

**Report on the Activities of the
International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML)
and
Regional Legal Metrology Organizations**

International Legal Metrology Group
Weights and Measures Division, NIST

The International Legal Metrology Group (ILMG) in the Weights and Measures Division (WMD) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST) is responsible for coordinating U.S. participation in OIML and other international legal metrology organizations. Learn more about OIML at the ILMG website at <http://ts.nist.gov/oiml> or at the OIML website at <http://www.oiml.org> on the Internet. Dr. Charles Ehrlich, Group Leader of the ILMG, can be contacted at charles.ehrlich@nist.gov or at 301-975-4834 or by fax at 301- 975-5414.

Table of Contents

I. Report on the 37th Meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML) and Associated Meetings.....	3
II. Report on the Activities of the OIML Technical Committees	6
III. 9th Annual Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF).....	10
IV. Inter-American Metrology System (SIM) Legal Metrology Working Group (LMWG) Meeting and Packaging and Labeling Workshop.....	10
V. “Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) on OIML Type Evaluations” First Draft Document.....	11

I. Report on the 37th Meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML) and Associated Meetings

International Workshop on the Future of Legal Metrology - September 26-27, 2002

The International Organization of Legal Metrology held a Workshop entitled "What will Legal Metrology be in the Year 2020" on September 26-27, 2002, in Saint-Jean-de-Luz, France. Simultaneous English-French translation was provided. The aim of this Workshop was to encourage a broad exchange of views between legal metrology authorities and those who are subject to legal metrology requirements. There were 21 presentations, with over 100 people in attendance.

The themes of the Workshop were:

- Globalization,
- National and Regional Activities – Mutual Recognition,
- New Scope and Organization of Legal Metrology,
- Impact of New Technologies.

Key topics included the future of type approval, the impact of electronics and software, and the importance of market surveillance. In particular, it was predicted that traditional means of conducting type evaluation will give way to manufacturers performing such evaluations under accredited quality systems using self-declaration. The question “What is the instrument?” was explored in connection with the software issue. The role of surveys in surveillance was also discussed.

Three U.S. presentations were given: “Issues and Trends in Legal Metrology from a U.S. Perspective” by Dr. C. Ehrlich and Mr. H. Oppermann, “The Pattern Approval Process: the Past, the Present, the Future as seen by U.S. Instrument Manufacturers” by Mr. D. Flocken and Mr. D. Tonini, and “Opportunities and Future Trends in Legal Metrology Control of Measuring Instruments” by Dr. S. Chappell. At the conclusion of Mr. D. Flocken’s talk, there was considerable interest expressed by some of the audience about NCWM awareness of OIML activities, and about the likelihood of the NCWM adopting OIML Recommendations in the future. Dr. C. Ehrlich reported that the NCWM is being kept informed

of OIML activities (such as through reports like this), and discussed studies currently being conducted in the U.S. to identify what differences exist between OIML and NCWM requirements for specific types of measuring instruments.

The BIML will be preparing a summary report of the Workshop. Participants and interested parties can obtain additional information from the OIML website at <http://www.oiml.org> on the Internet.

OIML Presidential Council Meeting - September 30, 2002

Dr. C. Ehrlich attended a meeting of the OIML Presidential Council (Council). Other attendees were G. Faber (President, International Committee of Legal Metrology, CIML), M. Kochsiek (CIML First Vice President), L. Issaev (CIML Second Vice President), J. Bennett (new member), A. Johnston (member), M. Tanaka (member), J. F. Magana (Director-elect, BIML), and G.E.M. Anabe (Chair, OIML Development Council).

Topics discussed included OIML financial matters, the upcoming election of a new CIML President, and the status of the “Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) for OIML Type Evaluations” (see separate section in this report). A jointly-sponsored Seminar (PTB and NIST), as a sequel to one held in 1998 by PTB on “The role of metrology in social and economic development”, was discussed as possibly being organized after further analysis of potential benefits is conducted.

Draft policy papers have been developed by the BIML on “Liaisons between the OIML and other bodies” and “Interactions between the OIML and the Regional Legal Metrology Organizations”. These are still being discussed in the Presidential Council, but are intended for future adoption by the CIML, hopefully next year. The first paper covers how Agreements such as the current one between OIML and CEN/CENELEC would be negotiated in the future.

The progress of establishing an independent task force to improve the speed and effectiveness of the OIML Development Council was also briefly discussed (see below).

