



Southern Weights & Measures Association

146th Edition

SWMA Newsletter

October 2016

JURISDICTIONAL NEWS

FLORIDA

Statistically Random Device Testing

In early July the department's Bureau of Standards began performance testing retail motor fuel dispensers using a statistically valid, random sampling plan in lieu of performance testing each device at every station. The goal was to cover more inspection territory within each calendar year without sacrificing consumer or business protections. Working with in-house IT developers our inspection database was modified to add the capabilities necessary to not only record the inspections but also to randomly choose the devices to be performance tested at each location. Although in most cases not all RMFDs are performance tested under this sampling plan, a robust inspection of each device, including close inspection for credit card skimmers still occurs. We are still assessing the quantitative benefits of the sampling plan; however, initially it appears as though this plan will allow the bureau to increase the frequency of inspection visits by nearly 30% across the board.

The bureau would like to thank the State of Tennessee for their contributions to the development of this streamlined testing plan for RMFDs.

As a result of the preliminary success of the plan with RMFD's the bureau is working to expand the inspection sampling protocols to small scale inspections as well, which is currently being beta tested by a specialized focus team within the bureau. If all goes well the rollout for an analogous streamlined scale testing plan will occur sometime later this calendar year.

Florida's Annual Inspector Workshop

In Florida, August means hot temperatures, but it also means that it's time for the bureau's annual inspector workshop. Each year the bureau assembles its field staff and management teams (including the laboratories) and invites external guest speakers to come together for a week of learning, training and sharing of information. This year our workshop was held in the Central Florida town of Lake Mary. The workshop focused on bringing new information and providing refresher training to nearly one hundred field inspectors and supervisors. Ms. Kristin

Macey, California Weights and Measures Director and incoming NCWM Chairwoman, was the keynote speaker at this year's workshop. The inspection staff was excited to have the standing chair from the NCWM address the Team and Kristin provided an informative and excellent overview of the NCWM and NTEP processes.

The department's training and development team also was on site this year to conduct conflict resolution training, True Colors and other team building exercises. The workshop also featured guest speakers from the Florida Department of Environmental Protection and Husky Nozzle.

The Division of Consumer Services' Bureau of Fair Ride Inspections was in simultaneous attendance and participated jointly in much of the training and team building exercises while holding their own technical meetings on site.

As a measure of appreciation management also treated the bureau teams to dinner, which was a great time for all who were able to attend.

North Ga. Field Supervisor Mark Andrews and our L.P. gas inspectors attended a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) sponsored meter inspection training course held in North Carolina.

Doug Killingsworth and Rich Lewis attended the National Conference of Weights and Measures meeting in July in Denver. Rich served as chairman of the Laws & Regulations Committee. 🇺🇸

GEORIGIA

Fuel and Measures has two new retail fuel inspectors in Area 22 (DeKalb and Rockdale Counties) and Area 6 (Forsyth, Hall, Jackson and Bartow Counties). We would like to welcome Kenyetta Sullivan (Area 22) and Brad Dollar (Area 6) to the Fuel and Measures Division. Exzavier Nash former retail inspector in Area 22 took over the duties of North Ga. wholesale fuel inspector.

Fuel and Measures recently took (CFO) Kelly Dudley and staff from Office of Planning and Budget (OPB) on a field trip to a truck stop in Clayton County. They saw how we conduct inspections on large and small scales, fuel pumps, and high-speed meters.

We are currently making upgrades to our 500 gallon prover which will make its operation safer and more streamlined.

We recently purchased a new large scale test unit to replace the second of our oldest units. Hopefully we will be able to replace the third one this fiscal year and then all our units will be in good shape.

The Fuel and Measures Division held a training meeting with our fuel inspectors at the Macon State Farmers Market. Commissioner Gary W. Black was in attendance and was able to present service awards to Delmorus Cain and Chad Bates. The division also awarded our annual Golden Drake Award to Barry Edmundson. This is the award for the Fuel & Measures employee of the year.

