



**25th ASIA-PACIFIC LEGAL
METROLOGY FORUM AND
WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**
7-9 Nov 2018, Christchurch, New Zealand



Working Group Report - 2018

Goods Packed by Measure

Report developed by	Davis White
Position	Legal Metrology Advisor (Acting) & Senior Trading Standards Officer
Organisation	Trading Standards, Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment
Contact details	Davis.White@mbie.govt.nz +64 21 845 746

SECTION 1 – Details of the membership of the Working Group

1.1. Working Group Chair

Phil Sorrell, Team Leader, Trading Standards (TS), Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment (MBIE), New Zealand, took over this role last year. A request for nominations for this role has been sent to member economies by the APLMF Secretariat. A nomination has been received from one member economy to take over as working group chair. It is proposed that this nomination is accepted and is supported by the active cooperation and assistance from the outgoing chair.

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 2017/18

2.1 Training Course on Prepackaged Goods

A 4 day training course on prepackaged goods was delivered by experts from New Zealand and Switzerland, under MEDEA and the OIML Pilot Training Centre, and was hosted by SMRA the former AQSIQ (in Nanning, China.)

The training material developed for the training course on prepackaged goods, as per OIML R79 and R87, has been uploaded to the [APLMF website](#). It is freely available and includes a revised Excel spreadsheet to assist legal metrology professionals when conducting a Reference Test under R87.

A total of 70 participants from 29 economies attended the training, which included classroom style learning, practical exercises and a visit to a local packer to see a manufacturers operation first hand.

2.2 Average Quantity System (AQS) Reference Test Spreadsheet

An updated version of an excel spreadsheet that can be used to perform a Reference Test has been made available online via the APLMF website. This version mirrors the requirements of R87.

A downloadable zip file, which contains the spreadsheet, is available via the following link: [R87 Reference Test Template](#).

2.3 Prepackaged goods survey

The working group chair has sent out a survey to all member economies, through the APLMF secretariat, to ascertain the level of conformity to the new versions of the recommendations, with a view to encourage all economies to adopt them and align themselves with the internationally recognised standard for labelling and testing the quantity of prepackaged goods.

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 prepackaged goods through harmonising systems and processes where appropriate and possible.

The commonalities among economies were apparent during both formal and informal conversations between representatives during the prepackaged goods training, as per 2.1 above.

We will continue to 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 prepackages. This would include assessment of how OIML G 21 Guidance for defining the requirements for a certification system for prepackages 2017 could be practically applied.

3.2 Legislative amendments to include updates to OIML Recommendations

Both International Recommendations R79 and R87 have been revised by TC6, agreed and published by OIML. It is envisaged that MBIE TS will seek to include some of the recent changes into our domestic legislation. APLMF economies are encouraged to align to the OIML Recommendations, R79 and R87, and to seek the appropriate domestic legislative changes to facilitate any change where possible.

SECTION 4 – Future focus – emerging issues

4.1 Assessment & Calculation Tool for AQS

The Working Group Chair proposes the formation of a project group to explore the possibility of developing a comprehensive tool based on the current excel spreadsheet, which is available to all APLMF economies. To incorporate the changes in the OIML recommendations R79 and R87 for assessing prepackages. The future aim should be to make this freely available through OIML.