The next meeting of the Presidential Council will be held in February 2003, at the International Bureau of Legal Metrology (BIML) in Paris.

OIML Development Council Meeting - October 1, 2002

The OIML Development Council acts as an advisory body to the CIML on matters of legal metrology in developing countries. This Council has undertaken to look into possible sources of funding (like the World Bank and United Nations Industrial Development Organization) for legal metrology activities (such as for training, equipment and providing internet access/capabilities in developing countries). While funding is an important issue, the Council continues to believe that developing a legal metrology infrastructure in these countries is equally important. Due to limited resources, providing funds for representation and participation by developing countries in the work of the OIML Technical Committees and Subcommittees (TCs/SCs) continues to be deemed not possible at this time.

A special Task Group, consisting of representatives from the Americas (SIM), Asia (Japan and Vietnam) and Eastern Europe (COOMET), was assembled to stimulate the work of the Development Council. Among other activities, this Task Group will help identify needs expressed in the Regional Legal Metrology Organizations (RLMOs) and bring them to the attention of the full OIML.

CIML Meeting – October 1-4, 2002

Representatives from 54 of the 58 member nations participated in the 37th Annual Meeting of CIML from October 1-4, 2002, in Saint Jean-de-Luz, France. Meetings of the OIML Presidential and Development Councils were also held and are reported on above. Dr. C. Ehrlich is the CIML Member for the United States.

In his opening address, G. Faber raised the issue that his term as President of CIML will be over next year and that the search for a successor has begun. He later reported that C. Ehrlich was the only candidate who had expressed interest to this point. The time for announcing candidacies was extended until January 31, 2003.

The CIML reviewed the OIML Action Plan. It was noted that while progress was good in most areas, the area of standards development to cover software-related issues needs work. Slovenia volunteered to be the Secretariat of OIML TC5 (Electronic Instruments and Software) that covers this topic. New entries in the Action Plan are to provide for the development of “horizontal documents” that would address matters of general interest (such as software, printers, etc.), and to renegotiate the existing agreements between OIML and CEN/CENELEC to make them more reciprocal.

Albania has become a full Member State, whereas the Philippines has resigned their membership. Vietnam and New Zealand are looking to become Member States. The financial situation of OIML is stable for this year. The recent addition of two new staff members at the BIML has brought the staffing level back to its 2000 level.

The BIML Director gave a live demonstration of the improved OIML web site (<http://www.oiml.org>). This site will continue to be upgraded and improved.

The Committee approved the following two draft International Recommendations:¹

R 84 “Platinum, copper and nickel resistance thermometers (for industrial use)” (revision)

R 134 “Automatic instruments for weighing road vehicles in motion – Part A – Total vehicle weighing”

The CIML endorsed the BIML proposal to approve the revision of OIML R 111 “Weights” by CIML postal vote as soon as the final Draft Recommendation is available from the United States.

The CIML approved the following projects as proposed by:

- TC11/SC3 on “Procedure for the control of the main parameters and characteristics of thermovision instruments”;
- TC17/SC2 on “Automatic refractometers -- Method and means for verification”; and
- TC17/SC7 to start the revision of R 126 on “Evidential breath analyzers”.

Also, TC4 (Slovakia) and TC3/SC1 (U.S.) are requested to work together to decide which technical committee should undertake a new work project on “Verification and inspection intervals of legally controlled measuring instruments” proposed by TC4.

The CIML established a new Subcommittee TC17/SC8 on “Instruments for quality analysis of agricultural products”, allocated the Secretariat to Australia, and approved its first work project on “Measuring instruments used for protein determination in grain”.

It was reported that the second edition of the OIML Certificate System will be published soon. This edition contains new provisions such as definitions, requirements, test methods, and test report formats regarding families, modules and families of modules of measuring instruments. It was requested by the CIML that OIML TC3/SC5 (United States and BIML are co-Secretariats) start working on an extension of the System to include “certification of individual measuring instruments”, meaning initial verification and production-meets-type issues (component testing is already included in the latest draft). It was emphasized again that the Certificate System and Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) must be mutually compatible.

