

Copy of letter No.WM-9 (2)/65 dated 10-2-1967 from Deputy Director, Weights and Measures, Government of India, Ministry of Commerce, (Directorate of Weights & Measures) 54-Sundar Nager, New Delhi-11 to the Controller of Weights and Measures in the States/Union Territories.

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Sub:- Adoption of metric system in the timber trade –

I am to invite a reference to our letter of even no. dated the 9th February, 1966, on the above subject.

2. The metric system of weights and measures has come into use in all commercial transactions throughout the country. It is an offence under law to use weights and measures other than metric in trade. This applies to the timber trade as much as to any other trade. In practice, however, the adoption of metric system in trade has not made much headway you.

3. The question of timber trade adopting metric system exclusively in their transactions and fixing a firm date for this purpose has been engaging the attention of both the Government and the trade for a long time. The Nagpur Timber Merchant's Association had originally proposed to switch over to Metric system from the 1st April, 1966. This Directorate has suggested in our above quoted letter that, in the interests of uniformity, the timber associations throughout that country be persuaded to change over to metric system exclusively in their transactions from the same date i.e. from the 1st April, 1966. This date was selected on the presumption that the Indian standards Institution specification for rational cut-sizes of timber would become available before that day. This did not materialize. The timber trade pointed out that unless the I.S.I. specifications for cut sizes of timber would become available before that day. This did not materialize. The timber trade pointed out that unless the I.S.I. specifications for cut sizes of timber were available, it would not be easy for them to effect a rational change-over.

4. The I.S.I. have now revised the specifications for cut sizes of timber (IS:1331-1958). This is under print and copies will be available shortly. A table to enable ready calculations of volume of timber based on the revised cut sizes has also been prepared by the I.S.I. and is being printed. Under the circumstances, it is felt that the adoption of those standards by the trade and others concerned should not be postponed any longer and it has become a matter of urgency to fix an early date for this purpose.

5. The Nagpur Timber Merchants Association, which is an important association in the country, have agreed to switch over to metric system completely from the 1st April 1967. They have also agreed that cutting of logs from the 1st April, 1967 onwards would be only in metric units. You will agree that for the change over to be smooth and orderly, it should be made effective from a uniform date throughout the country. It is, therefore, suggested that the timber associations which are located in your jurisdiction may be persuaded to change over to metric system exclusively in their transactions from the 1st April 1967 onwards would be only in metric units. You will agree that for the change-over to be smooth and orderly, it should be made affective from a uniform date throughout the country. It is, therefore, suggested that the timber associations which are located in your jurisdiction may be persuaded to change over to metric system exclusively in their transactions from the 1st April 1967.

6. We have already indicated that units like 100 dm³ should not be used. Only the cubic metre, cubic decimeter (cubic centimeter, if at all required) should be used in transactions and payments if we have to avoid confusion. This should also be made clear to the Government offices and others concerned.

7. It is also essential that timber users or producers like public works Department, Forest Department etc. should also be prevailed upon to see or order the rationalized sizes from 1st April, 1967, if the rational change-over is to be effective.

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Endt. on A5-4464/67 dated 24-2-1967.

Copy communicated to all subordinate officers for information and necessary action.

Copy to Stock file.

Chief Conservator's Office,
Trivandrum.

Sd/-
For Chief Conservator of Forests.

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Endt. on A1-2870/67 dated 16-3-1967.

Copy to Sections TR, KT, ML, CH and A2.
Copy to A1 Stock file.

For Conservator of Forests.

KKV/27/3/-