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*Policy paper on liaisons between the OIML and other bodies*

Clean version

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Revision of B 12:

Policy paper on liaisons between the OIML  
and other bodies

(Clean version)

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ORGANISATION INTERNATIONALE  
DE MÉTROLOGIE LÉGALE

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INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION  
OF LEGAL METROLOGY

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## Foreword

The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) is a worldwide, intergovernmental organisation whose primary aim is to harmonise the regulations and metrological controls applied by the national metrological services, or related organisations, of its Member States. The main categories of OIML publications are:

- **International Recommendations (OIML R)**, which are model regulations that establish the metrological characteristics required of certain measuring instruments and which specify methods and equipment for checking their conformity. OIML Member States shall implement these Recommendations to the greatest possible extent;
- **International Documents (OIML D)**, which are informative in nature and which are intended to harmonise and improve work in the field of legal metrology;
- **International Guides (OIML G)**, which are also informative in nature and which are intended to give guidelines for the application of certain requirements to legal metrology; and
- **International Basic Publications (OIML B)**, which define the operating rules of the various OIML structures and systems.

OIML Draft Recommendations, Documents and Guides are developed by Project Groups linked to Technical Committees or Subcommittees which comprise representatives from OIML Member States. Certain international and regional institutions also participate on a consultation basis. Cooperative agreements have been established between the OIML and certain institutions, such as ISO and the IEC, with the objective of avoiding contradictory requirements. Consequently, manufacturers and users of measuring instruments, test laboratories, etc. may simultaneously apply OIML publications and those of other institutions.

International Recommendations, Documents, Guides and Basic Publications are published in English (E) and translated into French (F) and are subject to periodic revision.

Additionally, the OIML publishes or participates in the publication of **Vocabularies (OIML V)** and periodically commissions legal metrology experts to write **Expert Reports (OIML E)**. Expert Reports are intended to provide information and advice, and are written solely from the viewpoint of their author, without the involvement of a Technical Committee or Subcommittee, nor that of the CIML. Thus, they do not necessarily represent the views of the OIML.

This publication – reference OIML B 12, edition 20XX (E) – was drafted in mid-2003 and approved by the International Committee of Legal Metrology in November 2003 during its 38th Meeting in Kyoto. It was modified by a Working Group of the RLMO Round Table in 2022. It was approved for final publication by the International Committee of Legal Metrology at its 57th meeting in October 20XX and replaces the previous edition dated 2003.

OIML Publications may be downloaded from the OIML website in the form of PDF files. Additional information on OIML Publications may be obtained from the Organization's headquarters:

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## Policy paper on liaisons between the OIML and other bodies

### 0 Introduction

The OIML may have formal relations with other International, Regional and National bodies according to the following rules. These relations are implemented, according to each case:

- either globally, at the level of the Organization;
- or at the level of an OIML Technical Committee or Subcommittee.

The bodies concerned by these formal relations are classified into five categories:

- Intergovernmental bodies and development organisations;
- Regional Metrology Organisations and Regional Legal Metrology Organisations;
- International Standard-setting Organisations and International Accreditation Organisations;
- Regional and National Standard-setting Organisations;
- Industrial Federations and other bodies.

### 1 Intergovernmental bodies and development organisations

1.1 The OIML enjoys ongoing, regular liaisons with international intergovernmental bodies (e.g. Metre Convention, I.T.U.) having metrology-related activities at the level of the BIML, the CIML and the Conference. Good coordination between the OIML and these Organisations must be sought, in particular through the following provisions:

- these organisations receive all relevant information about the activities of the OIML;
- they are invited to report annually to the OIML about their activities related to metrology;
- the BIML reports annually to them on OIML activities;
- they may attend the Conference and CIML meetings as observers;
- the BIML has permanent contacts with their Bureau or executive headquarters, and examines any overlap that may exist between the work of the OIML and that of these organisations on an ongoing basis, notably in areas in which joint projects may be undertaken;
- agreements for cooperation and coordination between the OIML and these organisations may be proposed to the CIML for decision;
- joint working groups may be set up with the authorisation of the CIML and of the ad-hoc authority of these bodies with a view to working out a joint approach in areas of common interest and, when relevant, for developing joint technical documents, providing that the adoption of these joint technical documents complies with the rules set down in the OIML Convention and OIML procedures. The OIML Directives for Technical Work will be completed when necessary to deal with such joint work;
- joint working groups aiming at carrying out studies, promoting metrology or supporting Countries and Economies with Emerging Metrology Systems (CEEMS) may be set up with the authorisation of the CIML President and notification to the CIML.