A report on the status of the OIML Certificate System was presented. As of October 3, 2002, the total numbers of Certificates issued for R76 “Non-Automatic Measuring Instruments” is 447, for R60 “Metrological Regulation for Load Cells” (1991) is 226, and for R60 (2000) is 88. OIML R84 (above) will be applicable within the System when it is published, and OIML R134 (above) and OIML R49-3 (Water meters for cold potable water) will be applicable within the System when the Test Report Format is approved by CIML postal vote and published. The BIML prepares a notice of certificates issued each quarter in the *OIML Bulletin*, reports annually to CIML members on the status of the System, and

¹ The two categories of OIML publications are Recommendations and Documents that are developed by technical committees comprised of the Member States. **International Recommendations (R)** are model regulations that establish the metrological characteristics required of measuring instruments and specify methods and equipment for checking their conformity; the OIML Member States shall implement these Recommendations to the greatest possible extent. **International Documents (D)** are informative in nature and intended to improve the work of the metrological services.

makes this information available on the OIML web site. The report identifies participating member nations with testing laboratories that are issuing authorities.

Dr. C. Ehrlich gave an extended presentation on the status of the “Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) for OIML Type Evaluation”, and also held a question and answer period. He explained that the MAA had now received enough votes to move from being a Committee Draft at the TC/SC level to being a Draft Recommendation at the full CIML level. However, due to the continuing controversies (see report below), it was decided that rather than presenting the Draft Document to the CIML for an official vote, it will first be presented for comment and unofficial vote. A meeting of all interested CIML members will be held to discuss their comments before the official vote.

Mr. John Birch, Honorary CIML Member, has been commissioned by the President of the CIML to carry out a study on “The Benefits of Legal Metrology for the Economy and Society”. Birch gave an update, reporting that the study will primarily be a compilation of work done to date on this topic, along with whatever quantitative analysis is possible. The report is expected to be completed by the end of 2002.

Representatives from the Regional Legal Metrology Organizations (RLMO) gave reports on activities in their regions so that repetitive efforts could be identified for possible combination or harmonization. The WELMEC (Europe) Chairman gave a presentation on the European Measuring Instruments Directive (MID). Vivian Liu, Secretary of the World Trade Organization (WTO) Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) Committee, gave a presentation describing regional seminars that the WTO TBT Committee is prepared to conduct in close cooperation with the BIML to discuss trade issues pertaining to legal metrology. She emphasized that the TBT agreement encourages multilateral as opposed to bilateral arrangements.

An OIML distinguished service award was presented (in absentia) to Dr. Ambler Thompson of the NIST ILMG for his dedication, enthusiasm, and commitment to the work of OIML in areas including thermometry, electronic measuring instruments, monitoring environmental pollutants, reference materials, ionizing radiation, bio-electrical instruments, electrical utility meters and instruments for measuring characteristics of agricultural products. Dr. A. Thompson will be receiving a certificate and a medal for this recognition.

The 2003 CIML meeting will be held in Kyoto, Japan. The 2004 CIML meeting is scheduled to be held in Germany, along with the next quadrennial OIML Conference.

II. Report on the Activities of the OIML Technical Committees

This section provides a report on the status of work in OIML Technical Committees (TCs) and Technical Subcommittees (SCs) of specific interest to members of the NCWM. Also included are reports on recent activities of those groups and schedules of future activities of Secretariats, the U.S. National Working Groups (NWGs), and the International Working Groups (IWGs) of committees and subcommittees.

TC3 Metrological Control (United States of America)

The 1st draft revision of OIML D1 "Elements for a Law on Metrology" was developed by a joint working group of the OIML, the International Bureau of Weights and Measures (BIPM), and the International Laboratory Accreditation Cooperation (ILAC). It has been distributed to the members of TC3 and to the NCWM Laws and Regulations Committee for review. This revision of D1 presents the various elements that should be considered when preparing laws related to metrology. This document gives advice on general laws covering all the aspects of metrology, and on specific laws related to some distinct aspect of metrology, such as legal units and traceability. It can also be used to evaluate provisions related to metrology in more general laws such as those on consumer protection and conformity assessment. When completed, the document will be a tool for use in preparing laws related to metrology; individuals can select appropriate elements and adapt them into their legislation. Please contact Mr. K. Butcher at 301-975-4859 or at kbutcher@nist.gov if you would like to obtain a copy of the 1st draft revision of D1 or participate in this project.

