



Weights and Measures Act 1985

CHAPTER 72

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT 1985

PART I

UNITS AND STANDARDS OF MEASUREMENT

- 1 Units of measurement.
- 2 United Kingdom primary standards and authorised copies of the primary standards.
- 3 Department of Trade and Industry secondary, tertiary and coinage standards.
- 4 Local standards.
- 5 Working standards and testing and stamping equipment.
- 6 Testing of other standards and equipment.

PART II

WEIGHING AND MEASURING FOR TRADE

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- 7 Meaning of “use for trade”.
- 8 Units of measurement, weights and measures lawful for use for trade.
- 9 Dual marking and conversion charts.
- 10 Multiples and fractions of measures and units.

Weighing or measuring equipment for use for trade

- 11 Certain equipment to be passed and stamped by inspector.
- 11A Approval of persons to verify equipment manufactured etc by them.
- 11B Testing by official EEA testers.
- 12 Approved patterns of equipment.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Weights and Measures Act 1985. (See end of Document for details)

- 13 Offences in connection with approved patterns of equipment.
- 14 General specifications of equipment.

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- 15 Regulations relating to weighing or measuring for trade.
- 15A Pre-test stamping by certain manufacturers.
- 16 Offences in connection with stamping of equipment.
- 17 Offences relating to false or unjust equipment or fraud.

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PUBLIC WEIGHING OR MEASURING EQUIPMENT

- 18 Keepers of public equipment to hold certificate.
- 19 Provision of public equipment by local authorities.
- 20 Offences in connection with public equipment.

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- 21 Transactions in goods mentioned in Schedules 4 to 7.
- 22 Orders relating to transactions in particular goods.
- 23 Regulations as to information.
- 24 Exemption from requirements imposed under sections 21 to 23.
- 25 Offences relating to transactions in particular goods.

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- 26 Quantity to be stated in writing in certain cases.
- 27 Exemption from requirements of section 26.

General offences

- 28 Short weight, etc.
- 29 Misrepresentation.
- 30 Quantity less than stated.
- 31 Incorrect statements.
- 31A Non-compliance with certain requirements of the FIC Regulation
- 32 Offences due to default of third person.

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- 33 Warranty.
- 34 Reasonable precautions and due diligence.
- 35 Subsequent deficiency.
- 36 Excess due to precautions.
- 37 Provisions as to testing.

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- 38 Special powers of inspectors with respect to certain goods.
- 39 Powers of inspectors with respect to certain documents.
- 40 Powers of inspectors with respect to goods carried on road vehicles.

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Weights and Measures Act 1985. (See end of Document for details)

Miscellaneous and supplementary

- 41 Check-weighing of certain road vehicles.
- 42 Power to make test purchases.
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- 44 Selling by quantity.
- 45 Making quantity known to a person.
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- 47 Duty of packers and importers as to quantity.
- 48 Duty of packers and importers as to marking of containers.
- 49 Duties as to equipment, checks and documentation.

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- 50 Offences, etc.
- 51 Defences to certain charges under section 50.
- 52 Enforcement of Part V by local weights and measures authority.
- 53 Powers of inspectors and local weights and measures authority under Part V.

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- 54 Special provision for certain packages.

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- 55 The national Metrological Co-ordinating Unit
- 56 General duties of Secretary of State.
- 57 Power of Secretary of State to require packers and importers to furnish particulars of marks.
- 58 Duty of Secretary of State to prepare scheme allocating marks.
- 59 Supervision by Secretary of State of certain functions of inspectors.
- 60
- 61
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- 63 Instructions by inspectors.

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- 65 Power to modify Part V.
- 66 Regulations under Part V.
- 67 Service of documents.
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Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Weights and Measures Act 1985. (See end of Document for details)

Local administration

- 69 Local weights and measures authorities.
- 70 Annual reports by local weights and measures authorities.
- 71 Inspection of local weights and measures arrangements.

Inspectors of weights and measures

- 72 Appointment of inspectors.
- 73 Certificate of qualification to act as inspector.
- 74 Performance by inspectors of additional functions.
- 75 Offences in connection with office of inspector.

