



12conf/5.1, 5.2, 5.3 & 5.4/en

14 October 2004

5 WORK OF OIML TECHNICAL COMMITTEES AND SUBCOMMITTEES

5.1 Work undertaken – State of progress

5.1.1 General situation since the Eleventh Conference

5.1.1.1 Increase in TC/SC activity

During the late 1990's there was a general decrease in OIML technical activities. The objective reasons for this were a general trend towards staff reductions, deregulation, and the lack of additional resources for OIML activities; subjective reasons were the low number of P-members in some SCs, the low number of active P-members in certain TCs and SCs and the relatively high number of inactive technical bodies.

These problems were discussed several times by the Presidential Council and addressed during CIML Meetings and were reported to the Eleventh Conference together with proposals to improve the situation.

In order to enhance technical activities, the Eleventh Conference requested the CIML *to continue to monitor the situation and to find a solution in order to ensure a better distribution of technical responsibilities amongst OIML Member States.*

During the period since the Eleventh Conference several activities and actions were initiated by the Presidential Council (or by the BIML) based on proposals from CIML Members, and were carried out in order to improve the situation, namely:

- The *List of high priority and priority projects of TCs and SCs* (including 39 projects) was established, adopted by the CIML in 2001 and has been implemented;
- Actions for important strategy issues and technical activities addressed by the CIML were also included in the updated *Action Plan*;
- An initiative by the Presidency (and the BIML) in 2002 for the *Acceleration of technical work* - including proposals for actions to be executed or coordinated by the BIML, proposals to find a better and more balanced distribution of TCs and SCs and tasks among Member States as well as to encourage and benefit from knowledgeable experts - was accepted by the CIML and has started to be implemented.

As a result of these efforts there has been a moderate overall increase in OIML technical activities, observed from the year following the Eleventh Conference. Several TCs and SCs did become more active from 2001, and accelerated and improved their activity.

This is particularly highlighted by the gradual increase in the number of technical meetings held (predominantly in Europe) and by the significant increase in the overall number of OIML publications (Recommendations and OIML Documents together) produced, as well as by the increase in ongoing projects and drafts circulated.

In particular it can be stated that technical activity in 2003 was about at the highest level since 1997 and culminated in the approval of 10 Recommendations, two Documents and two Amendments (the highest yearly number of approved publications since 1994).

The BIML continued its actions to encourage and facilitate technical activities and to furnish CIML Members and the technical bodies with necessary up-to-date information, such as:

- Monitoring technical activities, updating documents and regular distribution of information on OIML technical work (summaries based on Annual Reports, regularly updated series of status documents on OIML TCs and SCs, etc.) and their inclusion on the OIML web site;
- Regular contacts with the Secretariats of TCs and SCs by BIML staff in order to identify difficulties and to try to find appropriate solution to problems;
- Continuous and regular checking of OIML R's and D's by BIML staff prior to publication for their editorial improvement and harmonization of their technical content; and
- Recent uploading of the completely new TC Database with search facilities.

5.1.2 Main results of the technical work since the Eleventh Conference

5.1.2.1 Approved Recommendations and Documents

As a result of the activity of OIML technical bodies since the Eleventh Conference, the following main points can be mentioned:

- 13 draft Recommendations (10 revised and 3 new) were approved by the 36th to 38th CIML Meetings or by CIML postal approval in 2004 and will be presented for sanctioning by the Conference (Item 5.3);
- Four drafts of Test Report Formats (as separate parts of Recommendations) were approved by the CIML;
- One draft of a new Recommendation is to be directly presented to the Conference for sanctioning (Item 5.4);
- 6 new or revised International Documents and 3 Basic Documents (OIML Certificate System, MAA and Checklists) were approved by the CIML (by postal vote or at a CIML Meeting) and two revised International Documents are being approved;
- 9 high priority projects (out of 16) and 12 priority projects (out of 23) have already been finalized; and
- The OIML Certificate System was extended by 11 new categories of measuring instruments to reach a total number of 42 (there were 30 categories in 2000).

5.1.2.2 Technical meetings held

Since the Eleventh Conference, a total of 27 technical meetings (6 TC and 21 SC meetings) were held (7 in 2001, 5 in 2002, 8 in 2003 and 6 in 2004) and numerous WG meetings were also held.

Compared with the total of 24 meetings during the previous 4-year period, this is also a sign of the increase in the overall technical activity.

It has to be mentioned here that (at least) 8 technical bodies have developed and finalized their projects without holding meetings.

5.1.3 Situation and state of progress in 2004

In 2004 a total of 68 (67 in 2000) OIML technical bodies: (18 TCs and 50 SCs) are responsible for 126 work projects.

