

**REPORT OF THE APLMF
WORKING GROUP ON GOODS PACKED BY MEASURE
HELD ON 27 SEPTEMBER 1997 AT TSUKUBA, JAPAN**

The Working Group met in Tsukuba on 27 September 1997 and was chaired by Mr. John Barker (New Zealand) and attended by delegates from the following member economies:

Australia, Canada, Peoples Republic of China, Indonesia, Japan, Malaysia, Mongolia, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Philippine, Chinese Taipei, Thailand, United States of America and Vietnam. Dr. K. Birkeland and Mr. R. Knapp also attended as observers.

The Working Group:

- Agreed to change the name of the Working Group to “Goods Packed by Measure;”
- Amended the target outcomes to:
 - a) A survey and analysis report of the requirements & legislations for goods packed by measure in the Asia - Pacific economies and other economic areas;
 - b) Uniform and internationally harmonised legislation and administration requirements for goods packed by measure in the Asia-Pacific economies.

The Working Group discussed the APLMF Survey Report on Pre Packed Articles and an Issues Paper on “Harmonising Trade Measurement, Pre Packed Goods Requirements” prepared by the Trade Measurement Unit, Ministry of Consumers Affairs, New Zealand.

In the discussion the OIML Recommendations were referred to:

IR79 - Information of Package Labels; and
IR87 - Net Contents in Packages.

The Working Group noted that the international trade in goods packed by measure would be facilitated by a system that certified packers on the basis of accreditation of quality principles. This could overcome multiple testing at national borders.

The European E mark is such a regional system and consideration should be given by APLMF and/or CIML to developing a regional or international system with mutual recognition between economies.

The Working Group also agreed to request CIML to give consideration to including the accreditation of prepacked facilities in their program on accreditation in legal metrology.

The Working Group also noted that national requirements for goods packed by measure on:

- Allowance for loss due to dehydration;
- Standard package sizes; and
- Drained weight;

can create technical barriers to trade.

Harmonisation of these requirements should be a priority for the Working Group. However, such harmonisation should be international rather than regional.

The Secretariat was requested to obtain information on these requirements in other economic areas to supplement the information in the Forum Survey.