**1.2** Regional intergovernmental bodies having metrology or legal metrology-related activities (for example the European Commission) should be the object of a liaison consisting of the following:

- these bodies receive all relevant information about the activities of the OIML;
- they are invited to inform the BIML about their current work related to metrology;
- the BIML will maintain contacts with these bodies in order to examine with them their needs related to OIML work, and the compatibility of their own work with the OIML publications and work;
- the BIML will report to the CIML about these contacts.

When these bodies set out to harmonise national legal metrology regulations at the regional level, they should follow the WTO TBT Agreement which states that they must base this harmonisation work on international standards, in particular on OIML Recommendations. At their request, these bodies will be granted the same rights as OIML Corresponding Members concerning information on and participation in OIML technical work.

**1.3** International and Regional bodies that develop programs of assistance to CEEMS are the object of liaisons at the level of the BIML, the CIML and the Conference, as well as at the level of the CEEMS Advisory Group (CEEMS AG). This liaison consists of the following:

- these organisations receive all relevant information about the activities of the OIML;
- they may attend the Conference and CIML meetings as observers;
- they may participate in CEEMS AG meetings;
- the BIML has permanent contacts with these bodies to exchange information and make this information available to OIML Members;
- within the budgetary limits approved by the Conference and according to orientations given by the CIML, the BIML will provide technical support for the seminars, conferences, steering committees of regional programs, etc., organised by these bodies;
- the BIML may propose specific actions to the CIML in order to provide these bodies with specific services such as experts, databases, etc.;
- the BIML may contract with these bodies to obtain financing for specific actions run by the BIML in support of CEEMS, such as the translation of OIML publications, production of training videos, etc. The scope and principles of such contracts shall be approved by the CIML and each contract shall be approved by the CIML President according to these principles.

## **2 Regional Metrology Organisations and Regional Legal Metrology Organisations**

**2.1** Regional Metrology Organisations (RMOs) are not the object of formal liaisons with the OIML, except when they cover the field of legal metrology (see 2.2). However, the BIML will remain informed as to current RMO activities, and will (when appropriate) forward this information to OIML Member States and Corresponding Members. In particular, the BIML will inform its Members of events organised by the RMOs (symposia, seminars, etc.).

Whenever possible, the BIML will endeavour to attend RMO meetings to report on the activities of the OIML, if invited. The BIML will inform CIML Members of the countries participating in the RMO about such invitations and about its intention to participate in these meetings. The BIML may also propose to these CIML Members to present OIML activities at these meetings.

**2.2** Regional Legal Metrology Organisations (RLMOs), including the working groups or committees of RMOs dedicated to legal metrology issues, are liaisons of high priority for the OIML. OIML policy concerning coordination with RLMOs will be routinely considered annually at RLMO Round Table Meetings. Liaisons with RLMOs will include at least the following:

- the BIML will report annually to the RLMOs on OIML activities;
- the RLMOs are invited to report at CIML meetings on issues of special interest for the other Regions;
- mutual information will be exchanged through specific pages on the OIML website.

### **3 International Standard-setting Organisations and International Accreditation Organisations**

**3.1** Liaisons should be established at the level of the BIML, the CIML and the Conference with the headquarters and the board of International Standard-setting Organisations. These liaisons consist of the following:

- these organisations receive all relevant information about the activities of the OIML;
- they are invited to report annually to the OIML about their activities related to metrology;
- they may attend the Conference and CIML meetings as observers;
- the BIML has permanent contacts with their Bureau or executive headquarters, and examines any areas of overlap that may exist between the work of the OIML and that of these organisations on an ongoing basis;
- an OIML policy concerning the avoidance of possible overlaps and the dividing up of work areas with these organisations may be proposed to the CIML;
- joint working groups may be set up with the authorisation of the CIML and of the ad-hoc authority of these bodies with a view to working out a joint approach in areas of common interest and when relevant for developing joint technical documents, providing that the adoption of these joint technical documents complies with the rules set down in the OIML Convention and OIML procedures. The OIML Directives for Technical Work will be completed when necessary to deal with such joint work;
- joint working groups aiming at carrying out studies, promoting metrology or supporting CEEMS may be set up with the authorisation of the CIML President and notification to the CIML.

**3.2** Liaisons should be established, at the level of OIML TCs/SCs, with the working groups or technical committees of these organisations which have current work projects on similar issues as the OIML TCs/SCs have. These liaisons are decided on by the Technical Committee or Subcommittee, with a majority of two-thirds of their P-Members. The BIML will be informed of these liaisons, which should consist of the following:

- the working groups or technical committees accepted as liaison bodies in a TC/SC will receive all the working documentation of the OIML TC/SC, in the same way as the O-Members thereof;
- they are invited to supply any relevant information to the OIML TC/SC about the work in progress in their organisation which falls within the scope of the OIML TC/SC;
- they may make comments to the Secretariat of the OIML TC/SC about the working documents;
- they may attend the meetings of the OIML TC/SC as observers;
- representatives of the OIML TC/SC have similar rights to participate in the work of these organisations.

