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LEGAL METROLOGY FORUM

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Economy Report

VIET NAM

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SECTION 1 – Organisation and structure for metrology

Organisation Structures

- 1) Directorate for Standards, Metrology and Quality (STAMEQ), under Ministry of Science and Technology, is the governmental body in charge of metrological management on behalf of the Central Government in many fields.
- 2) STAMEQ includes subordinate technical organization such as Vietnam National Institute (VMI), three Quality Assurance and Testing Centers (QUATEST).
- 3) VMI is the national metrology institute of Vietnam, in charge of metrological research as well as various metrological activities. VMI is the custodian of national measurement standards (the first level of Measurement Standards Labs) and provide traceability services for regional, local technical bodies and other private organizations
- 4) QUATEST centers are STAMEQ’s regional technical bodies that hold reference standards in different regions of Vietnam (the second level of Measurement Standards Labs). They provide traceability services within the regions. Quality Assurance and Testing Center 4 is officially established and will come into operation in the end of 2016 – first half of 2017. Quality Assurance and Testing Centre 4 is responsible for technical activities in verification, calibration and testing for the Central Highlands of Viet Nam.
- 5) Provincial Branches for Standards, Metrology and Quality (Provincial Branches) are in charge of local metrological management. They also include Provincial Technical Centers as the third level of Measurement Standards Labs.
- 6) Organization chart:



STAMEQ and 63 provincial Branches for Standards, Metrology and Quality are in charge of metrological management.
VMI, QUATEST 1,2,3,4 and provincial Technical Centers are only responsibly for technical services.

Legislative Frameworks

- 1) The Vietnam Metrology Law approved by the Vietnam National Assembly in November 2011.
- 2) The Decree for implementing Vietnam Metrology Law was issued by the Government and in October 2012. The new Decree of requirements on verification, calibration and testing activities was issued on July 2016
- 3) The Decree for administrative fine on violations of standardization, metrology and quality control was issued by the Government in July 2013.
- 4) 07 Circulars for implementing the Law on Metrology were issued by Minister of Ministry of Science and Technology (MOST) included:
 - a. Circular on approval of National measurement standards in 2013;
 - b. Circular on Group 2 measuring instruments in 2013;
 - c. Circular on management of Verification, Calibration, Testing in 2013;
 - d. Circular on measurement management on trade of gold & quality management on trade of jewel in 2013;
 - e. Circular on State metrological supervision in 2013;
 - f. Circular on quantity of pre-packaged goods in 2014;
 - g. Circular on measurement management and quality management on fuel in 2015.
 - h. Circular on measurement of retail in markets to be issued in 2016 (upcoming)
- 5) 4 more binding metrological technical specifications on metrology (based on OIML recommendations) have been issued by STAMEQ since 2016, raising the total to 279.
- 6) So far, 326 Authorized Verification Units (AVU) belong to various governmental and private organizations have been designated for verification of measuring instruments, including utility meters: electricity meters, water meters, etc. There have been about 300 verification, calibration and testing organisation registered with STAMEQ.

International arrangements and engagement

- 1) Signing MOU with Korean partner organization such as KAST and KTC
- 2) Attending MEDEA training
 - a. Training course on Mass Standards, Indonesia, 30 Aug – 1 Sept 2016;
 - b. Train-the-Trainer on Verification of Fuel Dispensers: 11-13 July 2016;
 - c. Verification of NAWI supermarket scales, Malaysia, 28 Nov – 2 Dec 2016 (Upcoming).
- 3) Attending OIML training and conference
 - a. Training Course on Non-Automated Weighing Instruments, Beijing, P.R. China, 18–22 July 2016;
 - b. Seminar on Legal Metrology Management System, Guangzhou, P.R. China, 9–11 August 2016.

SECTION 2 – Key activities of 2015/16

Working with industry

- 1) Promotion of Vietnam Metrology Day 2016 with the seminar on metrological management
- 2) Workshop on the issues companies face in compliance with the regulation of Circular on measurement management on trade of gold & quality management on trade of jewel
- 3) Promotion of Work Metrology Day 2016 with the seminar on technical and scientific metrology.
- 4) Workshop on fraud prevention of fuel dispenser manufacturers.
- 5) Workshop on fuel trade of fuel retailers.
- 6) The law on supporting SMEs have been approved by National Assembly and will be followed by further regulations and programs to detail the mechanism of supporting SMEs.

Protecting consumers

- 1) Inspection campaign across the country on fuel retail at gas stations.
- 2) Inspection campaign across the country on jewel retailers on compliance with measurement and quality regulations.

Major projects - What we did and what we learned

No major project

SECTION 3 – Future focus

New initiatives planned (next 1-2 years)

- 1) Work with other ministries in order to bring metrological regulations into different fields and industries such as environmental protection or medical equipment.
- 2) We're in process of working with relevant partners and government organizations to develop the national metrological program to improve the metrological capacity of Vietnam SMEs for competition and integration in a global market.

Emerging issues – challenges and opportunities

- 1) The role of legal metrology become more important as metrological requirements are included in the regulations of various industries. We will be involved in the legislation process in order to harmonize the metrological regulations across the fields and industries.
- 2) Metrological equipment for anti-fraud measures and consumer protection require enormous investment. The government, on the other hand, is limited in funding for equipment such equipment for metrological bodies. Viet Nam could benefit from international support in these fields.
- 3) There's an enormous need for training metrological officials, inspectors as well as technical staff from SMEs to understand the technical barriers in metrological fields that would improve the competitiveness of Viet Nam's economy.