TC5/SC1 Electronic Instruments (Netherlands)

The U.S. National Working Group on OIML Technical Committee 9 (TC9) submitted comments in August 2002 to the Netherlands on the 2nd committee draft of D11 "General Requirements for Electronic Measuring Instruments." The Netherlands is the OIML Secretariat responsible for this project. OIML D11 specifies the general metrological and technical characteristics that must be met by electronic scales and metering devices undergoing type evaluation. It provides details on how the relevant examinations and tests are conducted and its requirements are based on those in other international standards. Some of the influence factors examined under this document are high and low temperature, humidity, power voltage variation, and electrostatic discharge. OIML Technical Committees use this document as a reference in developing new and revised Recommendations. This document is significant because it impacts all of the OIML Recommendations on weighing and measuring instruments including those relating to devices for breath analyzers and pollution test equipment. For more information on this activity, contact Dr. A. Thompson at ambler@nist.gov.

TC8/SC3 "Measuring Instruments for Liquids other than Water." (Germany)

OIML R117 "Measuring Instruments for Liquids other than Water" is undergoing an extensive revision -- incorporating new instrument technologies and merging the document with other OIML recommendations (R86 "Drum Meters" and R105 "Mass Flowmeters"). The Netherlands (NMI) as the convener of the International Working Group TC8/SC3/WG2 "Revision of R117" is working closely with the United States and Germany to accomplish this task. The United States is making significant contributions on this revision as both a participating member on WG2 and as the convener of the working group tasked with merging R117 and R105. Please contact Mr. R. Richter at 301-975-4025 or ralph.richter@nist.gov if you would like to participate on this project.

TC8/SC4 "Dynamic Mass Measurements (Liquids other than Water)" (United States)

ILMG is working on the merger of OIML R105 "Direct Mass Flow Measuring Systems for Quantities of Liquids" (for which the United States is the Secretariat) with OIML R117 "Measuring Systems for Liquids other than Water" (for which Germany is the Secretariat). The United States is the convener of the international working group TC8/SC4/WG1 named "Combination R105/R117." This is a significant priority project for OIML, and ILMG is working with the U.S. National Working Group (USNWG) on flowmeters, Germany, and the Netherlands (convener of the work group tasked with revising R117) on this effort. Meetings of the U.S. National Working Group on flowmeters were held during the NCWM Annual Meeting in July 2002. Measurement Canada has been a strong contributor to this effort. A successful meeting was held in September 2002 at PTB in Germany to review the work already done by the USNWG and to establish an aggressive 2-year timetable for the two subcommittees (TC8/SC3 and SC4) to complete this major project.

TC8/SC5 "Water Meters" (United Kingdom)

CIML approved a revision of R49 for "mechanical and electronic" water meters in October 1999. Following that adoption, subsequent meetings of TC8/SC5/WG2 were held to develop a test procedure and test report format. The U.S. voted "yes" to OIML TC8/SC5s proposed amendment to OIML R49-1 "Water Meters Intended for the Metering of Cold Potable Water Part 1: Metrological Requirements" to update the referenced standards for disturbance and influence factor testing. The U.S. voted "no" on a CIML ballot to adopt a proposed recommendation OIML R49-2 "Water Meters Intended for the Metering of Cold Potable Water Part 2: Test Methods". The negative ballot resulted from the addition of a series of unnecessary tests which would increase the cost of having meters tested, as well as a failure to follow a committee ballot to delay the CIML submission until 2002. The CIML approved OIML R49-2 at its Annual Meeting in Moscow, Russia in September 2001. A subsequent meeting of TC8/SC5 held in Brussels, Belgium in October 2001 involved discussions of the changes required in the OIML R49-1 document to make it consistent with R49-2 and to revise OIML R49-2 as necessary. OIML TC8/SC5 balloted the changes and approved the revisions to OIML R49-1 and OIML R49-2. The amended R49-1 was placed on the OIML web site in April 2002 and since no CIML Member objected it is considered approved and will be republished. The same procedure will follow for the amended version of R49-2 approved by TC8/SC5. If approved, the new corrected version of R49-2 will be published at the same time as R49-1 is republished. In addition, OIML R49-3 dated 20 August 2002 Test Report Format was submitted for ballot to TC 8/SC5, and the United States voted to approve it.

TC8/SC7 "Gas Metering" (Belgium and France)

An International Working Group meeting was held in Brussels in March 2001 to discuss a 2nd CD draft OIML Recommendation "Measuring Systems for Gaseous Fuel" to include natural and compressed natural gas. The meeting focused on discussion of comments on the 2nd CD draft Recommendation. A second meeting of the IWG focused on a 2nd CD Recommendation "Measuring Systems for Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) for Vehicles" and annexes covering performance tests for electronic devices and basic test procedures. We have been informed by the Secretariat to expect the next CD of both documents in January 2003. Please contact Mr. W. Stiefel at 301-975-4011 or at stiefel@nist.gov if you would like to obtain a copy of the next CD or participate in this project.