Doug Killingsworth and Rich Lewis attended the National Industrial Scale Association annual conference in Atlanta. Rich gave a presentation at the conference on the Fuel & Measures Division and its operations.

The Fuel and Measures Division wrote and submitted an article to the Georgia Cotton Commission for their monthly newsletter. It discusses the operation of cotton gins and the process by which farmers are paid for their seed.

Mark Andrews and Mike Norris represented the Fuel & Measures Division at a meeting of the Georgia Propane Gas Association in Dalton Ga.

The Fuel and Measures Division continues to look for illegal credit card skimmers in gas pumps as part of our routine inspections. Fuel Inspector Shane Landers found one at a station in Atlanta recently. The skimmer was turned over to local law enforcement.

The Fuel and Measures team recently conducted several training meetings with our fuel inspectors to keep them updated on new information we are receiving concerning illegal credit card skimmers.

North Ga. Field Supervisor Mark Andrews and our L.P. gas inspectors attended a National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) sponsored meter inspection training course held in North Carolina.

Doug Killingsworth and Rich Lewis attended the National Conference of Weights and Measures meeting in July in Denver. Rich served as chairman of the Laws & Regulations Committee. 📄

MISSISSIPPI

Consumer Protection:

During our last fiscal year, our inspectors performed 1,402 UPC inspections; there were 211 failures. They made 769 scale inspections, covering 5,468 small scales; 171 were rejected. They made 749 net weight package check inspections, covering 45,501 packages; 4,765 packages were placed-off sale. Four stores were fined for repeated UPC violations.

The Department has updated its Weights and Measures regulations. Part of the regulations will attempt to address the compliance rates of UPC inspections.

Petroleum Division:

The State of Mississippi's fiscal year ended June 30th and the Petroleum division of the Department was able to meet Legislative Performance Measures by completing 3,741 annual site inspections and 66,506 device inspections, which resulted in 4,555 violations written for non-compliance issues. The division also obtained 2,237 fuel quality samples and of those issued samples, placed 173 products off sale for failure to meet state specifications, resulting in collections of administrative penalties in the amount of \$25,500.

The Division has recently had all of its state petroleum testing equipment certified by the State Metrology Lab; our thanks to both Mel Isagi and William Bell for getting all our state equipment certified in a timely manner. We have maintained a semi-annual schedule for the past couple of years and it is working well in maintaining the reliability and accuracy of our equipment. Recently purchased DEF test measures were also assigned in areas where we are noticing an increasing number of dispensers, especially in the rural farming areas of the Delta.



The Department would like to welcome Johnnie Davidson to our “petroleum” team. Johnnie, an Inspector Regulatory Services Trainee, is assigned Hinds County. It is the largest county in the state not only in population and size, but in both number of locations and devices under the purview of the department. Welcome aboard.

The Petroleum Division recently participated in a joint conference in Hattiesburg (South MS) with The Mississippi Department of Environmental Quality UST Division. The joint conference was a wonderful opportunity for both agencies to share information and regulatory information and rule changes with industry and meet and visit with not only distributors, but service personnel and independent operators as well. We look forward to partnering again in the spring to co-host another conference in the Jackson (Central MS) area.



Weights and Measures:

Greg Gholston, supervisor for the Weights and Measures Division, recently conducted training classes for our intermediate and heavy capacity scale inspectors. Greg is an active participant in NIST’s Train the Trainer program and has assisted other instructors with several NIST classes in different states. Greg’s leadership and teaching abilities are greatly appreciated and will continue to be an asset in his new role as a supervisor for the division. 🇺🇸



Greg Gholston



NORTH CAROLINA

Measurement Section

Fall is here and combines, harvesters and tractors are busy in the fields gathering crops. Trucks are taking the harvest to the buyers and grain elevators. Seasonal work is very busy with tobacco, cotton and peanut scales taking up a lot of time in the past months. Our NC Western Fair wrapped up in September and was a great success due to the hard work of a lot of people. I especially want to thank our western area personnel for their contributions to our booth and displays. Our NC State Fair is scheduled for October 13 through October 23 and we will have many employees working at the fair during this time. It is a fun time even though we are working. We enjoy meeting the fair goers and answering questions about our exhibit and what we do in the market place.

