

BIC WEIGHTS & DIMENSIONS (W&D) REVIEW GROUP – Meeting Notes

Location: GoToMeeting / Conference Call

Date and time: Tuesday 12th May 2020, 10am

Meeting notes taken by: Alaina-Marie Bassett

Present

Alaina-Marie Bassett, BIC (AMB)
 John Bell, HarperCollins
 Matthew Hogg, Macmillan Distribution (Chair)
 Sue Kelly, Publiship
 Anna Mitchelmore, HarperCollins (AMI)
 Chris Saynor, EDItEUR

Karina Urquhart, BIC
 Natasha Ward, Nielsen

Apologies

John Garrould, Bertram's
 Andrew Henty, Virtuales Publishing Solutions
 Andrew MacBeth, Waterstones (Deputy) (AMA)

1. Welcome and apologies

- Group welcomed. Apologies delivered.

2. Competition Law – Conduct Reminder

<https://www.bic.org.uk/149/BIC-Competition-Law-Policy/>

3. Follow-up on actions from the previous meeting

- Minutes from previous meeting approved.

ACTIONS	OWNER	DUE DATE
CARRIED OVER: Establish if Waterstones has any statistics which specify the time saved (due to implementation of the BIC W&D Best Practice Guidelines; send to KU and AMB (for promotional purposes).	AMA	ASAP
Ask AMA for an update on Waterstones' progress to date.	AMB	ASAP

4. Update on this Group's use of / adoption of the BIC W&D Best Practice Guidelines (BPG)

- HarperCollins' preferred source of W&D data is ONIX; making sure warehouse data is correct; will be re-measuring and re-weighing the data for Egmont UK due to recent acquisition – 3 sources of data: HarperCollins, Egmont and Macmillan Distribution (MDL).
- MDL doesn't check / measure every book; re-measuring carried out only for reprints / new editions; new technology implemented with better tolerances; individual book and case dimensions measured on receipt (for in-coming deliveries); MDL provides feedback on publishers' W&D metadata directly, when possible / necessary.
- Publiship checks every carton that comes in from Asia (i.e. its external dimensions).
- Nielsen has circulated the BIC W&D BPG to its distribution lists (with a 33% open rate).

DECISION	OWNER
Case sizing hasn't been addressed by this project to date; pack sizes were more important to the members of this Group.	ALL

ACTIONS	OWNER	DUE DATE
Share MDL's data for Egmont UK with JB.	MH	ASAP
Liaise with retailers to establish if it would be useful to have a best practice around communication of number of books per carton.	KU	Next meeting

ACTIONS (continued)	OWNER	DUE DATE
Consider adding MDL's W&D data into a new field in ONIX; liaise with retailers / booksellers to understand if this would benefit them.	CS	Next meeting

AMI left the meeting.

5. Update from Nielsen Book on its plans to update W&D from EDI feeds

- Limited progress to date; Nielsen continues to champion this work.
- Development in queue; will be addressed in latter half of 2020.
- Nielsen to run a pilot with willing distributor and retailer (volunteers: MDL and Waterstones).
- Some publishers don't want W&D to be taken from their EDI feeds; Nielsen to determine what impact a mixed approach will have (i.e. taking W&D from ONIX feeds for select organisations).
- Trusted / quality data may be noted internally (via a tick/flag) in Nielsen's system.

DECISION	OWNER
Recommendation for Nielsen to go down to publisher-level (EDI/ONIX), when liaising with organisations about their preferred source for W&D data.	ALL

ACTION	OWNER	DUE DATE
Re-measure the initial W&D data once Nielsen's pilot has taken place (to establish if accuracy has improved since start of project).	AMA	2021/22

6. Watching brief: the Trusted Partners Scheme (TPS)

- Could TPS be similar to Nielsen's intention to flag trusted data in its system? (See Item 5, above).
- Massive obligation / overhead on any organisation(s) looking to flag trusted data.
- Opinions will differ: some organisations won't want to ingest a distributor's W&D data into their ONIX feed; it's subjective.

7. Inclusion of a question regarding W&D in the revised BIC Supply Chain Excellence Award (SCEA) Accreditation Scheme

DECISION	OWNER
A question regarding W&D should be incorporated into the refreshed SCEA Scheme.	ALL

ACTION	OWNER	DUE DATE
Add this item to the agenda for the next BIC SCEA Panel meeting.	AMB	12/05/2020

8. Ideas / suggestions from this Group for promoting industry adoption of W&D best practice

- None.

9. BIC's promotional activity

- Recent tweets: 14th and 28th April 2020.
- P&A to be covered (including W&D) in the forthcoming [BIC Brunch session](#), 27th May 2020.

DECISION	OWNER
BIC to re-promote W&D when updated statistics received / further progress made.	ALL

ACTION	OWNER	DUE DATE
Circulate a link for the W&D BPG to the BIC Brunch delegates.	AMB	27/05/2020

10. A.O.B.

- EDItEUR currently working on ONIX 3.0 Block 8; any relevant progress made will be shared with this Group at future meetings.

11. Date of next meeting

Date TBC – January 2021.

ACTION	OWNER	DUE DATE
Liaise with NW to establish if progress on Nielsen’s pilot has been made prior to the next meeting going ahead.	AMB	07/12/2020