TC8/SC8 "Gas Meters" (Netherlands)

The Secretariat has sent the members of the committee a letter with the results of a questionnaire asking for comments to guide the initiation of a work program to revise R6 "General provisions for gas volume meters," R31 "Diaphragm Gas Meters", and R32 "Rotary Piston Gas Meters and Turbine Gas Meters." A small majority of members voted to produce one new recommendation for gas meters, independent of the physical principle that will replace R6, R31, and R32. The Secretariat reported that they would develop an initial draft. The new document, according to the Secretariat, may consist of a general chapter mainly consisting of R6 and those aspects in common with R31 and R32 and separate chapters on household and industrial gas meters. The USNWG provided comments and will participate in the development of the new Recommendation. Please contact Mr. W. Stiefel at 301-975-4011 or at stiefel@nist.gov if you would like to participate in this project.

TC 9/SC 1 "Nonautomatic Weighing Instruments" (Germany and France)

In May of 2002, Germany and France, the co-secretariats of OIML TC9/SC1 "Non-automatic Weighing Instruments", announced that they were initiating the first review of OIML Recommendation 76 "Non-automatic Weighing Instruments" since 1994. This review cycle is of major importance to U.S. interests because R76 serves as the foundation for a majority of the laws and regulations that govern weighing instruments around the world. This review is significant for U.S. weighing instrument manufacturers because the international harmonization of requirements will eliminate technical barriers to trade and reduce the delays and the cost of getting new weighing instruments into the global marketplace. It is also important for legal metrology officials since it is taking place when the NCWM is considering entering into Mutual Acceptance Arrangements for type evaluations with other countries (e.g., Germany). This effort supports the NCWM's long-range strategy to "work toward the harmonization of U.S. (e.g., NIST Handbook 44 "Specifications, Tolerances, and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices") and international standards." The review process for R76 has begun with the Co-Secretariats requesting comments from Member States using a questionnaire that asks for feedback on everything from the basic principles of R76 (e.g., tolerances and accuracy

classes) to exploring the addition of new requirements. Some of the new requirements under consideration would allow for the type evaluation of “modules” (e.g., digital indicators and load receiving elements). One question asks whether new tests for electronic instruments are needed. If you would like to receive a copy of the U.S. comments that were submitted in September 2002, or participate in this work please contact Mr. K. Butcher at 301-975-4859 or at kbutcher@nist.gov or Mr. S. Cook at 301-975-4003 or steven.cook@nist.gov.

TC9/SC2 “Automatic Weighing Instruments” (United Kingdom)

The United States voted “no” at the recent CIML meeting on the ballot to adopt a proposed OIML Recommendation on “Automatic Instruments for Weighing Road Vehicles in Motion – Part A: Total Vehicle Weight”. The draft Recommendation specifies requirements for highway weight enforcement scales used to obtain a total vehicle weight of trucks while they are in motion. The negative ballot was cast because the Secretariat failed to accept several U.S. comments regarding the technical accuracy of the terminology used in the proposed standard and because the U.S. did not support the adoption of an incomplete OIML Recommendation. A meeting of the International Working Group was held at the United Kingdom’s National Weights and Measures Laboratory in Teddington, England in November 2001. At the meeting it was agreed that a Part B should be developed as a stand-alone Recommendation to apply to both total vehicle weighing (incorporating the requirements from Part A) and axle load determinations. In adopting this approach, it was understood that Part B would eventually supersede Part A, as the requirements for total vehicle weighing will be duplicated. Upon completion of Part B, a decision will be made as to whether Part A should be withdrawn and Part B issued as a new Recommendation or, alternatively, whether Part B should be issued as a revision to Part A, (i.e., as a second edition.) In September of 2002, ILMG received a second committee draft of Recommendation "Automatic Instruments for Weighing Road Vehicles in Motion" - "Part B - Axle Loads" that was prepared by the OIML Secretariat in the United Kingdom. If you would like to receive a copy of this draft Recommendation or participate in this work please contact Mr. K. Butcher at 301-975-4859 or at kbutcher@nist.gov or Mr. R. Richter at 301-975-4025 or ralph.richter@nist.gov.

