



Candidate Number	1234
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Pass Mark	40%
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It had been a hard piece of kit to find, an Automatic Gravimetric Filling Instrument, but I persevered. I needed this for my portfolio, and I was going to stop at nothing until I found one.

God, but when I found one the panic really sank in. Intimidating, I thought as I scoured OIML R

Time to compare the results with the requirements of OIML R-61. Max permissible deviation of fill from average was less than or equal to the required figure. Pass. Average minus pre-set value was less than or equal to the required figure. Pass.

Okay, the instrument was within the permitted errors for an in-service inspection
back of my mind I kept thinking, has this instrument ever been verified? I began doubting myself. Am I

The trader promptly organised for the manufacturer, who I checked was an authorised representative, to come and verify the instrument within a week.

Less than a week later, I received the certificate of conformity, just as expected.

As we were leaving, I wondered whether I had forgotten anything in the confusion of it all, the inspector with me had remained silent, I must have done what was required of me.

Finding out that I was to undertake this inspection completely filled me with dread. My entire experience of weights and measures had been through

making sure I was completely prepared by knowing that I had the support of the department, and my allocated inspector if I needed it and by making sure that I knew the legislation like the back of my hand (*OIML R-61 was simple enough but for automatic gravimetric instruments the applicable legislation could have been the Measuring Instruments Regulations 2016, The Weighing Instruments (Automatic Gravimetric Filling Instruments) Regulations 2006, The Weighing Equipment (Automatic Gravimetric Filling Instrument) Regulations 2000, or The Weighing Equipment (Filling and Discontinuous Totalising Automatic Weighing Machines) Regulations 1986 so just a few!*)

inspector. I failed to see that at the time, the only way to really feel like an inspector, was to become one. To be supported by the department and empowered to be able to make decisions like the above for myself.

verified and no amount of reading or preparation could have equipped me for that. Managing that situation could have only come from first-hand experience. In retrospect I am glad that the inspector allowed me to form my own opinion without stepping in. This put the pressure on me to think on my feet and I was equally glad that I was able to run my thought process past them before making the final decision. However, at the time, all I wanted was for the inspector to take over they had been in a similar situation before and they knew how to handle it but they trusted that I would be able to handle it as well.

This visit taught me that businesses, no matter how large or small, may not fully understand the requirements that the instruments that they use have to comply with. As well as that, the compliance really sure of the language I was using. In visits since, I have made sure to tailor my vocabulary to the level required for the person I am speaking to.

Sometimes, I think about this visit. I think about the unease in my stomach beforehand and the anxiety but then I take a moment and think about how empowered I felt afterwards. I came to the correct decision, all on my own. It was the first time I felt like I had known enough and had enough experience to become a competent inspector of weights and measures.