Efforts to provide metrological support in reducing TBTs in the WTO Framework

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Legal Metrology sets up regulations on measurements and on measuring instruments

• it provides confidence in the domestic trade,
• it protects the consumers,
• it provides confidence in imported goods and products,
• it facilitates acceptance of exported goods and products.

Legal Metrology is therefore essential for economic development.
National, Legal Metrology regulations often set barriers to trade.

Eliminating these barriers cannot be done by eliminating regulations.

The appropriate ways to reduce these barriers are:

- to harmonize regulations,
- to develop recognitions.
The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) has been set up by an intergovernmental Treaty in 1955.

Its goals are:

• to develop **mutual information** and technical exchanges on legal metrology between Member States

• to **harmonize** legal metrology regulations

• to develop **mutual confidence** and **mutual recognitions**
The OIML is composed of:

**57 Member States**, representing
- 73% of the world population,
- 90% of the world economy (GDP),
- 82% of the world trade.

**58 Corresponding Members**, representing
- 15% of the world population,
- 6.5% of the world economy (GDP),
- 12% of the world trade.

(World Bank data 2007)
The OIML has published **model regulations** (OIML Recommendations) related to 111 categories of measuring instruments.

Other publications giving **guidance** on legal metrology are also available.

All these publications constitute appropriate references for the development of national regulations.

The OIML has been granted the status of **observer** at the WTO TBT Committee.
Based on an ongoing inquiry (still partial results).

**One third** of the categories are submitted to national regulations in countries representing from 40% to 70% of the total GDP of OIML Member States.

For more than half of the categories, the OIML publications are **utilized** by more than 70% of the countries which regulate them.
In 1991, the OIML established a voluntary system for certifying the conformity of types of instruments to OIML Recommendations.

As of 1 October 2009:

- **49 categories** are applicable in the Certificate System
- **30 authorities** from **28 Member States** have been appointed to issue Certificates
- **2129 Certificates** have been issued in **16 categories**
- **465 manufacturers** from **38 countries** have been granted Certificates.
The OIML launched in 2005 a Mutual Acceptance Arrangement.

In this voluntary system, **Declarations of Mutual Confidence** (DoMCs) are signed for categories of instruments of the Certificate System.

"Issuing Participants" are evaluated against ISO/IEC 17025 (accreditation or peer assessment)

All participants declare that they will **accept and utilize** test results issued by Issuing Participants.
As of 1 October 2009 (this system is still in its growing phase):

- **3 DoMCs** have been signed (Load Cells, Non automatic weighing instruments, Water meters), with a total of **22 participants**
- **2 additional DoMCs** are under preparation (Fuel dispensers, Automatic catchweighing instruments)
- **11 Issuing Participants** have been accepted
- **35 Certificates** have been issued under these DoMCs
Three International Organizations have set up recognition / acceptance arrangements covering metrology:

- the CIPM MRA
- the OIML MAA
- the ILAC MRA

These three arrangements together form a consistent system for the reduction of barriers to trade
A significant part of the international trade is done in prepackaged goods.

The contents of prepackages are regulated and controlled nationally in most countries.

The OIML is working on a system for certifying the contents of prepackages in order to facilitate acceptance of prepackages.
The OIML MAA facilitates mutual acceptance at the stage of type evaluation.

But conformity of the production to type is a concern of most countries.

The OIML is considering setting up an international system to certify the conformity of produced instruments to the type defined in the OIML Certificate.

This could result in a conformity marking on individual instruments, expected to be accepted by national authorities.
Thank you for your attention

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