



Science Industry Australia

## **National Trade Measurement Legislation Proposal to Amend the National Measurement Regulations 1999**

### **Feedback to Consultation Paper**

Science Industry Australia Inc. is the peak industry body representing Importers and Distributors, Manufacturers and Exporters and Service Providers of science products and services. Our members provide measuring instrumentation across a wide range of industries and maintain and service these instruments to conform with proscribed standards and legislation.

#### **Section 1.1 Measuring Instruments to have prescribed scale intervals**

##### **Question A**

The principles listed seem to provide a reasonable approach to introduce criteria to determine suitability of measuring instruments for particular trade applications. However the practical implementation will present some concerns.

A consultative approach with the different industry sectors to determine a suitable level of accuracy for particular operating requirements would seem to be a common sense solution to an ongoing problem within the measurement industry.

Would the accuracy criteria be assigned to a particular area of business, i.e. the concrete industry requires an accuracy of 0.1% of total weighing capacity, or would classes of equipment, similar to that which exist now, be assigned to certain industry areas?

The important issue, as we see it, is that the implementation of this more “realistic” approach to scale intervals does not lead to an overall reduction of measurement accuracy through the use of lesser quality measurement instruments.

## **Section 1.2 Verification Periods**

### **Question B**

In order for a voluntary verification scheme to be successful it would be necessary to bring about commercial pressure from the consumer onto the trader to ensure his measurement equipment was compliant to the voluntary code. Potential customers querying the accuracy of a trader's equipment would encourage the trader's ongoing compliance to the voluntary code.

This would require an effective education campaign aimed at the consumer. It would need to outline the voluntary system and the need for the consumer to be vigilant that the traders they purchased goods from were part of the scheme.

For this scheme to be effective the legislation should require the trader to display the verification label in clear view of the customer, so that the customer can clearly see the last time the machine was verified and when the next verification is due.

If an advertising campaign along the lines of "ARE YOU GETTING WHAT YOU PAID FOR" was run with a clear instruction on what to look for in the way of a verification label, then consumer pressure would drive most traders to comply.

As all verifications will still be lodged at the local authority, a reminder system may be worthy of consideration. After their equipment's determined verification period finishes, traders should be notified by mail that their equipment should be re-verified.

It is our belief that greater attention given to re-verification periods will ultimately bring about greater compliance from traders and greater trade measurement accuracy.



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