



## Regulatory Delivery

Weights and Measures Bulletin No. 1006

### **Guidance on the retrofitting of Automatic Temperature Compensation (ATC), devices on nationally approved fuel dispensers**

#### **Automatic Temperature Compensation (ATC)**

Automatic temperature compensation (ATC), when installed onto a fuel dispenser, converts the displayed volume of fuel delivered to that which would be delivered if its temperature was 15 °C. In the petroleum industry a litre at 15 °C is referred to as a “standard litre” and the process of converting the volume in litres at a given temperature is known as “standard temperature accounting” often abbreviated to “STA”. Currently, most fuel metering systems deliver a litre of fuel by volume with no reference to temperature.

Equipment may incorporate STA such that the volume display is converted to 15 °C and is labelled as such. STA is legal but is NOT mandatory under UK legislation.

However, equipment that is verified with the STA function enabled should remain STA enabled throughout the whole year to avoid consistently favouring either the seller or the buyer, even if the equipment has been appropriately re-verified. Alternatively, if the STA function is disabled then it should remain STA disabled for the same reason. Switching the STA function ‘OFF and ON’ throughout the year to gain a commercial advantage from seasonal changes in fuel temperature is considered by Trading Standards to be an offence under consumer and business protection legislation.

#### **Issue**

The Measuring Instruments Directive (MID) was implemented into UK law in 2006. Forecourt operators and equipment manufacturers and suppliers have had a 10 year transitional period to move to full MID compliance for newly installed systems. During this time both MID and UK approved equipment could be placed onto the UK market. This transitional period ended on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016.

Since 30<sup>th</sup> October 2016 no modifications can be made to a UK certificate of approval, since it will have expired, and it cannot be amended once it has expired. This is posing a problem for some businesses that would like to install ATC retrospectively on their (perfectly serviceable) nationally approved fuel dispensers.

## **Opinion**

It is the opinion of RD that provided the ATC has a parts or evaluation certificate issued by a Notified Body responsible for Module B (MI-005) under the MID it can be installed onto a UK national dispenser under the following conditions:

- The installer must ensure the ATC retrofit works correctly with the dispenser
- The ATC must be fitted in accordance with the requirements of the MID parts certificate
- The dispenser must be clearly identifiable as an STA enabled dispenser by the volume display being marked to indicate that it is converted to 15 °C.
- Each dispenser on which the ATC is retrofitted must be re-verified after volume accuracy has been tested with the ATC both OFF and then ON.
- As with all re-verifications, the Approved Verifier must inform the local trading standards department
- It must be secured in its operating condition, either OFF or ON

The main purpose of the legislation is to provide consumer protection and ensure accurate measurement and the addition of ATC under the conditions outlined above is deemed to have a very low risk of causing any detriment.

## **Existing Guidance**

‘Guidance note for retail fuel dispensers (petrol pumps) and road tanker mounted meter measuring systems fitted with Standard Temperature Accounting (STA) displays – advice for retailers, manufacturers, local authority Trading Standards Officers and Approved Verifiers’ Version 12 – June 2017

‘When is a Litre not a Litre? Temperature Compensating Fuel Dispensers’  
Version 2 - 10 March 2011

Both can be found on the RD website at the following link:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/standard-temperature-accounting-weights-and-measures>

## **Please Note**

The views expressed in this opinion are based on the current information and practices operated in both the public and private sector of the industry. These can and will change over time and it may be necessary to add to or amend this opinion as time progresses.

## **Document Control**

<b>Version No.</b>	<b>Date of change</b>	<b>Substantive changes</b>
1.0	June 2017	Original document