

NCWM Could Vote on ATC at July Meeting

After more than two years of debate, the issue of whether retailers should be required or allowed to install automatic temperature compensation (ATC) on fuel dispensers may be decided at the annual meeting of the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM), July 11-16 in San Antonio. While many weights and measures regulators are eager to put the issue to rest, it's possible that final action on the issue could be delayed if NCWM fails to get a voting quorum.

A number of states are experiencing travel restrictions due to budget woes, which has affected attendance at the meeting. As of last week, only 34 states were expected to be represented. In order for a voting item to be approved or killed, NCWM bylaws require 27 votes. Additionally, NCWM delegates are divided into two houses, the House of Representatives (which includes all state regulators in attendance) and the House of Delegates, which is comprised of one delegate for each state. NCWM rules also require that both houses be in agreement for an issue to be decided.

NATSO will be attending the upcoming meeting to express opposition to both permissive and mandatory ATC at the retail level. Numerous studies have shown no consumer benefit to ATC, only costs. The American Trucking Associations, whose members comprise one of the nation's largest consumer groups of diesel fuel, has written to NCWM asking them to prohibit ATC at retail, citing high costs and no identified consumer benefit associated with the technology.