

WELMEC

European cooperation in legal metrology

Memorandum of Understanding

(As amended and agreed on 24 September 1999)



May 2004

SECTION 1 - CONSTITUTION

(A) The Members of WELMEC (the European cooperation in legal metrology) are the representative national legal metrology authorities (in European Union and EFTA member States) on behalf of whom this Memorandum of Understanding has been signed. They declare their common intention to participate in the work and activities of WELMEC.

(A1) National legal metrology authorities in those countries which are in transition to membership of the European Union may become Associate Members of WELMEC, subject to criteria established by the WELMEC Committee.

(B) The WELMEC Committee is charged with ensuring that specific tasks are pursued in accordance with the objectives of WELMEC. The Committee consists of:

- one Delegate representing each of the Member and Associate Member authorities;
- representatives of the European Commission and the European Free Trade Association (EFTA) Secretariat;
- observers from
 - EUROMET;
 - the European cooperation for Accreditation (EA);
 - the Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale (OIML); and
 - other regional cooperations with an interest in legal metrology.

Each Delegate, with the agreement of the Chairman, may be accompanied at Committee meetings by one or more observers. The Chairman may also invite observers from other appropriate organisations.

(C) The WELMEC Committee shall meet at least once each year. The Committee shall decide its own rules of procedure. The Committee shall elect its Chairman and Vice-Chairman from its Member Delegates for a period of three years. The Chairman and Vice-Chairman may be re-elected for one further period of three years. The authority of which the Chairman is a delegate may, if it so wishes, appoint an additional delegate to WELMEC Committee meetings.

(C1) The WELMEC Secretariat is responsible for carrying out or monitoring (as appropriate) the decisions of the Committee. The authority of which the Chairman is a delegate will normally supply the Secretariat. The Committee may approve alternative arrangements for the maintenance of a Secretariat following a recommendation from the Chairman.

(D) An authority on behalf of whom this Memorandum has been signed may invite other relevant bodies from its country to participate in the activities of WELMEC and shall monitor their participation.

(E) WELMEC also recognises European trade associations (of manufacturers or users of measuring instruments) as Corresponding Organisations. These organisations are kept informed of all WELMEC discussions, decisions, and activities, but are not entitled to attend WELMEC Committee meetings.

SECTION 2 - OBJECTIVES

(A) (i) to develop and maintain mutual confidence between legal metrology services in Europe,

(ii) to achieve and maintain the equivalence and harmonisation of legal metrology activities taking into account the relevant guidelines,

(iii) to identify any special features of legal metrology which need to be reflected in the European metrology, certification and testing framework,

(iv) to organise the exchange of information for legal metrology applied at national and local level,

(v) to identify, and promote the removal of, technical or administrative barriers to trade in the field of measuring instruments,

(vi) to promote consistency of interpretation and application of normative documents and propose actions to facilitate implementation,

(vii) to identify specific technical problems which might form the subject of collaborative projects,

(viii) to maintain working links with all relevant bodies and promote the infrastructure relating to harmonisation of legal metrology,

(ix) to debate trends and establish criteria for the scope of legal metrology and maintain channels for a continuous flow of knowledge.

SECTION 3- RIGHTS

In order to achieve the objectives of WELMEC, each Member and Associate Member shall have the following rights:

(A) to request information on the operation of the other participating authorities,

(B) to participate in expert working group meetings organised on behalf of WELMEC (only representatives of full Members may chair Working Groups),

(C) to participate in WELMEC interlaboratory test comparisons and if appropriate to organise such exercises,

(D) to request reports and results of pattern evaluation, compliance assessment and verification relating to measuring instruments.

SECTION 4 - OBLIGATIONS

Each Member and Associate Member commits itself to the pursuance of the objectives of WELMEC. In particular the obligations of each of these authorities are:

- (A) to make available to other participants in WELMEC activities on reasonable request its current non-confidential working documents, details of new improvements introduced and its annual report,
- (B) to promote the acceptance of recognised styles of certificate:
- (C) to preserve the confidentiality of type approval reports, test results, and other confidential information supplied by another Member or Associate Member.

