NTEP certificates in the newly added device category, until the due date of the next VCAP audit.

Example: If a company had successful audits for two device types, they might submit a request for exemption from audit requirements for remaining device types, stating they are all subjected to the same quality management system and will be included in the next audit cycle. The next VCAP audit must be done within three years of the last audit and address all applicable device types produced within that facility.

Seven weighing device categories subject to influence factors, as defined in NIST Handbook 44, "Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices," were identified and are subject to VCAP audits. The VCAP process requirement is ongoing for load cells and weighing elements that use non-NTEP load cells. Certificate holders for these device types are encouraged to take note that the NTEP Committee and NCWM Board is seriously considering the application of the VCAP requirement to all five remaining categories in the very near future. If and when the VCAP requirements are applied, the certificate holder would be required to have an on-site audit of the manufacturer's quality system and an on-site random and/or review of a production device by an outside auditor to verify compliance with VCAP. Certificate holders are encouraged to research the VCAP requirements on the NCWM website under the NTEP, Conformity Assessment section. Certificate holders are encouraged to review the VCAP requirements applicable to their devices and report concerns to the NTEP Committee.

An NTEP Committee proposal to expand VCAP was advertised prior to the Annual Meeting, on the NCWM website, and during this Annual Meeting. The Committee decided during the 2014 Annual Meeting to include indicating elements at this time and approved the developed timeline below. Certificate holders should take notice that the other categories will be considered and may be added in the very near future.

The following disclaimer has been advertised and communicated by NCWM, “NCWM is working to identify all active certificates subject to VCAP compliance. As a courtesy, affected certificate holders are being notified of VCAP requirements and the established time line. Please note that the NCWM Board of Directors does not consider it to be NCWM's responsibility to notify all certificate holders about affected certificates. Certificate holders are responsible for reviewing their active NTEP certificates and compliance with VCAP.”

NCWM/NTEP VCAP Compliance Timeline Indicating Elements					
Jan. 2015– March 2015	Jan. 2015- May 2016	Jan. 2015- Nov. 2016	Jan. 2015- Dec. 2016	June 2016	Dec. 2016
NTEP notifies active CC holders of VCAP requirements	Parent CC holders to put VCAP QM system in place	Private Label CC holders to put VCAP QM system in place	NTEP evaluates incoming audit reports	NCWM declares CCs inactive if Parent CC holder fails to comply with VCAP	NCWM declares CCs inactive if Private Label CC holder fails to comply with VCAP
	CC holder to have audit conducted by Certified Body	CC holder to have audit conducted by Certified Body	NTEP contacts CC holders not meeting VCAP requirements to encourage compliance		
	Submit audit report to NCWM/NTEP	Submit audit report to NCWM/NTEP			

The Committee has received letters, questions, and many other inquiries pertaining to VCAP. The Committee has worked diligently to answer the questions submitted in a very timely manner, and it knows additional questions will be posed as VCAP progresses. Certificate holders and other interested parties are encouraged to submit written questions to the NTEP Committee. The Committee is pleased to report that it has been successful in answering all the questions to date. Clerical changes have been made to affected VCAP documents as deemed necessary.

During the 2015 Interim and Annual Meetings, the Committee heard no comments about expanding VCAP. The Committee stated their intent to include the remaining categories in the near future. The Committee is seriously considering developing a timeline next year for the remaining categories, which includes: automatic weighing systems, belt-conveyor scales, and automatic bulk weighing systems. Comments from affected parties are welcomed and appreciated.

During the 2015 NCWM Annual Meeting, the Committee informed membership that it plans to offer a recommended amendment to NTEP administrative policy in NCWM Publication 15 for 2016. NTEP has learned that the two organizations (ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board [ANAB] and International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation [ILAC]) have a mutual recognition agreement. Researching this fact, NTEP contacted a U.S. Certification Body that is accredited by ANAB and a non-U.S. Certification Body accredited by ILAC and asked them if they would accept an audit report from the other Certification Body. Both responded they would provide the Certification Body was accredited by a Signatory of the ILAC Mutual Recognition Arrangement and the ISO/IEC 17025 standard is mentioned in the accreditation bodies recognized scope.

Considering the above information and from what NTEP has read on both the ANAB and ILAC web sites, we feel there is sufficient justification to accept the work of ILAC accredited auditing firms that are recognized to the ISO/IEC 17025 standard for testing.

As VCAP expanded to include additional devices and more international manufacturers, it became evident the limitation of requiring the Certification Body to be accredited by a U.S. based Accreditation Board created a limited pool of Certification Bodies and Auditor to pick from. In addition, NTEP was approached by a few non-U.S. based Certification Bodies requesting NTEP recognize accreditation organizations such as the ILAC. To address this limitation, the following change is proposed to the accreditation requirements.