TC9/SC3 “Weights” (United States)

A draft revision of OIML Recommendation R111 “Weights....” was adopted by the CIML in the summer of 2002. NIST staff are working closely with Dr. Michael Glaser of PTB (Germany) and Dr. Richard Davis (BIPM) to develop a final draft of R111 that will be sent to the International Committee on Legal Metrology (CIML) for adoption in December 2002. Adoption of a new edition of this Recommendation is a high priority project for OIML as it is considered one of the most basic and important sets of requirements that member states can adopt as the foundation for their laws on metrology. TC9/SC3 also agreed that OIML R52 “Hexagonal Weights” would not be withdrawn since its requirements may still be used in some developing countries. An updated edition of R52 was also adopted by TC9/SC3 and submitted to CIML for adoption in September 2002.

A draft revision of OIML Recommendation 33 “Conventional Value of the Result of Weighing in Air” was adopted by TC9/SC3 in the spring of 2002. The technical committee also voted to change R33 into an OIML International Document. ILMG worked closely with Dr. M. Glaser and Dr. R. Davis (BIPM) to develop a final draft of R33 that will be sent to the CIML for adoption in January 2003.

OIML R59 “Moisture Meters for Cereal Grains and Oilseeds” (TC17/SC1)

In February 2001, the 1st Committee Draft Revision of OIML R59 "Moisture Meters for Cereal Grains and Oilseeds" was received from the Peoples Republic of China. China is the Secretariat of OIML TC17/SC1 “Humidity” which is responsible for R59 and other Recommendations relating to moisture measurement. The current edition of R59 was developed in the 1980s and includes technical and metrological requirements for both automatic and manual meters. A U.S. National Working Group was formed to review the draft revision of R59 and actively participate in the revision of this important Recommendation. Comments were sent to the Secretariat in the spring of 2001. In June 2001, Dr. A. Thompson (of ILMG) and Dr. David Funk of the U.S. Department of Agriculture’s Grain Inspection and Packers and Stockyard Administration attended a meeting of TC17/SC1 in Berlin, Germany. The subject of the meeting was the revision of OIML R59. Comments that had previously been submitted by ILMG to the OIML Secretariat for this Recommendation (China) constituted the basis for the meeting and its discussions. Dr. Thompson presented U.S. proposals to clarify the scope and general direction that the revision process should take and highlighted the need to

recognize new technologies and tolerances for these instruments. Another issue is the need to separate the reference moisture method, usually defined by the responsible national authority, from the qualification of instruments since there is no international agreement for a global reference moisture determination test method. These proposals were well received in particular by France, China, and Germany. The Chairman of the meeting asked the United States to prepare an OIML draft based on the National Conference on Weights and Measures, National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) for review by an International Working Group (IWG) composed of France, Germany, Poland, China and the United States. Dr. A. Thompson agreed to this and will consult with the NTEP Grain Sector and forward copies of the U.S. documents to the IWG. Please contact ILMG if you would like to participate in this working group.

III. 9th Annual Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF)

The 9th Annual Meeting and Working Group meetings of the Asia-Pacific Legal Metrology Forum (APLMF) will be held from November 20 to 22, 2002, at the Legend Hotel Saigon, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. Dr. Charles Ehrlich will serve as Head of the U.S. Delegation and will be accompanied by Mr. Ross Andersen in his role as the Chairman of the National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP). Dr. C. Ehrlich and Mr. R. Andersen will participate in the Forum's Working Group meetings on Mutual Recognition Arrangements, Training, Rice Moisture Meters, Intercomparison Calibration and Testing, Utility Meters, Medical Measurements and Goods Packed by Measure. Dr. C. Ehrlich serves as Chairman of the WG on Mutual Recognition Arrangements. Mr. Gilles Vinet (Measurement Canada) serves as Chairman of the WG on Utility Meters. Mr. R. Andersen will present the member-nation economy report for the United States.

The Secretariat of the APLMF has now been assumed by Japan. The President of APLMF is now Dr. Akira Ooiwa who is Director of the Mechanical Metrology Division at the National Metrology Institute of Japan. The 2002 APLMF meeting will be held in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam. The 2003 APLMF meeting will be held in Kyoto, Japan in conjunction with that year's meeting of the International Committee of Legal Metrology (CIML). The U.S. has been requested to consider hosting the 2004 APLMF meeting; initial plans are under way.

