



**27th ASIA-PACIFIC LEGAL
METROLOGY FORUM
ONLINE MEETINGS
3-4 December 2020**



Economy Report - 2020

New Zealand

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SECTION 1 – Organisation and structure for metrology

Organisation Structures

As per the Organisation & Structure page on the APLMF website:

<https://www.aplmf.org/new-zealand.html>

Trading Standards is the National Legal Metrology Authority. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.tradingstandards.govt.nz/>

Legislative Frameworks

Primary Legislation - Weights and Measures Act 1987.

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/1987/0015/latest/DLM102242.html?src=qs>

Secondary Legislation - Weights and Measures Regulations 1999.

<http://www.legislation.govt.nz/regulation/public/1999/0373/latest/DLM301528.html?src=qs>

International arrangements and engagement

Trading Standards as the National Legal Metrology Authority, represents New Zealand at the International Organisation of Legal Metrology (OIML) and the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF).

New Zealand is a Utilising Authority in the OIML Certificate System (OIML-CS) in relation to instruments controlled by OIML International Recommendations: R49, R50, R51, R60, R76 and R85. See:

<https://www.oiml.org/en/oiml-cs/docs/oiml-util-and-assoc-summary-table.pdf>

Since 2015 New Zealand has been responsible for the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF) Presidency and Secretariat. In December 2020 these roles will transfer to Malaysia.

See:

<https://www.aplmf.org/mission-purpose-and-objectives.html>

<https://www.aplmf.org/who-we-are.html>

SECTION 2 – Key activities of 2019/20

Working with industry

PRESERVED AND CURED FISH GUIDANCE

As a result of a consumer complaint regarding alleged short weight pre-packaged smoked salmon products, Trading Standards (TS) completed a number of inspections at retail level and found the complaint to be justified. The evidence gathered led to Average Quantity System (AQS) inspections being conducted at the packer / importer of the product.

During the AQS inspections, TS employed different methods of test; using a dry tare and wet tare, on the same lot of pre-packages to establish the difference between the two and seek to establish the root cause of the issue.

Following on from the previous work completed by TS in regards to [Poultry](#) and [Beer](#) products, we worked with the packer / importer after TS inspections to develop a guide that would be both realistic for industry to apply and robust to protect consumers from short weight products.

The draft guide was created, internally reviewed and then distributed to external stakeholders for consultation. As a result of the feedback received, a number of minor amendments were made and the guidance is set to be published in November 2020 under the [Weights and measures for specific goods](#) page on our website.

TECHNICAL POLICY REVIEW

Our Technical Policies were created to formalise the guidance we publish to help our Regulatory Officers and Accredited Persons (accredited verifiers of equipment used for trade) understand the requirements when inspecting a weighing or measuring instrument; from the standards used to the information recorded on the test sheet. As such, we need to ensure these policies are 'fit for purpose' by aligning with the standards set both regionally (through APLMF) and internationally (through OIML and Trans-Tasman with Australia), but also understood and complied with by our Accredited Persons. To this end, we completed a thorough review of all policies during 2019 and published revised versions in December 2019.

Protecting consumers

WEBSITE REVIEW; ACCESSIBILITY & USABILITY STANDARDS

A website is a website, but to have the biggest reach you have to be inclusive. From 1 July 2019 the New Zealand Government made it mandatory that all Government organisations had to meet the [Web Accessibility Standard](#) and the [Web Usability Standard](#). This meant we had to change the way we do things and review what we have already done to ensure compliance.

The standards define how to make sure Government websites are accessible and usable by everyone, including disabled people.

One example of this is our [Technical Policies](#) pages and much of the content under our [For accredited persons](#) section. Previously we published the Technical Policies and Accreditation Guide & Policies as PDF documents, which did not meet the standards. They are now published on our website as individual pages and meet the requirements.

INFORMATION GATHERING / PRIVACY ACT REQUIREMENTS

The New Zealand Privacy Act 2020 comes into effect 1 December 2020. The latest legislative amendments make clear that liability for privacy breach notifications sits with a business or organisation and not individual employees. The introduction of a raft of enhancements; privacy breach notification regime, compliance notices, enforceable access directions and controls of the disclosure of information overseas along with a new criminal offences. Training has been provided to the Trading Standards team to assist in understanding the new legislation and for the principals to be incorporated into their work.

Major projects - What we did and what we learned

COVID-19 RESPONSE; PROCESS CHANGES & STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As with many regulators, and the world as a whole, Trading Standards (TS) had to adjust our way of working to support our economy and keep each other safe. Beyond the challenges of being required to work remotely, being that we are primarily a hands-on, face-to-face, inspection led profession, we had to quickly adapt to and change our priorities. The below is a summary of the work undertaken to support the legal metrology infrastructure during the COVID-19 national 'lockdown' period New Zealand experienced:

- Health and safety changes,
- Laboratory procedures, and
- Communications with external stakeholders; AP's, businesses and consumers.

The process changes can be viewed under the **Verification by Trading Standards** section of the [Working Standards](#) page and the communications published in relation to COVID-19 in our [News and notices](#) section of our website.

UNIFORM TEST PROCEDURES (UTP)

Trading Standards (TS) wanted to keep the ball rolling on the success of our [Online Training Modules](#), and determined that scripted procedures would suffice. Each UTP focuses on a specific type of instrument. From these, we have also inadvertently created a blueprint for an Online Training Module to be created; minus the animations and interactive quizzes.

We envisage that the UTP's will be made mandatory, being followed by our Regulatory Officers and by our Accredited Persons when verifying and / or certifying an instrument.

The UTP's, when published, will be available under the [Training](#) page on our website.

SECTION 3 – Future focus

New initiatives planned (next 1-2 years)

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY

TS have been tasked by our Ministry to create a strategy to ensure our engagement with stakeholders is inclusive, focused and formalised.

The intent behind this project is to improve the quality of our engagement, which should enable us to:

- Deepen our understanding of external stakeholder concerns and priorities
- Make better informed decisions
- Identify and effectively mitigate risks
- Inform, educate and influence stakeholders to make decisions that will help us achieve our purpose and targets
- Create and strengthen trust, mutual respect and understanding
- Enlist stakeholder support to co-create and develop innovative solutions to complex challenges.

Our stakeholders are those individuals, organisations, groups or sectors who are directly or indirectly affected by the work we do, or have an interest in or the ability to influence our strategic outcomes.

It has been identified that a number of connections to stakeholders is either personal and / or informal. The intent of this project is to assess who, how and when we communicate with stakeholders at the moment, then formalise the process.

Emerging issues – challenges and opportunities

HYDROGEN

Standards New Zealand (SNZ) is developing a Hydrogen Standards Framework and Trading Standards (TS) is taking part in the consultation and development of the standards as National legal metrology regulator as a member of the Hydrogen Standards Advisory Group. Four priorities have been identified: Production & Purification and Green Credentialing, Fuel Station Equipment and Design, Mobility and Safety and Network Distribution and Inspection. This considered approach over the next twelve months ensures policy, best-practice Standards and regulations are fit-for-purpose and appropriately aligned, to support New Zealand's renewable energy pathway towards 2050.