- 21.1.3.3.1. The selected Certification Body is to be accredited by ANSI-ASQ National Accreditation Board (ANAB) or by a Signatory of the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC) Mutual Recognition. The ANSI, ~~ANAB and ILAC are ASQ National Accreditation Board in the U.S.~~ accreditation ~~body~~ **bodies** for management systems. ANAB and ILAC accredits certification bodies (CBs) for ISO 9001 quality management systems (QMS), ISO 17025 laboratory testing facilities and ISO 14001 environmental management systems (EMS), as well as a number of industry-specific requirements, ~~or equivalent.~~

530-2 Device Categories for VCAP

Source: NTEP Committee

Item under Consideration:

NCWM must decide if all weighing and load receiving elements should be included in the list of devices that must meet the VCAP requirement or just weighing and load receiving elements with non-NTEP load cells. NTEP has always subjected separate weighing and load-receiving elements to influence factor testing per technical policy. However, NTEP Administrative Policy only lists weighing and load receiving elements using non-NTEP load cells. The Committee will continue to take comments pertaining to the weighing elements conflict and requests input from the NTEP Weighing Sector and other stakeholders.

Background/Discussion:

An NTEP Committee proposal to expand VCAP was advertised prior to the annual meeting, on the NCWM website and during this annual meeting via a handout. The Committee was strongly considering inclusion into the VCAP of Electronic Weighing Instruments and Main Elements with capacities ≤ 2000 lb of the following Device Types:

- Complete Scales*;
- Indicating Elements;
- Automatic Weighing Systems;
- Weighing/Load Receiving Elements;
- Belt-Conveyor Scales; and
- Automatic Bulk Weighing Systems.

This includes both manufacturers and private label holders of Certificates of Conformance (CC) for these device types.

*It is NTEP's interpretation that the category of complete scales includes types such as but not limited to – Computing, Non-computing Point of Sale, Crane, Monorail, Hopper, and Grain Test Scales.

During the 2014 Annual Meeting, the Committee heard objections from several companies to expanding VCAP to all the device types. The Committee also heard objections to weighing/load receiving elements being included on the list of device types. It became obvious to the Committee that there is a difference in interpretation stemming from the conflicting list of device types in NCWM Publication 14 Administrative Policy (specifying weighing/load receiving elements using non-NTEP load cells) versus the list of devices to be tested for influence factors in NCWM Publication 14, DES, Technical Policy (specifying weighing/load receiving elements). During the Annual Meeting, the NTEP Committee made the decision to pull back on their proposal to include all remaining device categories under VCAP, only adding a timeline for indicating elements of the ongoing load cell and weighing elements using non-

NTEP load cells categories. A primary issue was whether to include all weighing elements or not. NCWM Publication 14, Administrative Policy, Section 21.1.3.1 and NCWM Publication 14, Weighing Devices, Technical Policy Section B.1. appear to contradict each other (see below).

NCWM Publication 14, Administrative Policy states:

21.1.3.1 Devices that Must Meet this Requirement Are Limited to the List Below:

- Load Cell (T.N.8.)
- Indicating Elements (T.N.8.)
- Weighing/Load Receiving Elements with non-NTEP Load Cells (T.N.8.)
- Complete Scales (T.N.8.)
- Automatic Weighing Systems (T.7.)
- Belt-Conveyor Scales (T.3)
- Automatic Bulk Weighing Systems (T.7.)

NCWM Publication 14, Weighing Devices, Digital Electronic Scales, Technical Policy states:

B.1. Influence Factors Requirements

Although NIST Handbook 44 contains a set of influence factors requirements, not all devices must be tested for all of the influence factors. The following table identifies the influence factor tests to be conducted on various devices. The main elements and components (indicating elements and load cells) of scales with a capacity greater than 2000 lb must be tested separately for compliance with the influence factors requirements.

Devices to Be Tested for Influence Factors

Device Type	Temperature Accuracy ⁷	Temperature Zero Drifts	Barometric Pressure	Warm-up Time	Voltage ⁴	Power Interruption ⁵	Time Dependence
Scales ≤ 2000 lb	X	X	X ¹	X	X	X	X
Scales ≥ 2000 lb	X ²	X ²	X ²	X	X	X	X ²
ECR's Computers, Bulk-weigher Controllers (without A/D)						X	
Printers						X	
Dials (spring)	X	X					X
Leaver/beam Scales and Pendulum Dials							