Standards Division had a visit from Ms. Jennifer Emert with News 13 WLOS in Ashville, NC. She and her team reviewed inspections (retail motor fuel dispensers, scales and scanning reports) that took place in their viewing area to see if there was a story and to report to their viewers that NCDA&CS Standards Division is watching out for them. She also did an interview with Mr. Gerald Brown with weights and measures questions that would help inform the viewers. Mr. Brown is our western area supervisor encompassing our mountains and the Ashville area.

All in all, normal duties are still taken care of. We are handling fuel related complaints daily and scanner related issues as they are coming in to the office. According to my recent survey of our complaint/request log for last quarter 84% of complaints were handled within 24 hours and the other 16% were handled as soon as we could get to them due to receiving the complaint on a weekend.

We have had five more inspectors pass the NCWM Retail Motor Fuel Device certification exam. I would like to congratulate Timothy Coward, Marshal Shingleton, David Lynch, Jerry Cansler and Tommy Mears on their accomplishment of this task. We still have some new personnel still gaining experience and they will attempt the exam when recommended by the developers and our supervisors. Mr. Kelly Grooms received certification on VTM's. Congratulations Kelly!

John Gurkin, our eastern area supervisor, has announced that he will retire December 31, 2016. He is looking forward to it and he will be hard to replace. I know his supervised employees do not want him to leave.

We have two positions posted and hope to have them filled before this is published.

Ryan Coffield, presently a heavy scale inspector, will be advancing into the position vacated by Jimmy Butler. It is weights and measures only. Our gas and oil position is not filled yet.

All and all everything is running along smooth.

Allen Katalinic

Standards Laboratory

During the past quarter several employees took advantage of attending conferences and training events. In the month of July metrologist Van Hyder attended NCSL International Workshop & Symposium, which took place in Saint Paul, Minnesota. In the month of September, our annual Carolina Star Safety Conference took place in

Greensboro, North Carolina. The theme for this year’s conference was “Safety – Back to Basics”. Robert Rogers and Sherry Teachey represented the Standards Laboratory during this period. Special thanks to all the staff members for a job well done and for continuously keeping safety a top priority.

The Grain Moisture Section completed corn harvest early this year due to our hot, dry summer season. This was a successful collection season with an abundance of crop samples. We also completed all inspections on peanut scales at the recognized peanut buying stations. Soybean season is now starting. We are hoping for good weather and successful sample collection.

At the beginning of September, our Grain Moisture Program Supervisor April Lee traveled to Kansas City, Missouri for the Grain Analyzer Sector Meeting. The meeting was a good forum to discuss issues within the industry and states. Several important items were discussed, including a new NIST handbook, which we are currently reviewing to adopt into our regulations.

Standards Division

Meagan Trimnal, our Administrative Officer, will be moving to a new position with our Soil and Water Division on November 1st. Meagan took care of most of the administrative functions for us; purchasing, HR, accounting, etc. It will be a challenge to replace her.

The project on the new laboratories reached a milestone – a designer was selected and is now involved with the core group on this project. They will be meeting with individual labs/programs soon to start getting a shape on paper. I would like to thank Rich Lewis and his staff for hosting us in July at their lab in Tifton, GA. We found it very informative and encouraging. †

<p>The SWMA Newsletter is published quarterly: Annual dues are \$50. Membership inquires should be directed to: N. David Smith, SWMA Secretary-Treasurer NC Department of Agriculture & Consumer Services, 1001 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1001 Phone: 919-707-3031 Fax: 919-715-0026 E-Mail: David.Smith@ncagr.gov, Website: http://www.swma.org/ News may be submitted to: SWMA, 1904 Mission Road, Birmingham, AL 35216, E-mail: wdbasher@charter.net</p>
--

SWMA Newsletter
1904 Mission Road
Birmingham, AL 35216