The Secretariats of two Technical Subcommittees - TC 8/SC 2 and TC 10/SC 3 - are vacant (three were vacant in 2000: TC 5, TC 13 and TC 8/SC 2).

- At present 17 Member States (15 in 2000) have responsibility for 18 TCs and 48 SCs. The USA and Russia are responsible for the activities of 32 (33 in 2000) (48 %), 7 Member States (DE, GB, CZ, FR, AT, AU and NL) for 26 (40 %) and 8 Member States (Be, CH, CN, HU, PL, SI, SK and ZA) for 8 TCs and SCs (12 %);
- As indicated in the Annual Reports 42 TCs and SCs planned to work on 64 projects in 2004 and six technical meetings were already held in 2004;
- One new Draft Recommendation is to be presented to the Conference for sanctioning;
- 16 TCs and SCs are working on 27 projects of new or revised Recommendations intended for the OIML Certificate System;
- Two Test Report Formats (R 61-2 (2004) and R 111-2 (2004) and three revised International Documents (D 9; D 11 and D 14) - approved by the CIML postal vote - are being edited for publishing;
- Seven projects of revision or new Recommendations appear to be at an advanced enough stage to be presented to the CIML at its 40th Meeting for approval;
- Both parts of the *Directives for technical work* are being revised with special regard to the implications of the WTO TBT Agreement and its Annex on the *Code of good practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards* and to the requirement to accelerate and simplify the procedure for the development of publications;
- Protected discussion forums for use by TCs/SCs are gradually being developed by the BIML and will be soon available on the OIML web site.

5.1.4 Proposals to improve technical activities

In addition to the actions mentioned earlier, based on several earlier discussions during CIML Meetings and on other occasions, the following additional proposals can be made:

- In order to achieve a more equal distribution of tasks and workload of TCs and SCs, Member States having expertise in specific fields are requested to continue taking on responsibility for some TC/SC Secretariats (e.g. vacant, lacking of means or inactive, etc.) as was the case for TC 5 (Slovenia), TC 6 (South Africa), TC 17/SC 8 (Australia) and recently for TC 9/SC 3 (from the US to DE) and/or taking the lead in developing certain projects as is the case of TC 12 (Sweden), TC 8/SC 2 and TC 16/SC 1 (Russian Federation);
- To take into consideration offers from Canada and Japan expressing their readiness to assume responsibility for certain SCs that are - for the time being - actively led by other Member States and/or increase their contribution to the activities of those SCs;
- Some TCs and SCs to join efforts in developing certain projects by establishing joint WGs (as is the case e.g. for TC 8/SC 3 and TC 8/SC 4);
- Based on the positive experience gained by some TCs and SCs (e.g. TC 13, TC 8/SC 5, TC 16/SC 1 and recently TC 18/SC 2) it is advisable that other OIML TCs and SCs make efforts

to coordinate their activities with other international standardization bodies such as ISO and the IEC in order to better harmonize actions or develop joint documents and avoid duplication of work. However the experience with ISO (in the case of the joint publication of OIML R 99/ISO 3930) concerning the delay in the approval procedure and the pricing policy of publications gives rise to a reconsideration of this type of project.

- BIML proposal: The Committee should be requested to establish a list of priorities for Member States to render their national regulations compatible with OIML Recommendations. This list of priorities should be submitted to the next OIML Conference.

5.2 Implementation of Recommendations by OIML Members

The *OIML Long-term policy – Assessment of OIML strategies and activities* (BIML, 1995) stipulates that the degree of implementation of OIML Recommendations by OIML Members has to be evaluated every four years. In its resulting decision the Tenth Conference *urged all OIML Members to implement OIML Recommendations in their national regulations or voluntary standards, to the greatest extent possible.*

The previous inquiry was carried out in 2000 and preliminary conclusions - based on replies from 33 Member States (out of 57 in 2000) - were reported to the Eleventh Conference. The document *Implementation of OIML Recommendations No. 4 to 127* was published in 2002, based on the additional and corrected information supplied by 39 Member States.

This regular OIML action of reviewing the implementation of OIML Recommendations was several times reported to (and appreciated by) both the WTO TBT Committee and the UN/ECE (Working party on Technical Harmonization and Standardization Policies). In addition it is in harmony with the WTO TBT principles of *Good practice for the preparation, adoption and application of standards.*

The recent *Inquiry on the translation and implementation of OIML Recommendations and Documents* (including a request for information on the implementation of International Documents and availability of all Rs and Ds translated to national language(s)) was sent to all OIML Members and - for the first time - to all Corresponding Members in May 2004.

Replies to the current inquiry were received from only 28 Member States (out of the present 59) and from only 5 Corresponding Members (out of the present 50). In addition - in several cases - the information provided was incomplete and/or inconsistent.

