



Office for Product
Safety & Standards

Guidance on metrology changes made by The Product Safety and Metrology etc. (Amendment) Regulations 2021

Changes made to the Measuring Instruments Regulations 2016 and Non-automatic Weighing Instruments Regulations 2016 by The Product Safety and Metrology etc. (Amendment) Regulations 2021

December 2021

Guidance

Introduction

The *Measuring Instruments Regulations 2016* (MIR) and *Non-automatic Weighing Instruments Regulations 2016* (NAWI) have been amended by the [Product Safety and Metrology etc \(Amendment\) Regulations 2021](#). This includes changes to the enforcement procedures of disqualification and requalification (in NAWI Reg 67-68 and MIR Reg 72-73):

1. The disqualification and re-qualification marks have been set out in legislation to aid transparency, and the information that must accompany the markings has been specified.
2. The criteria for disqualification and requalification for instruments that were lawfully placed on the GB market by meeting EU requirements (whether before or after 31 December 2020) have been clarified.

Further detail about these changes is provided below.

1. Disqualification and re-qualification markings, and information that must accompany the markings

The disqualification mark and re-qualification mark have been published in new schedules to MIR and NAWI (in a new Schedule A1 for both) and the regulations have been amended to specify the information that must accompany the requalification markings.

Requalification marks in GB

In **GB**, the requalification marks must be accompanied by:

i. The letters indicating the status of the requalification authority:

- (i) “INS” if the requalification authority is an inspector;
- (ii) “AV” if the requalification authority is an approved verifier;

Relevant to NAWI instruments only:

- (iii) “AB” if the requalification authority is an approved body for module F or F1 in NAWI Schedule 7;
- (iv) “AM” if the requalification authority is a manufacturer whose quality system has been approved by an Approved Body under module D or D1 of NAWI Schedule 7 for the purposes of re-qualification (who are often referred to as ‘Approved Manufacturers’);

ii. The identification number of the requalification authority:

For Inspectors and Approved Verifiers, this will be the stamp identification number assigned to them by the Secretary of State.¹

¹ The numbers allocated to Inspectors and Approved Verifiers for identification purposes are listed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/weights-and-measures-national-and-eec-stamp-numbers>

Relevant to NAWI instruments only:

For Approved Bodies, this will be the number assigned to them in the appointment letter issued by the Secretary of State.

For manufacturers whose quality system has been approved by an Approved Body under module D or D1 of NAWI Schedule 7 for the purposes of re-qualification ('Approved Manufacturers'), their identification number will be a number assigned to them by the Secretary of State (and not the identification number of the Approved Body who approved them, as was previously the case).

iii. The year of requalification in numerical form; and

iv. The letters "GB" or "QNIG" (which stands for 'Qualifying Northern Ireland Good'), if a GB requalification authority is requalifying the instrument under the law as it applies in GB and the instrument is a QNIG².

Requalification marks in Northern Ireland

In Northern Ireland, requalification marks must be accompanied by:

i. The letters indicating the status of the requalification authority:

- (i) "INS" if the requalification authority is an inspector;
- (ii) "AV" if the requalification authority is an approved verifier;

Relevant to NAWI instruments only:

- (iii) "NB" if the requalification authority is a UK approved notified body for module F or F1 in Annex II to the NAWI Directive³.
- (iv) "AM" if the requalification authority is a manufacturer whose quality system has been approved by an Approved Body under module D or D1 of Annex II to the NAWI Directive for the purposes of re-qualification (who are often referred to as 'Approved Manufacturers');

ii. The identification number of the requalification authority:

For Inspectors and Approved Verifiers, this will be the stamp identification number assigned to them by the Secretary of State⁴

Relevant to NAWI instruments only:

For Notified Bodies, this will be the number assigned to them in the appointment letter issued by the Secretary of State.

For manufacturers whose quality system has been approved by an Approved Body under module D or D1 of Annex II to the NAWI Directive for the purposes of re-qualification ('Approved Manufacturers'), their identification number will be a number assigned to them by the Secretary of State (and not the identification number of the Approved Body who approved them, as was previously the case).

² i.e. it was placed on the GB market under Unfettered Access (regulation 32D of NAWI as it applies in GB or regulation 33D of MIR as it applies in GB).

³ Directive 2014/31/EU

⁴ The numbers allocated to Inspectors and Approved Verifiers for identification purposes are listed here: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/weights-and-measures-national-and-eeec-stamp-numbers>

iii. The year of requalification in numerical form; and

iv. The letters “NI”

Ordering stickers

Stickers can be ordered from the Office for Product Safety and Standards (OPSS) using the form on this page: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-regulation-weights-and-measures>.

Example stickers:

AB/0000/22 GB



(AB = requalification authority is an Approved Body, 0000 = identification number, 22 = requalification year; GB = instrument was requalified in GB by a GB requalification authority)

NB/0000/22 NI



(NB = requalification authority is a notified body; 0000 = identification number, 22 = requalification year; NI = instrument was requalified in NI by a NI requalification authority)

2. Clarification of the criteria for disqualification and requalification for instruments that were lawfully placed on the GB market by meeting EU requirements

Provisions in the Measuring Instruments Regulations 2016 (MIR) and Non-automatic Weighing Instruments Regulations 2016 set out the circumstances where instruments should be disqualified, and where they can be requalified (NAWI Reg 67-68 and MIR Reg 72-73).

MIR and NAWI have been amended to clarify the manner in which instruments which have been lawfully placed on the GB market by meeting EU requirements (whether before or after 31 December 2020) are to be disqualified and requalified. A summary of the main provisions is below.

Qualifying Northern Ireland Goods (QNIGs) under Unfettered Access:

A CE-marked instrument placed on the GB market via the unfettered access provision for qualifying NI Goods should be considered for disqualification and requalification in relation to (among other things) its conformity to (i) the essential requirements in the law as it applies in Northern Ireland⁵; (ii) any EU-type examination certificate or EU-design examination certificate which applies to it.

All other CE-marked instruments lawfully placed on the GB market

A CE-marked instrument lawfully placed on the GB market (other than a QNIG) should be considered for disqualification and requalification in relation to (among other things) its conformity to (i) the essential requirements in the law as it applies in Great Britain⁶; (ii) any EU-type examination certificate or EU-design examination certificate which applies to it.

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⁵ Namely, for non-automatic weighing instruments, those specified as being applicable to the relevant instrument in Annex I to Directive 2014/31/EU (as amended from time to time) and, for regulated measuring instruments, those specified as being applicable to the instrument in schedule 1 to MIR as it applies in Northern Ireland (which cross-refers to Annexes of Directive 2014/32/EU as amended from time to time).

⁶ Namely, those specified as being applicable to the relevant instrument in schedule 6 to NAWI (as it applies in GB) or schedules 1A and 1C to 1J of MIR (as it applies in GB) (other than requirements under MIR applying to regulated measuring instruments relating to maximum permissible errors).