

Professional Development Committee (PDC) 2021 Interim Meeting Report Addendum Sheet

Mr. David Aguayo, Committee Chair
San Luis Obispo County, California

INTRODUCTION

The Professional Development Committee submits its Committee Interim Report for consideration by National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM). This addendum sheet contains the report items published in *NCWM Publication 16: Committee Reports for the 106th Annual Meeting*. The addendum sheet will address the following items during the Annual Meeting.

Items are grouped according to item status:

(VC) Voting Consent Calendar: The Committee has grouped these items for a single vote.

(V) Voting Item: The Committee is making recommendations requiring a vote by the active members of NCWM.

(I) Informational Item: The item is under consideration by the Committee but, not proposed for Voting.

(A) Assigned Item: The Committee assigned development of the item to a recognized subcommittee or task group.

(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.

(W) Withdrawn Item: The item has been removed from consideration by the Committee.

Informational Item(s)		
Reference Key	Title of Item	Addendum PDC Page
EDU – EDUCATION		
EDU-1	I Professional Certification Program	1
EDU-2	I Training	2
EDU-3	I Instructor Improvement.....	2
EDU-4	I Recommended Topics for Conference Training	2
PMT – PROGRAM MANAGEMENT		
PMT-1	I Safety Awareness	2
PMT-2	I Skimmer Education Task Group	3

Details of All Items
(In order by Reference Key)

EDU – EDUCATION

EDU-1 I Professional Certification Program

EDU-1
<p>Comments:</p> <p>Several comments were heard about the difficulty and scope of the exams, particularly when qualifying Registered Service Agents (RSAs). Scott Simmons (CO) reported that Colorado tried to use the measuring basic competency exam as part of their RSA licensing program. Of the three service companies that had technicians attempt the exam, there was a high failure rate and CO concluded that it was too difficult, and too broad in scope for the purpose of RSA licensing. Mr. Simmons suggested that an exam that was narrower in scope could be used for testing RSAs in Colorado. Greg Vander Plaats (MN) said that the basic competency exams are too broad for use in registering or licensing service technicians, specifically those who specialize in a single device type or class. They also do not charge their RSAs when testing, so moving to the NCWM test would result in incurring a charge that does not currently apply. He also thanked the Board for approving virtual proctoring and encouraged their continued use. Kevin Schnepf (CA) added that the general basic competency exams would not work for state licensing requirements and suggested the exams be written for specific device types. David Boykin (NCR) stated the basic competency exam was too broad. His company deals with POS systems and the exam covers devices not serviced by NCR technicians. Loren Minnich (KS) testified that the state laws and regulations were a barrier to using the current basic competency exams. There is some privatization in Kansas and some businesses service very specific device types such that a general exam would not be appropriate and in some cases Kansas waives the exam requirement. Mr. Minnich suggested that there be a way to mark questions during an exam that the test taker thought should be reviewed by NCWM for clarity and consistency.</p> <p>Mr. Minnich also asked about the importance of accreditation. Jerry Buendel (WA-Retired) explained that accreditation would give the program additional credibility and would assure that we have rigorous processes in place to operate the testing program.</p> <p>Paul Floyd (LA) suggested the exams and questions be reviewed periodically and was concerned about the question review process’s impact on accreditation. Tim Chesser (AR) asked what certification meant and why certifications are good for five years. Mr. Buendel explained that certification demonstrates a thorough understanding of the national technical requirements and their application in regulatory inspections. Five years was selected based on the rate of change to the Handbooks and logical best fit for time between tests.</p>

Kurt Floren (Los Angeles County, CA) suggested we consider dividing exams to have one section cover specific devices and another section tailored to cover a jurisdiction's laws and regulations both exams should include input from the respective state. For example, there could be a pool of 100 questions, and the state could select from these and add their own state-specific requirements questions.

Tim Chesser (AR) asked where we found Subject Matter Experts (SMEs). Jerry Buendel stated that there are various means of identifying SMEs including a request for assistance via the list serve, participation in the conference, and by their reputation in the weights and measures community.

Cheryl Ayer (NH) asked if it would be best to have some weights and measures officials take the competency exams so they can see what it entails to determine whether or not it will serve well for their service agents. Mr. Buendel appreciated the suggestion and agreed that it would be helpful.

Tina Butcher (NIST OWM) shared that there has been some reluctance from state weights and measures officials to use the same test for state inspectors and RSAs. The committee also heard comments that some jurisdictions have privatized and/or delegated some functions to RSAs.

In the committee work session, the committee decided to recommend the Board of Directors consider authorizing a work group to investigate further refining the NCWM testing program to include licensing programs for RSAs that could be utilized by individual states. This work group could address such issues as the need for additional, more specific competency exams, and variations in jurisdictional requirements and how to address these to make the test more applicable to RSAs.

EDU-2 I Training

EDU-2
Comments: During the 2021 Annual Meeting open hearings an updated presentation was given on NIST training activity. The updates will appear in the committee final report. Cheryl Ayer (NH) indicated her support for hybrid and virtual training and pointed out that there is cost savings with no need to travel, etc.

EDU-3 I Instructor Improvement

EDU-3
Comments: No comments were heard from the floor.

EDU-4 I Recommended Topics for Conference Training

EDU-4
Comments: No comments were heard from the floor.

PMT – PROGRAM MANAGEMENT

PMT-1 I Safety Awareness

PMT-1
Comments:

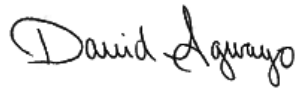
Ivan Hankins (IA) indicated that there may be a candidate identified to fill the vacancy for the CWMA safety liaison. Ken Ramsburg (MD) announced that the SWMA liaison has left the organization and that position is now vacant.

PMT-2 I Skimmer Education Task Group

PMT-2

Comments:

During the 2021 Annual Meeting open hearings an update was provided by John McGuire (NJ), co-chair of the Skimmer Education Task Group. The updates will appear in the committee final report.
No comments were heard from the floor.



Mr. David Aguayo, San Luis Obispo County, California | Committee Chair
Mr. Gary Milton, Virginia | Member
Mr. Scott Ferguson, Michigan | Member
Mr. Paul Floyd, Louisiana | Member
Mr. Ethan Bogren, Westchester County, New York | Member
Mr. James Pettinato, TechnipFMC | AMC Representative
Vacant | Safety Liaison
Ms. Tina Butcher, NIST, OWM | NIST Liaison
Mr. Jerry Buendel, Retired | Certification Coordinator

Professional Development Committee