



**26th ASIA-PACIFIC LEGAL
METROLOGY FORUM AND
WORKING GROUP MEETINGS**
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Economy Report - 2019

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

Legislative Frameworks

Primary Legislation - [Weights and Measures Act 1987](#)

Secondary Legislation - [Weights and Measures Regulations 1999](#)

International arrangements and engagement

OIML – Technical Committee TC8/SC3 Project Group meeting – South Africa – March 2019

A member of MBIE Trading Standards attended the OIML technical committee meeting to complete the International Recommendation R117 Dynamic Measuring Systems other than water. Srinivas

Bobbala, Senior Type Approvals and Technical attended the meeting on behalf of MBIE Trading Standards.

OIML/APLMF Seminar on OIML Certificate System – PR China – July 2019

MBIE Trading Standards Team Leader for Compliance and Inspection, Phil Sorrell, attended the OIML/APLMF seminar on the OIML CS as a representative of New Zealand legal metrology to present as a OIML Utiliser and also co deliver the event with the OIML representative on behalf of the APLMF Secretariat.

OIML – 54th CIML meeting – Slovak Republic – October 2019

MBIE Trading Standards Team Leader for Compliance and Inspection, Phil Sorrell, attended the 54th CIML meeting in Bratislava. Representing New Zealand he participated in the CEEMS AG Meeting, RLMO Round Table and presented at the e-Learning Workshop

SECTION 2 – Key activities of 2018/19

Working with industry

FOOD AND GROCERY COUNCIL

Upon the success of our work last year with United Fresh, a group representing the fresh produce industry in New Zealand (NZ), Trading Standards (TS) were approached by a the NZ Food & Grocery Council (FGC).

The initial engagement with the FGC revolved around TS application and enforcement of the Average Quantity System. However, our discussions led to the revelation that there was a lack of consistency when their members were trying to meet TS requirements.

TS have engaged directly with the FGC with the aim to have best value impact upon their members. As a result, the industry group, in conjunction with TS, have drafted an industry specific guide to assist businesses when applying the requirements of the weights and measures legislation.

This has become an ongoing project and we will continue to engage with the FGC to provide advice and disseminate information on trade measurement matters to their members.

It is anticipated that the final guidance document will be produced and released later this year.

WMANZ AGM

TS presented to members of the Weighing Machine Association of New Zealand (WMANZ) (<http://www.wmanz.co.nz/>) at their Annual General Meeting. The membership of the WMANZ extends to manufacturers, installers and the organisations who are accredited by TS under the weights and measures legislation.

As part of the presentation TS delivered an overview of who we are and what we do, but more specifically the changes that we have made over the last year to improve the accreditation scheme and our enforcement policy. TS goal has been focused on being more effective and provide best value for NZ businesses and consumers.

The presentation was well received and concluded with a question and answer session, which included some healthy discussions on both technical and procedural matters that affect the members of the association.

COFFEE INDUSTRY

As a result of a consumer complaint, TS investigated an alleged offence for coffee being sold by non-metric measure. The investigation revealed that many coffee retailers were using coffee cups and menus that included reference to non-metric units of measurement.

This prompted us to contact all known coffee roasters and retailers to inform and advise them of the issue.

We also contacted the New Zealand Speciality Coffee Association (NZCSA) (<http://nzcra.org.nz/>) who accepted that there was an issue within the industry and that it affected a number of their members.

With our guidance, the NZCSA sent out correspondence to all of their members to inform them of the issue and provided them with advice on how to comply with the weights and measures legislation and our contact details.

This prompted many members (and non-members) to contact TS directly with a view to comply with the legislative requirement to sell goods using metric units of measurement.

Protecting consumers

BEER

TS acknowledged that the 'craft' beer market has boomed over the last 5 years. This has seen a surge in the number of small breweries who are pre-packaging beer for retail sale.

Upon our initial research it was noted that there was no cost effective way for small businesses to accurately determine the quantity of beer being packed. Their main quantity control would be reliance on the accuracy/reliability of the automatic filling machines being used or if manually packing the person filling the cans/bottles.

We then accepted that we would require further assistance to determine a test procedure that could be adopted by any business big or small. This prompted us to consult with Measurement Standards Laboratory (MSL) (<http://measurement.govt.nz/>) in NZ.

TS engaged MSL to assist in researching and co-authoring a report. Following extensive engagement with industry, the guidance was finalised and published.

The guidance covers two different test procedures (one for destructive testing and another for non-destructive testing), the equipment required to complete each test. It also provided specifications of the required equipment and assistance to businesses that wish to adopt a quantity control system to support their efforts to comply with the weights and measures legislation.

