

# COUNTRY INFORMATION OF WELMEC MEMBERS

## Republic of Estonia

### 1. Organizational Structure and Background

The ancient scales and weights from Iron Era times were found by archaeologists in several places in Estonia. The Mediaeval laws for Hansa traders regulated also the weights and measures used in Estonia. The first Metrology Act of fully independent Estonia was introduced in April of 1926 (enforced since 01.01.1929).

According to the Metrology Act the Estonian metrological infrastructure consists of Metrological Service and Metrology Council. The latter is an independent advisory body appointed by the Minister of Economic Affairs and Communications (MoEAC) and represents economic circles, consumers and other interested parties. The Metrological Service includes the institutions involved in ensuring the traceability of measurements under private law as well as the institutions performing metrological control.

The Metrological Service consists of:

- National measurement standard and reference standard laboratories – the legal person with whom the MoEAC has concluded a contract under public law or a state agency in the area of government of MoEAC. At present it is a contract with Metrosert Ltd , concerning the standards division of it;
- Central Office of Metrology (NMI) – one of the national measurement standards laboratories with whom the MoEAC has concluded a contract under public law. At present it is the said standards division of Metrosert Ltd;
- Legal metrology authority – a state agency established within the area of government of the MoEAC. At present the tasks of the legal metrology authority (incl legal metrological expertise and issuing of national type approval certificates, participation in the development of legislation, policies and strategies connected with the area of legal metrology, representing Estonia in WELMEC and OIML) are placed on the Technical Department of the Consumer Protection and Technical Surveillance Authority (CPTRA) – the governmental office for state supervision in the areas regulated by many legal acts, including the market surveillance, state control over handling of pre-packages;
- Accreditation agency – a state established foundation that has, pursuant to the Product Conformity Attestation Act, been granted right to operate as the accreditation agency. At present it is the Estonian Accreditation Centre, the signatory of the EA memorandum;
- The accredited calibration and testing laboratories under private law;

Authorised or designated verification/assessment laboratories under private law. The presumption for authorisation or designation is independency, accreditation according to the EN ISO/IEC 17025 and EN ISO/IEC 17020, valid liability insurance.

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## 2. Equipment Subject to National Controls with verification periods

Estonian Metrology Act establishes, that the metrological control of measuring instruments can be rendered mandatory in the case if they are used in transactions, for calculation some fees, pursuant to the customs and (excise) tax law, during the state supervision, during police-organised inspection and surveillance, checking the actual contents of prepackages and some cases of apothecary and medicine. The MoEAC is delegated to issue the list of measuring instruments, if used in above areas, are subject to the mandatory metrological control. The last version of this list (the Regulation of MoEAC from 18.12.2018 No 65) includes some different mass, volume and length measuring instruments used in transactions, pursuant to requirements in customs and tax acts, during state supervision, in medicine or checking of actual contents of pre-packages; gas- and electricity metering instruments used in transactions or pursuant to requirements in customs and tax acts; water and heat meters used in transactions; some other measuring instruments used in providing transport services, used as a basis for transactions or measuring pursuant to tax or customs acts or during state supervision (e.g taximeters, speed meters vehicle exhaust gas analysers, evidential breath analysers).

Mandatory subsequent verification has to be performed after time period stated in the same (above) Regulation of the MoEAC. The validity begins from the date of the previous verification or assessment. When the conformity declaration or marking does not include the date of the passing of the procedure, the validity starts from the 1st of January of the year, indicated on the marking. The validity periods differ from 1 year (for NAWI and fuel dispensers) to 16 years (for electromagnetic energy meters) and 8 years (for large gas meters). The validity of verification of domestic gas meters, capacity serving measures of glass and plastic is unlimited.

## 3. Markings used in type approval and verifications

Verification marks are verification stickers, verification seals and digital seals.

The verification laboratory orders the verification stickers, verification stamps and matrices. Samples of the verification stickers are present for approval to CPTRA. The CPTRA approves or legitimately refuse to approve the sample and copies. Approved verification stickers and seals are made available on CPTRA website: <https://www.ttja.ee/ariklient/ohutus/tooted-teenused/legaalmetroloogia>

Information stickers contain the following information:

- 1) international symbol for the Republic of Estonia – EE;
- 2) month of verification, shown by the number of the month and the year or two last digits of the year;
- 3) identification number of the verification laboratory;
- 4) the word 'TAADELDUD' (verified).

Closing stickers, matrices used for attaching verification seals and verification stamps bear following information:

- 1) international symbol for the Republic of Estonia – EE;
- 2) identification number of the verification laboratory.

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The verification stickers of the CPTRA bear the letter combination 'TTJA' instead of the identification number of the verification laboratory.

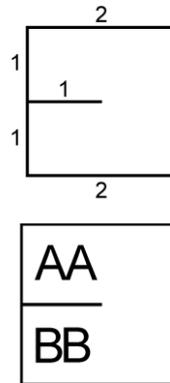
Digital seals must meet the requirements of the manufacturer and type approval documents of measuring instruments.

## The shape and ratios describing the measurements of a type approval mark:

The type approval mark is assigned to the given type of measuring instrument in the type approval certificate and is marked on each specimen of measuring instrument. The mark should be placed on the measuring instrument by the manufacturer or responsible representative.

AA – last two digits of the type approval year

BB – serial number of the type approval in the year of issue



## 4. Gravity Information

The gravity value for weighing instruments is not regulated in Estonia.

CPTRA suggests using the gravity value  $g = 9,817823 \text{ m/s}^2$ .

## 5. Prepackages

The Directive 76/211/EEC has been implemented with the updates from Directive 2007/45/EC. Estonian packers may mark prepackages with an e-mark which shall be attached onto the prepackage to certify the compliance of the prepackage with the requirements, if the system for checking and ensuring the actual contents of prepackages has been certified by a certification body which has the relevant accreditation, and the packer possesses the relevant valid certificate. Packers or importers of prepackages without an e-mark must ensure that the prepackages handled by them comply with the tolerable errors of the actual contents of prepackages from the nominal quantities, with the pre-determined nominal quantities for prepackages and existing requirements concerning marking. Prepackages without an e-mark produced in the EU member state must comply to the member state legislation. Prepackages without an e-mark produced in an EU member state must comply with the legislation of the member state of production.