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- 79A Investigatory powers
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Miscellaneous and supplementary

- 86 Regulations and orders.
- 87 Secretary of State to report to Parliament.
- 88 Application to Crown.
- 89 Saving for use of certain units in wholesale transactions.
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- 91 Validity of contracts.
- 92 Spelling of “gram”, etc.
- 93 Powers under other Acts with respect to marking of food.
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SCHEDULES

SCHEDULE 1 — Definitions of Units of Measurement

Part I — MEASUREMENT OF LENGTH

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Weights and Measures Act 1985. (See end of Document for details)

Metric units

Part II — MEASUREMENT OF AREA

Imperial units

Metric units

Part III — MEASUREMENT OF VOLUME

Metric units

Part IV — MEASUREMENT OF CAPACITY

Imperial unit

Metric units

Part V — MEASUREMENT OF MASS OR WEIGHT

Imperial unit

Metric units

PART VI — DEFINITIONS OF CERTAIN UNITS WHICH MAY NOT BE USED FOR
TRADE EXCEPT AS SUPPLEMENTARY INDICATIONS

Measurement of length Mile = 1760 yards. Furlong = 220...

Part VII — MEASUREMENT OF ELECTRICITY

SCHEDULE 2 — Existing United Kingdom Primary Standards and Authorised
Copies

Part I — DESCRIPTION OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIMARY STANDARD OF THE
YARD

A solid bronze bar, about 38 inches long and about...

Part II — DESCRIPTION OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIMARY STANDARD OF THE
POUND

A platinum cylinder about 1.35 inches in height and about...

Part III — DESCRIPTION OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIMARY STANDARD OF THE
METRE

The British copy of the prototype metre, being a bar...

Part IV — DESCRIPTION OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIMARY STANDARD OF THE
KILOGRAM

The British copy of the prototype kilogram, being a solid...

Part V — AUTHORISED COPIES OF UNITED KINGDOM PRIMARY
STANDARDS OF THE YARD AND POUND

Copies of the bar and cylinder described in Parts I...

SCHEDULE 3 — Measures and Weights Lawful for Use for Trade

Part I — LINEAR MEASURES

1. . . .

Metric system

2. Measures of—

Part II — SQUARE MEASURES

1. . . .

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Weights and Measures Act 1985. (See end of Document for details)

Metric system

2. Measures of, or any multiple of, 1 square decimetre...

Part III — CUBIC MEASURES

Metric system

1. Measures of, or of any multiple of, 0\1 cubic...

2. Measures of—

any multiple of 10 litres

Part IV — CAPACITY MEASURES

Imperial system

1. Measures of—

any multiple of 1 gallon

Metric system

2. Measures of—

any multiple of 10 litres

Part V — WEIGHTS

Imperial system

1 Measures and Weights Lawful for Use for Trade

2 Weights of— 500 ounces troy 0·4 ounce troy 400 ounces...

Metric system

3 Weights of— 25 kilograms 3 grams 20 kilograms 2 grams...

4 Weights of— 500 carats (metric) 1 carat (metric) 200 carats...

SCHEDULE 3A — APPROVALS UNDER SECTION 11A

PART I — APPROVALS: GENERAL

Fees

1 Where— (a) any person makes an application for an approval,...

Form, effect and conditions of approvals

2 (1) An approval shall be in writing and, unless previously...

Suspension of approvals

3 (1) If it appears to an inspector that, otherwise than...

Withdrawal of approvals

4 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, the Secretary of State...

Grant of new approval following withdrawal

5 (1) Where the Secretary of State decides, whether in the...

Application for further approval

6 (1) This paragraph applies where, not less than three months...

PART II — REQUIREMENTS TO BE MET BY APPROVED VERIFIERS

Maintenance of quality system

- 7 (1) An approved verifier shall maintain in force such systems...

Preparation etc. of quality system manual

- 8 (1) An approved verifier shall prepare and keep up-to-date a...