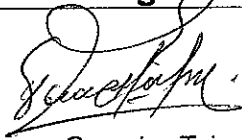

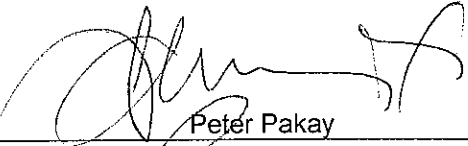

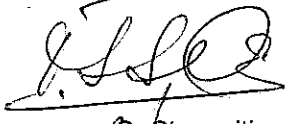
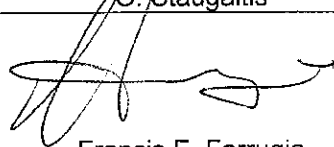
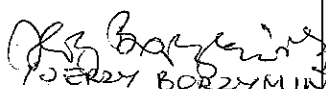
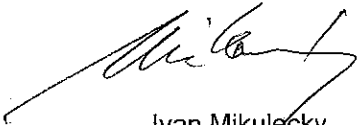

SECTION 5 - VALIDITY OF MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING

- (A) The Memorandum of Understanding shall immediately come into operation. It shall remain open for signature on behalf of national legal metrology authorities of other states within the European Union and the European Free Trade Association.
- (B) This Memorandum of Understanding may be amended at any time by arrangement between the Members, subject to there being dissent by no more than one fourth of them.
- (C) If an authority on behalf of whom this Memorandum has been signed, for any reason whatever, intends to terminate its participation in this Memorandum of Understanding, the authority shall notify the Chairman of the WELMEC Committee of its intention not later than three months beforehand.
- (D) This Memorandum of Understanding is of an exclusively recommendatory nature. It does not create any binding legal effect on the authorities on behalf of whom this Memorandum has been signed.

Signatories of the WELMEC Memorandum of Understanding

Austria	Bundesamt für Eich- und Vermessungswesen, Vienna
Belgium	Administration of Quality and Security, Brussels
Denmark	Danish Agency for Trade and Industry, Copenhagen
Finland	Safety Technology Authority, Helsinki
France	Sous-direction de la Métrologie, Paris
Germany	Physikalisch-Technische Bundesanstalt, Braunschweig
Greece	Ministry of Development, Athens
Iceland	Löggildingarstofa, Reykjavik
Ireland	Legal Metrology Service, National Standards Authority of Ireland, Dublin
Italy	Ministero industria e commercio, Rome
Luxembourg	Direction des Contributions Directes et des Accises, Luxembourg
Netherlands	Ministry of Economic Affairs, Den Haag
Norway	Norwegian Metrology and Accreditation Service, Oslo
Portugal	Instituto Portugues da Qualidade, Lisbon
Spain	Centro Español de Metrologia, Madrid
Sweden	SWEDAC, Borås
Switzerland	Swiss Federal Office of Metrology, Wabern
United Kingdom	National Weights & Measures Laboratory, Teddington


Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding

Country	Signatory	On behalf of
Cyprus	 Georgios Tsiartzazis	Ministry of Commerce, Industry and Tourism of the Republic of Cyprus
Czech Republic	 Pavel Klenovsky	Czech Office for Standards, Metrology and Testing
Hungary	 Peter Pakay	Országos Mérésügyi Hivatal
Latvia	 Juris Maurans	Latvian National Metrology Centre
Lithuania	 D. Staugaitis	State Metrology Service (VMT)
Malta	 Francis E. Farrugia	Malta Standards Authority
Poland	<i>on behalf of</i> <i>pf</i>  Barbara Lisowska	Główny Urząd Miar (GUM)
Slovakia	 Ivan Mikulecky	Slovak Office of Standards, Metrology and Testing
Slovenia	 Natasa Mejak-Vukovic	Metrology Institute of the Republic of Slovenia

Date: 13.5.09



Amendment to the Memorandum of Understanding

Country	Signatory	On behalf of
Estonia	 Urmas Leitmäe	Technical Inspectorate of Estonia

Date: 10.08.2004