IV. Inter-American Metrology System (SIM) Legal Metrology Working Group (LMWG) Meeting and Packaging and Labeling Workshop

The Weights and Measures Division and the Global Standards and Information Group (GSIG) worked with Mr. Cesar Luis da Silva, Chairman of the Legal Metrology Working Group (LMWG) of SIM to present a two-day Interamerican Workshop on Packaging and Labeling in Miami on December 9-10, 2001. More than 50 participants from the Americas and Europe attended the workshop and shared a wide variety of information on labeling requirements and packaging experiences.

The three offices cooperated to develop a labeling requirements survey for the workshop. The Spanish language Survey of Labeling Requirements was distributed to SIM member states and a wide spectrum of responses was received. The information collected from the survey included the various requirements of the member states for declaring the net quantity, identity, and responsibility on packages intended for consumers. The first draft of the survey was discussed at the meeting and additional efforts will be made to ensure all of the information is up to date and complete.

The survey results from nineteen countries have been posted on the SIM web site http://www.sim-metrologia.org.br/organization/twg/smt_twg_11news.htm

The SIM Legal Metrology Working Group held a meeting immediately following the workshop and issued the following resolutions and decisions:

Packaging and Labeling

The LMWG agreed to:

- encourage each OIML member country to adopt OIML Recommendations R79 and R87 and collaborate in their revision. The LMWG encouraged OIML to consider procedures for small lot sizes and packages with low counts.

- recommend that information required on package labels be in the language of the country in which the product is sold.
- simplify the net content statement on packages (for example, only the measurement units that are relevant to the consuming market need to be translated into that country's language).
- encourage exclusive use of the SI System for package labeling.
- ask SIM for financial support to develop and provide training programs on labeling subjects (e.g., metrication, net content testing procedures and labeling requirements of OIML R 87 and OIML R 79).
- recommend that a project be undertaken to identify and suggest standardization of reference temperatures used to determine the net quantity of contents of liquids in the Americas.
- request that SIM create a database containing each country's legal metrology regulations (e.g., labeling, net contents testing, contact information, etc.) and that it be made available on the Internet.
- solicit, update, correct and complete the packaging and labeling survey responses of each country in their region so the survey can be posted on the SIM web site.

The LMWG also agreed to:

- request that SIM create a list server for discussion of issues on the SIM website for the LMWG to exchange information, establish priorities for harmonization, and other purposes.
- establish an ongoing forum for industry to bring labeling issues and problems to the SIM LMWG for discussion and possible resolution (e.g., harmonization of requirements or ensuring full disclosure). SIM LMWG representatives will coordinate through e-mail or personal contacts to develop the issues and bring the information to the Group for further discussion and resolution. It was also agreed that the sub regions of SIM implement the above resolutions on a local basis.

The next meeting of the SIM LMWG is scheduled for November 2002 in Santiago, Chile. The agenda includes a discussion of the action items from the December 2001 meeting in Miami, obtaining labeling information from the non-responding SIM members and redrafting the objectives and scopes for the two working groups: 1) *Laws and Regulations* and 2) *Metrological Control of Measuring Instruments and Prepackaged Products*.

V. “Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) on OIML Type Evaluations” First Draft Document

The MAA has now received just enough votes at the TC/SC level to move from being a Committee Draft to being a Draft Recommendation for consideration at the full CIML level. OIML voting rules require that 2/3 of all of the participating members of a TC or SC must vote in favor of a Committee Draft before it can move forward. All seven of the negative votes and the single abstention at the SC level came from European countries (Austria, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United Kingdom) for differing and sometimes conflicting reasons. At the 37th CIML meeting, the United Kingdom changed their vote from “abstain” to “yes” after they gained a better understanding of the MAA. The concerns of the ‘no’ voters can be broken into five main categories: cost, peer-review vs. accreditation requirements, signatory responsibility, scope/terminology, and non-allowance of supplementary requirements.

A 1st Draft Recommendation of the MAA has been prepared based on the voting results and comments received on the 9th Committee Draft. Due to the continuing controversies it was decided that rather than presenting the Draft Recommendation to the CIML for an official vote, it will first be presented for comment and unofficial vote. A meeting of all interested CIML members will then be held to see if new issues arise and to discuss their comments before the official vote. This meeting will likely be in March or April 2003.

The MAA is of special interest to the NCWM because the Board of Directors is currently negotiating a bilateral agreement to exchange test data on type evaluations with Germany's PTB.