Keeping of records

- 9 An approved verifier shall keep a record of every test...

Schedule 4 — Sand and Other Ballast

Part I — GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 1 In this Schedule, "ballast" means any of the following...
2 Subject to paragraphs 3 and 11 below ballast—
3 There shall be exempted from the requirements of paragraph 2...
4 Without prejudice to section 15 of this Act, no article...
5 In measuring any ballast against a calibration mark on such...

Part II — CARRIAGE OF BALLAST BY ROAD

- 6 This Part of this Schedule shall have effect with respect...
7 (1) If any of the ballast is being carried for...
8 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, if all or any...
9 Any document required by paragraph 7 or 8 above shall...
10 In the case of any document such as is mentioned...

Part III — APPLICATION TO SCOTLAND

- 11 (1) In Scotland, paragraph 2 above and Part II of...

SCHEDULE 5 — Solid Fuel

Part I — GENERAL

Introductory

- 1 This Schedule applies to goods of any of the following...

Sales by net weight

- 2 (1) Subject to sub-paragraphs (2) and (3) below, solid fuel...

Quantities in containers

- 3 (1) Solid fuel— (a) if made up in advance ready...

Indication of quantity

- 4 (1) This paragraph applies to solid fuel made up in...

Loads on vehicles

- 5 Solid Fuel

Information about containers . . .

- 6 (1) This paragraph applies where solid fuel is carried on...

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Weights and Measures Act 1985. (See end of Document for details)

Exemptions

- 7 There shall be exempted from all the requirements of paragraphs...

Vending machines

- 8 Solid fuel shall be sold by means of, or offered...

Byelaws

- 9 A local weights and measures authority may make byelaws, subject...

Damping of fuel

- 10 Any person who with intent to defraud or deceive damps...

Sale of fuel from vehicles

- 11 (1) This paragraph applies to any vehicle which is used...
 12 An order under section 22 of this act may amend...
 Part II — WEIGHING OF SOLID FUEL AT BUYER'S REQUEST
 13 If in the case of any solid fuel sold otherwise...
 14 Where a request under paragraph 13 above is made in...
 15 Where after any weighing in pursuance of a request under...
 Part III — CARRIAGE OF SOLID FUEL BY ROAD
 16 This Part of this Schedule shall have effect with respect...
 17 (1) If the vehicle is carrying any relevant goods for...
 18 (1) Subject to sub-paragraph (2) below, if all or any...
 19 Any document required by paragraph 17 or 18 above shall...
 Part IV — CARRIAGE OF SOLID FUEL BY RAIL
 20 Where any seller of solid fuel causes that fuel to...
 21 Subject to paragraphs 22 and 28 below, the vehicle shall...
 22 (1) Paragraph 21 above shall not apply to any rail...
 23 (1) Subject to subparagraph (2) and paragraph 24 below ,...
 24 (1) Paragraph 23 above shall not apply to any vehicle...
 25 (1) The following provisions of this paragraph apply—
 26 Where, in the case of any rail vehicle used on...
 27 (1) If paragraph 21 or 23 above is contravened, the...
 28 (1) Paragraph 21 above shall not apply to any rail...

SCHEDULE 6 — Miscellaneous Goods other than Foods

Part I — LIQUID FUEL AND LUBRICANTS

- 1 This Part of this Schedule applies to—
 2 Subject to paragraph 3 below, goods to which this Part...
 3 Notwithstanding anything in paragraph 2 above, liquid fuel—

Part II — READY-MIXED CEMENT MORTAR AND READY-MIXED CONCRETE

- 4 This Part of the Schedule applies to ready-mixed cement mortar...
 5 (1) Subject to the following provisions of this Part of...
 6 Part II of Schedule 4 to this Act, except sub-paragraph...
 7 Paragraph 5 and 6 above shall not have effect in...

Part III — AGRICULTURAL LIMING MATERIALS, AGRICULTURAL SALT AND INORGANIC FERTILISERS

- 8 This Part of this Schedule applies— (a) to agricultural liming...
 9 (1) Goods to which this Part of this Schedule...

