

# Conferences / Events

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## *REPORT ON THE INTERIM MEETING OF THE NATIONAL CONFERENCE ON WEIGHTS AND MEASURES JANUARY 12-16, 1987*

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The National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) is a standards-writing organization that dates its establishment back to January 16, 1905, when the Director of the National Bureau of Standards hosted the first meeting of nine State representatives "in order to bring about uniformity in the state laws referring to weights and measures, and also to effect a close cooperation between the state inspection services and the National Bureau of Standards...." Today, all the NCWM technical committees and task forces meet at NBS in January of each year at what is called the "NCWM Interim Meeting" to study issues and make recommendations on weights and measures concerns, particularly the regulation of the commercial marketplace—scales, liquid meters, and prepackaged commodities. The active membership of the NCWM meet annually in July to vote on the Committees' recommendations. The Interim Meeting of the 72d NCWM (gaps in Annual Meetings occurred during both world wars) was held January 12-16, 1987. A summary of the most significant work of each major committee follows.

The Executive Committee manages the NCWM, sets policy, and sits as the Board of Governors of the National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP). The NTEP is a program of cooperation between

NBS, NCWM, States, and the private sector for determining conformance of measuring devices with codes and other legal design criteria. A survey indicates that the program is accepted in all but three States in the United States. This year, the Executive Committee is revising the Policy and Procedures under which NTEP operates. Of special significance was the completion of plans for the evaluation of load cells used in commercial weighing devices. The NBS Automated Production Technology Division will provide the technical oversight for this activity. In addition, the Executive Committee is recommending new policies for interaction with the International Organization for Legal Metrology (OIML) in order to communicate the work of the OIML to a broader audience within the U.S.

The Committee on Laws and Regulations develops and interprets standards that are recommended for adoption by States as laws and regulations. This year, the Committee is proposing adoption by the NCWM of a Uniform Motor Fuel Law. This law incorporates ASTM standards on gasoline, diesel fuel, and gasoline-alcohol blends. In addition, the Committee is recommending test methods for packaged commodities subject to moisture loss.

The Committee on Specifications and Tolerances develops standards that are adopted by States as device code requirements and test methods. At the 1987 Interim Meeting, the Committee determined how the NCWM will set standards and test procedures to deal with the problem of gasoline vaporization during tests of "loading-rack" (wholesale gasoline delivery) meters.

The Committee on Education promotes the education and training of weights and measures officials for an increasingly technologically-sophisticated marketplace. It has managed the development of a series of training "modules" under a grant from the NBS. The Committee has proposed minimum qualifications this year for selecting

instructors to deliver the training using the modules.

The Committee on Liaison represents the NCWM to the Federal Government and other organizations. At the 1987 Interim Meeting, the Committee agreed to petition the Department of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms to modify their regulations for malt beverages to conform to Federal and State labeling requirements covering other types of packaged goods.

The 72d Annual Meeting of the NCWM will be held in Little Rock, Arkansas July 19–24, 1987. Approximately 400 representatives from government and industry are expected to attend. The NBS will publish the proceedings of the meeting as a special publication, and publish updates of the weights and measures handbooks, Handbook 44 "Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices," Handbook 130 "Uniform Laws and Regulations," and Handbook 133 "Checking the Net Contents of Packaged Goods" as a result of voting at the Annual Meeting.

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## *FIFTEENTH PLENARY MEETING OF ISO/TC 108 ON MECHANICAL VIBRATION AND SHOCK*

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The fifteenth plenary meeting of the International Standards Organization (ISO)/Technical Committee (TC) 108 on Mechanical Vibration and Shock was held at NBS Gaithersburg from March 30 through April 10, 1987. Approximately 130 delegates from 15 countries participated in the two weeks of meetings of the technical committee, its four subcommittees, and nearly all of its 27 working groups.

The American National Standards Institute (ANSI), the U.S. member body, has held the secretariat for this committee since the latter was established in 1963. Presently, 17 countries are participating and 26 others are observer members. The committee maintains liaison with other TC's of ISO and of the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC). The chairman for the current term is Robert G. Bartheld of Siemens Energy & Automation; the secretary is Avril Brenig, standards manager of the Acoustical Society of America, which organization has administered the TC 108 Secretariat on behalf of ANSI.

Opening the plenary session, the director of NBS, Ernest Ambler, reviewed the contributions to standardization of ISO in general and of TC 108 in particular; he also stressed the communality of interests between NBS and the voluntary standards community. The working meetings that followed addressed standardization in such diverse areas as

balancing machines, vibration control on vehicles and structures, calibration of vibration and shock measuring instruments, and evaluation of human exposure to mechanical shock and vibration. Those standards ranged from some very specific problems, such as "rotor-shaft-key convention," to rather general ones, like "mechanical transmissibility of the human body in the z-direction."

In response to the needs of manufacturers and users, new work items were established, for example, classification of environmental vibration conditions, of concern to users and makers of sensitive equipment, including computers. Several new working groups were created, while others, having completed their tasks, were dissolved. The importance of cooperation and liaison between WG's and TC's was emphasized. A new joint working group, consisting of experts from TC 108 and TC 70 on Internal Combustion Engines, will be called into existence to standardize the measurement and evaluation of vibration of reciprocating machines. Also, the collaboration with IEC/SC50A in the development of procedures to assess the shock resistance of mechanical systems will be continued. In all, 30 resolutions pertaining to confirmation or upgrading of standards, establishment of new work items, and creation or dissolution of working groups were adopted at the closing plenary meeting of TC 108.

In the closing meeting, Rasa Rajeswaran, representative of the ISO Central Secretariat, expressed appreciation to NBS and to ANSI on behalf of all the delegates. The meeting was closed by William Rockwell, vice president of ANSI. The next plenary meeting is to be held in Shanghai, China, in September 1988.

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