

X-Sieve: CMU Sieve 2.2  
Date: Thu, 17 Oct 2002 11:14:21 -0500  
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User-Agent: Mozilla/5.0 (Windows; U; Windows NT 5.1; en-US; rv:0.9.4.1)  
Gecko/20020508 Netscape6/6.2.3  
X-Accept-Language: en-us  
To: metric\_prg@nist.gov, Jim McCracken <james.mccracken@nist.gov>, linda.crown@nist.gov  
Subject: my comment for Nov. 7, 2002 Public Forum on Labeling

To the NIST Laws and Metric Group,

Concerning the removal of restrictions on the voluntary use of only metric measurement units on consumer products, all I can say at the outset is that it is about time!

I strongly support the removal of this archaic and confusing restriction, and urge the United States to finally join the rest of the world in using common sense in its system of measurement.

All my life, knowing that the rest of the world enjoys the advantage of a single, simple decimal system of measurement, I have despaired at being a citizen in the only country which does not do so, and, to its detriment, clings to an outdated measurement "system" which, when it comes down to cases, few of us really understand.

The products I buy in supermarkets and department stores are saddled with a mish-mash of measurements on them, many of which tell me nothing about the relative size of the product.

What does "2 LB, 4 OZ" really mean to me? On the other hand, 1.02 kg means exactly that, and one can just move the decimal point three places to the right to discover that it is 1020 grams, and then it is easy to compare the product to smaller sizes in grams such, just like our decimal system of currency in which \$1.02 can be compared, at a glance, to smaller, less costly items in cents.

I applaud Procter & Gamble, one of the few companies in our country to adopt even-numbered metric products, and also Warner-Lambert, with its even metric sizes of Listerine (1.5 liters, 500 ml). Why can't they be allowed to drop the other units, especially since the liter is now a well-known unit of volume among beverage products?

So, my \$0.02 is: go ahead and do it, please! In the long run, this change will be of great benefit to the United States as well as its consumer citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to be heard.

Sincerely,

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"There are two cardinal sins,  
from which all the others spring:  
impatience and laziness."

---Franz Kafka