

# **Economy report of Korea**

## **1. Legal Metrology System**

Under the Measures Act, the Korean Agency for Technology and Standards (KATS) is authorized to legislate and operate the legal metrology system of Korea.

The Measures Act passed in the National Assembly, the ordinance and regulations of enforcement are under amendment. The key point of amendment is to protect consumer against manipulation through opening the list of illegal manufacturers to the public and clawing back illegal profits.

KATS has also revised requirements of self-verification system to ease burden of industry and promote autonomy for manufacturers.

As the regular inspection is conducted once every two year, this year KATS has conducted the inspection with local government officials for whole range of legal measuring instruments including Non-automatic weight instruments.

Web-based management system for metrology was developed in June 2013. It has been operated from the beginning of this year and provided information of metrology system, type approval and verification

## **2. Revision of technical regulation**

In 2014, KATS has revised a technical regulation for non-automatic weighing instruments (NAWI) to meet international recommendation (OIML R 76). Moreover, all of technical regulations are under the revision in accordance with the measure Act which will be amended. Most technical regulations tend to meet OIML recommendation except electricity meter (Electricity meter meet IEC)

### **3. Use of SI units**

Korea has prohibited the use of non-SI units in commercial transactions. However, non-SI units such as *geun* (weight), *ja* (length), *dae* (volume) and *pyeong* (area) are still used, and this causes confusion. To this end, we are working to spread public awareness via radio announcement, the Internet, outdoor signboards and other media. Since 2010, KATS has imposed fines on businesses that continue to use non-SI units in the media.

### **4. Prepackaged Products**

KATS specifies and manages 26 kinds of daily necessities (detergents, beverages, etc.) as prepackaged products that normally trade in the units of weight, length, volume and, etc. KATS keeps making efforts to raise awareness of SI units among stakeholders and industries, and supervising all related products not to exceed error tolerance defined by the Measure Act.

In 2014, KATS conducted inspection of prepackaged products in market place and found that none of the 506 items of 26 kinds of prepackaged products was not exceeded permissible error.

### **5. Training & Reward**

To ensure the efficient and professional operation of legal metrology systems, KATS regularly organizes internal training programs to improve the capabilities of local government officials and personnel responsible for verifications and inspections.

KATS plans to strengthen cooperation with other national metrology institutes and hosted OIML TC 6(Prepackaged products) meeting in Sep. 2014.

This year, KATS hosted an exhibition to promote the industry of metrology and awarded 5 industries and 21 personals that contributed to the improvement of metrology.