Owing to the lowest ever number of replies received it is deemed pointless, impossible and inappropriate to present even a preliminary report to the Conference based on the insufficient information received.

In order for the BIML to be able to draw up and publish the fully updated version of the *Implementation* document giving a clear and complete picture of the present situation and draw more accurate and well-founded conclusions to be reported to the OIML at its 40th Meeting, it is necessary to request those Member States that have not yet replied to urgently send their responses to the BIML before 15 December 2004.

5.3 Formal sanction of Recommendations already approved by the Committee in 2001, 2002, 2003 and 2004

Recommendations approved in 2001:

- R 16-1 *Mechanical non-invasive sphygmomanometers* (Edition 2002)
- R 16-2 *Non-invasive automated sphygmomanometers* (Edition 2002)
- R 75-1 *Heat meters. Part 1: General requirements* (Edition 2002)
- R 75-2 *Heat meters. Part 2: Type approval tests* (Edition 2002)
- R 133 *Liquid-in-glass thermometers* (Edition 2002)

Recommendations approved in 2002:

- R 84 *Platinum, copper, and nickel resistance thermometers (for industrial and commercial use)* (Edition 2003)
- R 134-1 *Automatic instruments for weighing road vehicles in motion. Total vehicle weighing* (Edition 2003)

Recommendations approved in 2003:

- R 48 *Tungsten ribbon lamps for the calibration of radiation thermometers* (Edition 2004)
- R 49-1 *Water meters intended for the metering of cold potable water. Part 1: Metrological and technical requirements* (Edition 2003)
- R 49-2 *Water meters intended for the metering of cold potable water. Part 2: Test methods* (amended approved) (Edition 2004)
- R 49-3 *Water meters intended for the metering of cold potable water. Part 3: Test Report Format* (Edition 2004)
- R 52 *Hexagonal weights - Metrological and technical requirements* (Edition 2004)
- R 61-1 *Automatic gravimetric filling instruments. Part 1: Metrological and technical requirements - Tests* (Edition 2004)
- R 61-2 *Automatic gravimetric filling instruments. Part 2: Test Report Format* (Edition 2004)
- R 87 *Quantity of product in prepackages* (Edition 2004)
- R 134-2 *Automatic instruments for weighing road vehicles in motion. Test Report Format* (Edition 2004)
- R 135 *Spectrophotometers for medical laboratories* (Edition 2004)

Note: Although R 49-1 (Edition 2000) was Sanctioned by the Eleventh Conference and R 49-2 was approved by the CIML in 2001 both were amended (based on new or revised IEC standards) and approved by the CIML in 2003. R 49-1 was published in 2003 as an amended reprint of the 2000 Edition (including Erratum No. 1, amended Annex A, the Bibliography and the terminology harmonized with the VIML (Edition 2000)).

Recommendation approved in 2004 by CIML postal approval:

R 111-1 *Weights of classes E₁, E₂, F₁, F₂, M₁, M₁₋₂, M₂,M₂₋₃ and M₃. Part 1: Metrological and technical requirements* (Edition 2004)

R 111-2 *Weights of classes E₁, E₂, F₁, F₂, M₁, M₁₋₂, M₂,M₂₋₃ and M₃. Part 2: Test Report Format* (Edition 2004)

BIML note for consideration by the Technical Commission:

Those Test Report Formats that were approved by the CIML and published as separate parts of Recommendations (R 49-3 (2004); R 61-2 (2004); R 111-2 (2004); R 134-2 (2004)) are informative for their implementation in national regulations and are only obligatory for the implementation within the *OIML Certificate System*, therefore they do not need to be sanctioned by the Conference, nor do they have to be mentioned separately in the Conference decisions (for reference see Decisions of the Tenth and Eleventh Conferences).

5.4 Draft Recommendation(s) directly presented for sanctioning by the Conference

There is only one draft of a new OIML Recommendation to be presented for sanctioning:

DR 1 *Instruments for measuring the area of leathers*

Recommendations proposed to be withdrawn:

R 33 *Conventional value of the result of weighing in air*

Note: This Recommendation has been converted into a new International Document *Conventional value of the result of weighing in air* and has been approved for publication by the CIML (40 Yes / 0 No / 0 Abstentions).

At the same time, the proposal to withdraw R 33 was approved by CIML postal vote (41 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions).

R 62 *Performance characteristics of metallic resistance strain gauges*

Note: The proposal by TC 16/SC 2 to withdraw R 62 has to be approved by the CIML at its 39th meeting since the CIML postal approval did not give a conclusive result (29 Yes / 1 No / 0 Abstentions).