**3.3** Liaisons should be established at the level of the BIML, the CIML and the Conference, with the headquarters and the board of the International bodies competent for accreditation. These liaisons should include the following:

- these organisations receive all relevant information about the activities of the OIML;
- they are invited to report annually to the OIML about their activities related to metrology;
- they may attend the Conference and CIML meetings as observers;
- the BIML has permanent contacts with their Bureau or executive headquarters, and examines any areas of overlap that may exist between the work of the OIML and that of these organisations on an ongoing basis;
- coordination meetings may be organised between the CIML Presidential Council and the corresponding structures of these bodies; these meetings may be held jointly with other organisations;
- a policy of the OIML concerning the development of joint work areas may be proposed to the CIML;
- joint working groups may be set up with the authorisation of the CIML and of the ad-hoc authority of these bodies with a view to working out a joint approach in areas of common interest and, when relevant, for developing joint technical documents, providing that the adoption of these joint technical documents complies with the rules set down in the OIML Convention and OIML procedures. The OIML Directives for Technical Work will be completed when necessary to deal with such joint work;
- joint working groups aiming at carrying out studies, promoting metrology or supporting CEEMS may be set up with the authorisation of the CIML President and notification to the CIML.

## 4 Regional and National Standard-setting Organisations

Regional Standard-setting Organisations (e.g. CEN/CENELEC, PASC, SADCSTAN, etc.) are generally tied by agreements with International Standard-setting Organisations (ISO, IEC, etc.). Therefore, OIML liaisons with the latter should result in a good harmonisation with the former in the fields covered by the International Organisations. However, Regional Standard-setting Organisations may engage in technical activities outside the scope of International Standard-setting Organisations' work. This may eliminate barriers to trade at regional level whilst contributing to barriers to trade between regions.

4.1 The OIML should have contacts with these Regional Standard-setting Organisations in order to establish liaisons with regard to fields of OIML work which are not harmonised through International Standard-setting Organisations. These liaisons with Regional Standard-setting Organisations aim at exchanging information on the needs and programs of work, so as to facilitate cooperation at the level of TCs/SCs.

- The Regional Standardisation Organisations receive all relevant information about the activities of the OIML, including the OIML technical work program;
- they are invited to inform the OIML about their own work program;
- the Regional Standard-setting Organisations and the OIML should mutually agree to allow each other's publications or working documents to be used without copyright in the preparation of draft Standards, Recommendations or Documents.

4.2 The Technical Committees of the Regional Standard-setting Organisations may be accepted as observers in an OIML TC/SC, by decision of the OIML TC/SC with a majority of two-thirds of its P-Members. The BIML will be informed of these liaisons, which should consist of the following:

- the working groups or technical committees accepted as liaison bodies in a TC/SC will receive all the working documentation of the OIML TC/SC, in the same way as O-Members of the TC/SC;
- they supply to the OIML TC/SC all pertinent information about the work in progress in their organisation which falls within the scope of the OIML TC/SC;
- they may make comments to the Secretariat of the OIML TC/SC about the working documents;
- they may attend the meetings of the OIML TC/SC as observers;
- representatives of the OIML TC/SC have similar rights to participate in the work of these Organisations.

4.3 National Standard-setting Organisations may participate in the work of TCs/SCs:

- either by participating in the national delegation in this TC/SC under the responsibility of their CIML Member, or
- when accepted by their national CIML Member, as observers in the TC/SC under the same conditions as in 4.2.

## 5 Industrial Federations and other bodies

5.1 International bodies representing manufacturers of measuring instruments, users of instruments or consumers may be the object of a liaison with the OIML:

- at the level of the BIML, the CIML and the Conference for issues of general interest;
- at the level of OIML TCs and SCs for specific issues.

They may be invited to participate in OIML events such as workshops and seminars.

**5.2** Regional bodies representing manufacturers of measuring instruments, users of instruments or consumers:

- may be accepted as observers in TCs/SCs by decision of the OIML TC/SC P-Members with a two- thirds majority;
- may be accepted to attend the Conference and CIML meetings as observers.

They may be invited to participate in OIML events such as workshops and seminars.

**5.3** National bodies representing manufacturers of measuring instruments, users of instruments or consumers may participate in the work of TCs/SCs:

- either by participating in the national delegation in this TC/SC under the responsibility of their CIML Member, or
- when accepted by their national CIML Member and by a two-thirds majority of the TC/SC P-Members, as observers in the TC/SC.

They may be invited to participate in OIML events such as workshops and seminars.