

NEWSLETTER

Oil & Gas

April 2009

MID transition in The Netherlands

Measuring systems for liquids other than water are typically constructed from multiple components: a measurement transducer, a gas elimination device, etc. Because of the relatively long technical life of these components, upgrade of the system often involves replacement of only some of the components – not of the complete measuring system.

In essence, the MID recognises only complete measuring systems/instruments and does not offer a legally defined form of certification for its components. In contrast, both manufacturers and end-users demand to have a possibility of replacing components. Ideally this replacement of components should be independent of the underlying legislation (MID or pre-MID), however, this has not been possible.

Mix and Match

The Ministry of Economic Affairs in The Netherlands drew up a regulation to 'fix' the above mentioned problem after a request from the Dutch industry. In short, it offers a solution in roughly 95 % of cases where one might wish to 'mix and match' components certified under the pre-MID legislation and the current MID legislation (Metrology Act, as the Dutch implementation is called).

It is now possible to

- connect a pre-MID self-service device (POS) to a MID fuel dispenser, provided the pre-MID self-service device is still connected to a pre-MID fuel dispenser.
- connect a complete MID industrial measuring system (which includes its own indicating device) to a pre-MID multi-stream flow computer, provided the flow computer is still a part of a pre-MID measuring system (for at least one of its other streams).
- replace obsolete components by equivalent ones, provided no additional functionality is thereby added to the system. Adding, for instance, a volume conversion device to a system is therefore not possible.

Notes

- In some of the cases, pre-MID Approvals may need to be extended; in other cases some form of field verification may be required.
- This 95 % solution applies only to The Netherlands; other EU Member States may have implemented no or different legal 'fixes'.

Program visit EuroLoop

As mentioned in previous newsletters, we are offering an opportunity to visit EuroLoop after the Milestones in Metrology III congress. The program for this first ever visit is as follows:



After the Milestones in Metrology III farewell lunch on Wednesday 13 May we will leave by bus for EuroLoop. At EuroLoop we will visit the office building as well as the training centre and the control room. After a presentation on the specifications and technical challenges for both the gas and hydrocarbon calibration facilities, you will be the first visitors to have a look around in the impressive gas calibration facility hall.

For recent program updates, please visit www.milestonesinmetrology.nl.

Send an email to milestones@nmi.nl to register for this visit (free of charge). Please note that this visit is only open for participants of the Milestones in Metrology III congress.

Flood and Flow in Kuala Lumpur

'Chaos as flash floods hit city ...', prime news for Kuala Lumpur on 4 March 2009. The first day of the South East Asia Hydrocarbon Flow Measurement Workshop, a two-hour downpour caused a river to overflow its banks and caused chaos not seen in more than three decades.

The Kuala Lumpur Flood Mitigation Project (smart diversion channels and other measures) is all about flow measurement and control, both in the city and at the South East Asia Hydrocarbon Flow Measurement Workshop. Manufacturers of flow measurement equipment, calibration and test organisations and professional users such as national and international oil and gas companies attended the workshop.



More participation needed

The domain of accurate measurement represents a significant economic value, as clarified by some speakers. It is also important for flow experts to discuss preconditions and solutions for improved accuracy of measurement with each other. Therefore more participation of end-users is needed to share their expertise and to stimulate awareness of the impact of measurement on the economics of the oil and gas industry.

Measurement under various conditions requires adequate insight in the characteristics of available and new measurement principles and instrumentation. It is therefore important to gain field experience in close cooperation with end-users. In this respect, a broader representation by end-users at such an expertise platform meeting would be valuable.

Trend

One of the important trends mentioned at the workshop was, for instance, to apply diagnostics. The theorem was that with diagnostics you are able to monitor the performance of the meter online after initial 'baseline' calibration and to determine a sound and justifiable recalibration interval.

The economic downturn is stimulating oil and gas exploration to seek improved measurement and allocation of the various flows that determine the success of the operations of the industry. Natural gas, wet gas, multiphase and extra heavy oil, etc. requires proven measurement technology. It all boils down to controlling the risks associated with measurement errors that could arise during operations.

WELMEC WG11 meeting

The tenth WELMEC WG11 meeting was held in Bratislava, Slovakia from 16 to 17 March 2009. The main topic on the agenda was the consequences of the implementation of the MID for measuring instruments which are in use, and in particular, the so-called 'additional/associated functions' were discussed.

Additional/associated functions

The additional/associated functions of a measuring instrument are not specified in the MID. It must be taken into account during the approval assessment that these functions do not affect the conformity of the MID requirements of the instrument. In many cases, requirements for additional/associated functions are defined at national level, after the instrument is put into operation.

Since manufacturers are not happy with this situation, the working group wanted to get an overview of how the different countries were dealing with the measuring instruments after they were put into use. Considering the different ways of performing the market surveillance activities, the committee concluded that no decision on harmonization after the instrument is put into use can be made at this stage.



The next meeting will be on 15 and 16 October 2009, Braunschweig, Germany.

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