

Copy of D.O.letter No. SMC.9 (2) dated 20-1-1962 of the Secretary, Standing Metric Committee, NewDelhi.

As you are aware, metric length measures have been recognized as standard units of length throughout the country. For the time being other measures such as the yard are being permitted. This tolerance is for a limited period which will end on 30th December 1962. From 1st October 1962, therefore, only metric measures may be need in transactions in commodities sold by length, areas or volume.

2. Timber and timber products are generally sold by area or volume. A conference of Chief Conservator of Forests was held to consider the adoption of metric units in the timber trade. A copy of the record of the conference is enclosed. The Conference recommended that, to conform to the law, the metric system must be adopted in transaction in timber and timber products from 1-10-1962. From that date, in all transactions, prices and quantities must be expressed in metric units, ie, the meter, for length, sq.metre for area and the cubic meter for volume.

3. At present the unit of measurement in the timber trade is cubic foot. A cubic meter is nearly 35 times the cubic foot. The immediate adoptions of a unit nearly 35 times the unit in current use may not be acceptable to the smeller traders. While, therefore, a cubic meter must in general be adopted as the unit of volume in transactions, the smaller traders may be given the option to express prices with reference to ten the a cubic meter, where necessary.

4. I will be grateful if the Forest Department of the State Government and the State Government's Purchasing Organization are advised to use the meter, sq.meter and cubic meter exclusively in all transactions in timber and timber products from 1-10-1962. The recommendations of the Conference may also be brought to the notice of the timber trade and industry in the State through the appropriate Department of the Government. They may be advised to provide themselves with metric teas and other measuring instruments so that they will be fully prepared to adopt metric units in their transactions from 1-10-1962.

Sd/- Secretary.

Record of the Meeting to Consider the adoption of the Metric system in the measurement of timber and timber products.

The meeting began at 3 P.M. on 19th December 1961 in the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, Udyog Bhavan, New Delhi. Shri. K.V. Venkatachalam, Joint Secretary presided. The following Officers were presents:-

2. The Standards of weights and measures Act, 1956 which declared the Metric system as the sustum of standard units was brought into force in regard to length on 1st October 1961. The meter and its recognized multiple units and sub-units are already therefore the standard units of length in the country. The continued use of the yard and its multiples and sub-units was permitted for a period of one year. This period will expire on 30th September 1962. From 1st October 1962, it will be illegal to use any units other than the meter, the square meter and the cubic meter, and their recognized secondary units in transactions in timber and timber products. The meating was held to draw up a programme to adopt the unit in the timber trade in a smooth and orderly way. The meet made the following recommendations:-

(i) Date of adoptions:- The metric system must be adopted in transactions in timber and timber products from 1st October 1962. From that date, in all transactions, price and quantities must be expressed in terms of metric units, that in the meter, the square meter, the cubic meter, and the

secondary units derived from them. The Forest Department of Governments and the trade must be advised to provide themselves with metric tapes and other measuring instruments, and conversion tables, in time.

The metric system must also be adopted as early as possible, in technical and scientific work. The Forest Research Institute and the Forest Depts. Of Government will initiate necessary studies immediately.

2. Measurements of timber:-

(a) Unit of Measurements:-

- (i) Girth shall be measured in metres and centimeter correct to the nearest centimeter.
- (ii) Length shall be measured in metres accurate to 5 centimeter Every length measurement shall be rounded off to the next lower 5 centimeter before it is recorded.
- (iii) Volume shall be expressed in cubic metres to the second decimal palce. It shall be rounded off by the ordinary rule of rounding off.

(b) Class Interval:- Measurements of diameter height and girth shall be recorded with the following class intervals:-

Diameter	Class interval of 1 decimeter
Girth	Class interval of 3 decimeter
Height	Class interval of 1 meter, 3 meter or 5 meter as may be convenient.

© Breast height measurements:- The present practice in to measurement the diameter and girth of trese at a height of 4 ft. 6 inchase (1.37 meters). If future measures are made at a different height, the data will not be comparable with the recorded date of the past. Breast height measurements must, therefore, continue to be made at a height of 1.37 meters.

3. Calculating of volumes:-

The practice of calculating volumes of logs adding the quarter girth formula may be continued. The Indian standards institution will compile tables on the lines of Mirer and Nandlal's tables, for use by the trade, in estimating volumes in cubic meters of round and sawn timbers, from dimension in meters.

4. Specification for sawn timbers:- It was reported that the Indian Standards institution has published a few standards for same timber in rational metric units. It was decided that a list of there standards be circulated to all the Chief Conservator of Forests of States. The Ministry of Railways will circulate specifications in metric units for sleepers to Forest Departments and the trade.

Sd/- K.S.Nair
For Controller of Weights and Measures

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