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- 10 Paragraph 4 and 5 of Schedule 4 to this Act...
Part IV — WOOD FUEL
- 11 Subject to paragraphs 12 and 13 below—
- 12 (1) Paragraph 11 above shall not have effect in...
- 13 There shall be exempted from the requirements of paragraph 11...
- 14 Paragraphs 9 and 10 of Schedule 5 to this Act...
Part V — COSMETIC PRODUCTS
- 15 Miscellaneous Goods other than Foods
- 16 Miscellaneous Goods other than Foods
Part VI — SOAP
- 16A (1) In this Part of this Schedule “soap” does not...
- 17 Subject to paragraph 18 below— (a) soap in the form...
- 18 There shall be exempted from the requirements of this Part...
Part VII — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE SOLD BY OR MARKED WITH
LENGTH
- 19 This Part of this Schedule applies to goods of any...
- 20 Subject to paragraph 21 below, goods to which this Part...
- 21 There shall be exempted from all requirements of paragraph 20...
Part VIII — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE SOLD BY OR MARKED WITH NET
WEIGHT
- 22 This Part of this Schedule applies to—
- 23 Subject to paragraphs 24 and 25 below, goods to which...
- 24 The following shall be exempted from the requirements of this...
- 25 Notwithstanding anything in paragraph 24 above, nails—
Part IX — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE MARKED WHEN PRE-PACKED
WITH NET WEIGHT
- 26 This Part of this Schedule applies to—
- 27 Subject to paragraph 28 below, goods to which this Part...
- 28 There shall be exempted from the requirements of this Part...
Part X — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE SOLD BY OR MARKED WITH
CAPACITY MEASUREMENT
- 29 This Part of this Schedule applies to antifreeze fluid for...
- 30 Subject to paragraph 31 below, goods to which this Part...
- 31 There shall be exempted from all requirements of this Part...
Part XI — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE MARKED WHEN PRE-PACKED
WITH CAPACITY MEASUREMENT
- 32 This Part of this Schedule applies to enamel, lacquer, liquid...
- 33 Subject to paragraph 34 below, goods to which this Part...
- 34 The following shall be exempted from the requirements of paragraph...
Part XII — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE SOLD BY OR MARKED WITH
NET WEIGHT OF CAPACITY MEASUREMENT
- 35 This Part of this Schedule applies to—
- 36 Subject to paragraph 37 below, goods to which this Part...
- 37 The following shall be exempted from all the requirements of...
Part XIII — MISCELLANEOUS GOODS TO BE MARKED WHEN PRE-
PACKED WITH QUANTITY BY NUMBER
- 38 This Part of this Schedule applies— (a) to cheroots, cigarettes...
- 39 Subject to paragraphs 40 and 41 below, goods to which...
- 40 In relation to postal stationery, the reference to number in...
- 41 There shall be exempted from the requirements of this Part...

SCHEDULE 7 — Composite Goods and Collections of Articles

- 1 (1) This paragraph applies to any goods which, not being...

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- 2 (1) This paragraph applies to any goods which, not being...
- 3 (1) This paragraph applies to aerosol products containing any goods...
- 4 (1) This paragraph applies to any collection of two or...
- 5 There shall be exempted from any requirement of paragraph 1,...

SCHEDULE 8 — Powers of Inspectors and Local Weights and Measures Authority Under Part V

Powers of entry and inspection

- 1 Powers of Inspectors and Local Weights and Measures Authority Under Part V
- 2 Powers of Inspectors and Local Weights and Measures Authority Under Part V
- 3 Powers of Inspectors and Local Weights and Measures Authority Under Part V

Power of seizure

- 4 Powers of Inspectors and Local Weights and Measures Authority Under Part V

Power to require information

- 5 Powers of Inspectors and Local Weights and Measures Authority Under Part V

Purchase of goods

- 6 Powers of Inspectors and Local Weights and Measures Authority Under Part V

Failure to provide assistance or information

- 7 Powers of Inspectors and Local Weights and Measures Authority Under Part V

SCHEDULE 9 — . . .