The guidance can be accessed using the following link to our website:

<https://trademeasurement.tradingstandards.govt.nz/for-business/weights-and-measures-for-specific-goods/beer/>

Major projects - What we did and what we learned

ONLINE TRAINING MODULES

Trading Standards (TS) have released a set of free online training modules for accredited individuals (Accredited Persons under the Weights and Measures legislation – 3rd party verifiers) and new applicants when seeking accreditation under the Act, and for TS staff when attaining their professional qualifications.

We currently have modules available that cover ‘Measurement in New Zealand’ and the test procedures associated with the inspection and test of non-automatic weighing instruments ≤ 300 kg.

It is planned for more modules to be released in the coming year that would cover high capacity weighing instruments (platform scales and weighbridges), the acceptable method and use of substitution loads when weighing and driveway flow meters (petrol pumps).

The modules can be accessed using the following link to our website, and a generic login can be provided to APLMF members to access the content:

<https://trademeasurement.tradingstandards.govt.nz/for-accredited-persons/training/>

TRADING STANDARDS WEBSITE

Following on from the refresh and launch of our website last year, a number of significant updates have been made to the content to assist consumers, businesses and accredited persons. These changes have been made primarily in conjunction with the New Zealand Web Accessibility Standard, with which all Ministries in New Zealand have a duty to comply with.

The most significant changes have been made to the ‘For Accredited Persons’ section of the Trade Measurement (TM) subsite of the Trading Standards (TS) website. The updated content reaffirms the roles and responsibilities of both TS and the accredited organisations, and aims to help and assist new applicants. The content previously was available as a PDF document, but this has now been split into a number of different pages with the intent to allow faster and easier access to the information the user wants.

Future improvements will include online applications for accreditation related activities and requests for the services we provide via our laboratories.

The 'for accredited persons' content can be accessed using the following link to our website:

<https://trademeasurement.tradingstandards.govt.nz/for-accredited-persons/>

TIKA

Trading Standards (TS) have a new Investigations Case Management System (ICMS) called TIKa. It was implemented within the Ministry of Business, Innovation & Employment (MBIE) on 1 July 2018 and adopted by TS 12 months later. A number of regulatory compliance teams within the Ministry are 'on-board' and in the coming months/year the plan is to have all regulatory teams using the common system.

The proposed benefits of this system include:

1. Through the information sharing this system allows, regulators will be safer, with a greater awareness of potential risks, and of the work of their colleagues.
2. This system will build a view across MBIE business units of past and current interactions with people, organisations or locations which can be incorporated into current investigative activities.
3. The system is designed to be cost-effective and means less paperwork, it allows for better productivity and collaboration, and creates consistency across investigative terminology, templates and approaches in Market Services.
4. Create a uniform procedure and method for investigation which should make regulators more effective and efficient in their pursuits of enforcing the legislation that they enforce.

More benefits will be realised in time as this system will also support the greater information-sharing framework which the Market Services branch is working towards, free up investigators time from administrative work, improve the quality of data, and realise cost savings for some business units.

SECTION 3 – Future focus

New initiatives planned (next 1-2 years)

PROJECT BASED WORKING

Trading Standards (TS) have recognised that our current proactive approach to enforcement may not be providing best value for New Zealand (NZ) businesses and consumers.

With that in mind, TS have decided to make project based working a key priority for the next year. Now all operational officers will each take the lead on at least one project.

These projects will be focused either on a specific industry or issue, and these may be known or emerging issues. We see this way of working will help us to enforce the weights and measures legislation more effectively and consistently, use our resources to best effect and create a legacy for each project.

LEGISLATIVE AMENDMENT

TS are currently in the process of reviewing the Weights and Measures Act 1987 and Weights and Measures Regulations 1999. The purpose of this review is twofold: to support the current trading marketplace in NZ and to align with International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) recommendations.

Emerging issues – challenges and opportunities

ENVIROMENTALLY CONSCIOUS NEW ZEALAND

From 1 July 2019 single-use plastic shopping bags were banned from being offered at all retail businesses in New Zealand (NZ).

As a result; big, medium and small retailers have begun exploring the potential opportunities to remove all plastic from their stores.

One specific type of transaction that has been considered is where goods are sold by weight or volume using a weighing instrument in the presence of the consumer.

A few major retailers have reached out to TS for guidance on the possibility of allowing consumers to 'bring your own' (BYO) containers / vessels. As a result, they have received advice on how best to manage this way of selling to ensure compliance with weights and measures legislation.

Many retailers have adopted this method of sale and we are currently investigating this matter with an aim to offer our support and education to those business affected.

DATA STORAGE AND REPORTING

TS currently use and utilise a number of different systems to fulfil our role. Certain areas of our work use bespoke applications and tools, which help to be more efficient and effective in the work that we do.

However, this has posed a problem when reporting/extracting information where we have to draw from multiple sources. The main issue is that not all systems are able to ‘speak’ to each other.

Therefore, we are exploring the options to upgrade to our information/data storage and reporting systems with a view to bring them all together under one roof.