



ASIA-PACIFIC
LEGAL METROLOGY FORUM

24th APLMF Meeting
Siem Reap, Cambodia

Working Group Report - 2017

Goods Packed by Measure

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SECTION 1 – Details of the membership of the Working Group

1.1. Change of Working Group Chair

The former chairperson of this Working Group, Mr Kevin Gudmundsson has moved from his position within the Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment to a management role within the Measurement Standards Laboratory (New Zealand's National Measurement Institute).

As a result, Phil Sorrell has taken over this role on a temporary basis until a new chairperson is selected and appointed. A request for nominations for this role will be sent to member economies by the APLMF Secretariat following the 24th APLMF meeting.

1.2. Membership

APLMF individuals from a number of member economies have been contributing to the work programme of this group on an ad-hoc basis but it would be timely for its membership to be reviewed and reconfirmed.

SECTION 2 – Key activities of 2016/17

2.1. Developing informative guidance for specific product types - Carbonated Beverages

The previous work with a scientific metrologist from New Zealand, who was tasked with researching a suitable method for determining the density of carbonated beverages, has been completed. Using this advice two methods of test have been provisionally identified:

1. Destructive by Direct Volume Testing, and
2. Non Destructive by Gravimetric Testing using Density.

A first draft of a test procedure guidance document has been completed for these methods. This will be trialled by Inspectors in New Zealand when completing AQS sampling and reference tests. The document will also be distributed to WG Goods Packed by Measure members, packers, industry associations, other enforcement agencies and interested parties for consultation. It is envisaged that this trial will be completed by the end of 2017 and aims to improve quantity control throughout the entire carbonated beverage industry meaning that consumers can be confident in the quantity of the products they are buying.

The finalised draft guidance document, which will establish a suitable method for determining the density of carbonated beverages, will be distributed to APLMF members once completed for their review.

2.2 Training material to be uploaded to APLMF website

The training material developed for the MEDEA training course on how to perform an Average Quantity Inspection has been uploaded to the APLMF website.

The following MEDEA training courses have been completed and the resulting training materials will also be available on the APLMF website:

- Average Quantity System Inspection,
- CNG Dispensers,
- Fuel Dispensers,
- Rice Moisture Meters, and
- Taxi Meters.

2.3. Report on the work of OIML Technical Committee 6 (TC6) – Pre-packaged Products

OIML International Recommendations R79 and OIML R87

Both International Recommendations have been revised by TC6 and approved by the OIML International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML) following a meeting in Brazil, January 2016, where agreement was reached on the outstanding statistical issues. This meeting is detailed in the April 2017 issue of the OIML bulletin.

Document	Resolution	CIML Meeting
OIML R79 Labelling requirements for prepackages	2015/14	50th CIML Meeting 22 October 2015
OIML R87 Quantity of product in prepackages	2016/18	51st CIML Meeting 21 October 2016

The recommendations are now available for download from the OIML website:
<https://www.oiml.org/en/publications/introduction>

As a result, all APLMF Average Quantity System Inspection training material will be updated to be in line with the newly revised and approved recommendations.

‘Guide for Defining the System Requirements for a Certification System for Prepackages’

The purpose of the document is to provide guidance to national authorities on the establishment and maintenance of certification schemes for the control of the quantity of product in prepackages and associated labelling.

The guide was submitted for CIML comment and voting which closed on 27 September 2017 and it has been subsequently accepted. The document is a guide, which are informative publications giving advice on ‘best practice’, which therefore only requires approval by the CIML president.

G 21 Guidance for defining the requirements for a certification system for prepackages 2017 is currently in the process of being published and will be available on the OIML website shortly. Once available a notice and link to it will be disseminated to all members of the APLMF.

It is envisaged that training will be delivered by the WG Goods Packed by Measure for APLMF members if the need for such training is established in the future.

SECTION 3 – Future focus - Recommendations

3.1. General

The group should continue to explore methods for increasing capability within the region and reducing potential technical barriers to the trade of pre-packages through harmonising systems and processes where appropriate and possible.

Explore the use of a recognised voluntary common quantity 'mark' as an indication of acceptance for prepackages packed in accordance with national certification schemes for the control of the quantity of product in pre-packages. This would include assessment of how *OIML G 21 Guidance for defining the requirements for a certification system for pre-packages 2017* could be practically applied.

3.2. Training

Support the OIML Pilot Training Centre (OPTC), hosted by China and the development and delivery of a regional training course to be run on pre-packaged goods inspection (for OPTC detail see: <https://www.oiml.org/en/structure/ceems/introduction-ceems>). Two trainers will be provided by New Zealand and the training will be supported by the WG Goods Packed by Measure and APLMF Secretariat. The course is being planned for late March 2018, but the final dates and location are yet to be confirmed. Further information will be circulated to APLMF members once known.

3.3. Developing online training resources for Prepacked Goods inspection

As APLMF trials the development and use of e-learning and online training materials it is intended that the WG Goods Packed by Measure explore the development of such resources for the area of pre-packaged goods. These resources would align with and complement existing OIML and APLMF guidance and traditional training course delivery.

SECTION 4 – Future focus – emerging issues

4.1. Electronic Cigarettes

The Electronic Cigarette industry (Vaping) is growing rapidly. In recent years both the UK and US Markets have shown significant growth in this sector. Initial market surveillance in New Zealand has indicated a number of short measure and labelling non compliances. This is a high value product seeing considerable growth in the marketplace throughout the APLMF region, which appears to have limited controls to ensure legal compliance being applied by its manufacturers and resellers.