SCHEDULE 10 — Provisions Relating to Northern Ireland

Part I — PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT EXTENDING TO NORTHERN IRELAND

- 1 The following provisions of this Act shall extend to Northern...

Part II — STANDARDS IN NORTHERN IRELAND

- 2 (1) The Department of Economic Development for Northern Ireland...
- 3 For the purposes of providing the Northern Ireland primary standards...
- 4 The Secretary of State shall from time to time as...
- 5 Any Northern Ireland primary standard maintained under this Part of...

SCHEDULE 11 — Transitional Provisions and Savings

General

- 1 In this Schedule— “the 1963 Act” means the Weights and...
- 2 Any reference, whether express or implied, in any enactment, instrument...

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Weights and Measures Act 1985. (See end of Document for details)

- 3 Any reference, whether express or implied, in any enactment,
instrument...
- 4 Where a period of time specified in an enactment repealed...

Acts passed before 31st July 1963

- 5 In any Act passed before 31st July 1963—
- 6 Any local Act passed before 31st July 1963 shall continue...
- 7 Where an enactment contained in any local Act passed before...

Standards, etc.

- 8 Any standard which immediately before the commencement of this
Act...
- 9 A certificate of fitness for use as a local standard...

Stamping of equipment

- 10 Any equipment to which section 11 of this Act applies...

Approved patterns of equipment

- 11 (1) Each of the following instruments, namely—

Weighing equipment passed etc. before 27th April 1978

- 12 (1) Weighing equipment (including weights) which weighs wholly or
partly...

Products and equipment used etc. before 1st December 1980

- 13 (1) Nothing in section 8 of this Act shall prevent...
- 14 (1) Weighing equipment (including weights) which weighs wholly or
partly...
- 15 Paragraphs 12(1) and 14(1) and (2) above have effect notwithstanding...
- 16 (1) Nothing in section 8 of this Act shall prevent...
- 17 (1) This paragraph applies to any pattern of weighing equipment—...

Joint local weights and measures authorities in Greater London

- 18 (1) This paragraph applies to any agreement which—

Relaxation of Ministerial controls

- 19 Subsection (3) of section 35 of the Local Government Act...
- 20 Transitional Provisions and Savings

Inspectors

- 21 (1) Any person who immediately before the commencement of section...

“Gallon” and “litre”

- 22 Nothing in the definition of “gallon” or “litre” in Schedule...

Byelaws

- 23 Any byelaws made by a local authority for any of...

Changes to legislation: There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Weights and Measures Act 1985. (See end of Document for details)

- 24 Any provision contained in a byelaw made under paragraph 5...
- 25 In any of the following, namely— (a) any byelaw made...
- 26 Where any byelaw to which paragraph 25 above applies contains...

SCHEDULE 12 — Consequential Amendments

The Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928

- 1 In section 20(1) of the Petroleum (Consolidation) Act 1928, for...

The Agriculture Act 1967

- 2 Consequential Amendments

The Trade Descriptions Act 1968

- 3 Consequential Amendments
- 4 Consequential Amendments

The Greater London Council (General Powers) Act 1972

- 5 In section 17(5)(b) of the Greater London Council (General Powers)...

The Fair Trading Act 1973

- 6 Consequential Amendments

The Weights and Measures &c. Act 1976

- 7 (1) Section 12 of the Weights and Measures &c. Act...
- 8 In section 14 of the Weights and Measures &c. Act...
- 9 In Schedule 6 to the Weights and Measures &c. Act...

The Weights and Measures (Northern Ireland) Order 1981

- 10 (1) The Weights and Measures (Northern Ireland) Order 1981 shall...

The Local Government Act 1985

- 11 In paragraph 15 of Schedule 8 to the Local Government...

SCHEDULE 13 — Repeals and Revocations

Part I — REPEALS

Part II — REVOCATIONS

— TABLE OF DERIVATIONS

Notes:

- (1) This Table does not take into account transfers of...

Changes to legislation:

There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Weights and Measures Act 1985.