Device Type	Temperature Accuracy ⁷	Temperature Zero Drifts	Barometric Pressure	Warm-up Time	Voltage ⁴	Power Interruption ⁵	Time Dependence
Weighing/ Load-Receiving Elements	X	X	X ¹				X
Indicating Element ⁶	X	X		X	X	X	
Class II Scales	X	X		X ³	X	X	X
Load Cells							
Canister-Type	X	X	X ¹				X
Hydraulic	X	X					X
All Others	X	X					X
¹ Testing is limited to some canister load cells. ² Compliance with influence factors requirements will be determined according to existing NTEP policy. ³ Test limited to power switch only, not to initial plug-in of the device. ⁴ Voltage test is 130 and 100 VAC and low battery test on DC. <i>See Section K.60.</i> ⁵ Power interruption is pulling the plug for 10 seconds. <i>See Section K.19.</i> ⁶ Indicating elements processing only digital information do not have to be tested for compliance with the influence factors. ⁷ Compliance with temperature requirements by NTEP is limited to temperatures that are no lower than - 10 °C and no higher than 40 °C.							

During the 2015 Interim and Annual Meetings, the Committee heard testimony opposing inclusion of weighing/load-receiving elements using load cells traceable to an NTEP certificate. The Committee received letters from Cardinal Scale, Fairbanks Scales, and Rice Lake Weighing Systems are opposing the inclusion of all weighing/load-receiving elements primarily because such inclusion would be redundant resulting in the unnecessary expense of additional VCAP testing. The SMA is also on record opposing the inclusion.

The NCWM Board has agreed not to include weighing/load receiving elements using NTEP load cells in the list of device categories subject to VCAP. However, the Board would like certificate holders to take notice that they have the intention of amending the table of devices subject to influence factor testing found in the Weighing Devices Section of NCWM Publication 14.

550 OTHER ITEMS – DEVELOPING ITEMS

550-1 NTEP Contingency Plan

Source:
NTEP Committee

Purpose:
NTEP Contingency Plan was created to keep NTEP operating and to ensure NTEP services are available at an adequate level including an appropriate number of laboratories and personnel (evaluators) to maintain viable support for NTEP services, including MRAs, MAAs, and potentially to be an R 76 Issuing Participant.

Item under Consideration:

The NTEP Committee discussed contingency planning for continuity of NTEP operations. Economic issues have caused NTEP-authorized labs to discontinue services due to government budget cuts in the past. How would NTEP maintain workflow? Are there additional states interested in applying to become an NTEP field lab or an NTEP brick-and-mortar lab? With the recent 2014 hire of an NTEP Specialist, the State of Maryland resuming evaluation of measuring devices, and the interest of states to become NTEP authorized participating laboratories helps with contingency concerns. The Committee continues to discuss these issues during long-range planning sessions and welcomes comments from the membership.

Background/Discussion:

The Committee continues to consider whether NCWM should:

1. have additional evaluators under contract to conduct testing at manufacturers' facilities and assist state NTEP laboratories;
2. have an NCWM brick and mortar NTEP laboratory and NTEP evaluators;
3. use a private third party laboratory to conduct NTEP evaluations; and
4. have the OIML MAA Participation as an issuing or utilizing participant.

The Committee has heard testimony expressing support and concerns pertaining to the options. Several stated the Committee should consider adding OIML MAA participation as a Utilizing Participant to the list. Others have urged the Committee to continue working on the idea of NCWM NTEP evaluators, an NCWM NTEP lab, and keeping all options open. One member asked the Committee to consider accepting manufacturer compliance data in lieu of hiring NTEP contractors. Another suggestion from the floor was to consider strengthening and utilizing IV as part of the NTEP process. A representative of a state brick and mortar NTEP laboratory asked the Committee to move cautiously forward and not destroy the state NTEP labs. He expressed concern that the establishment of an NCWM NTEP brick and mortar lab could lead to significant legal complications for the states.

The Committee continues to reiterate to the membership that, at this time, the preferred course of action would be the option of evaluators under contract or use NCWM NTEP staff to assist the laboratories. The Committee recognizes the commitment the states with NTEP laboratories have made over the years and would only resort to contingency measures in the event of a severe loss of state lab resources. Labs are handling the current demands without a need for contingency measures. The Committee is updated on the status of the participating laboratories, personnel, and backlog on a quarterly basis and will continue to keep NTEP contingency a priority.

Mr. John Gaccione, Westchester County, New York | Committee Chair
Mr. Ron Hayes, Missouri | NCWM Chairman
Mr. Jerry Buendel, Washington State | NCWM Chairman-Elect
Mr. James Cassidy, City of Cambridge, Massachusetts | Member
Mr. Kenneth Ramsburg, Maryland | Member
Mr. Jim Truex, NCWM | NTEP Administrator

National Type Evaluation Program Committee