



# Forum on Metric Only Labeling

November 7, 2002



# Metric Conversion Act

## Findings:

- Metric system legal in the U.S. since 1866.
- Since 1875 the U.S. has been a member of the “Treaty of the Meter,” which sets the measurement standards for the world.
- U.S. government has a responsibility to assist industry in making the conversion.



## Declared Policy of the U.S.

- The metric system of measurement is the preferred system of weights and measure for U.S. trade and commerce.
- Continue to use inch-pound units of measure in non-business activities.



# Metric System

- Means the International System of Units as established by the General Conference of Weights and Measures in 1960 and as interpreted or modified for the United States by the Secretary of Commerce.
- NIST SP 814 –”Interpretation of the SI for the U.S.....”



# U.S. Conversion to the Metric System

- Voluntary
  - a marketplace decision.
  - means we need to eliminate barriers.



## Declared Policy of U.S.

- Increase public understanding of the metric system through educational information, guidance, and in Government publications.
- Each Federal Agency must use metric system in its procurements, grants, and business related activities.



# Fair Packaging and Labeling Act

Proposed Amendment



## FPLA amendment will -

- ◆ Require metric units to appear on all package labels.
- ◆ Allow inch-pound units to also appear on package labels.





## Amendment will:

- ◆ Continue to allow either unit of measure to appear first.
- ◆ Allow inch-pound units to also appear on package labels.



# Amendment will NOT

- ◆ Require or prohibit any change to package sizes.
- ◆ These decisions are made by the marketplace.





# Concerns about Metric Only Labeling