
STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1985 No. 777**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES****The Units of Measurement Regulations 1985**

<i>Made</i>	- - -	16th May 1985
<i>Laid before Parliament</i>		20th May 1985
<i>Coming into Operation</i>		1st July 1985

The Secretary of State, being a Minister designated(a) for the purposes of section 2(2) of the European Communities Act 1972(b) in relation to units of measurement to be used for economic, health, safety or administrative purposes, in exercise of powers conferred by that section and of all other powers enabling him in that behalf, hereby makes the following Regulations:—

1. These Regulations may be cited as the Units of Measurement Regulations 1985 and shall come into operation on 1st July 1985.

2. In the Units of Measurement Regulations 1978(c) the following provisions are hereby revoked —

- (a) Regulation 4(1); and
- (b) in Regulation 5, the word “products” in the second place where it occurs, the words “and instruments” and the words “paragraph (1) or”.

3. The Units of Measurement Regulations 1980(d) are hereby amended as follows:—

- (a) at the end of Regulation 5(a) there shall be inserted “, with the exception of the millimetre of mercury and its symbol”;
- (b) at the end of Regulation 9(1) there shall be inserted the words “or in the specified circumstances”;
- (c) in paragraph 1(1) of Schedule 1 —
 - (i) for the definition of the metre (being the SI base unit of length) there shall be substituted the following:—

“The metre is the length of the path travelled by light in vacuum during a time interval of 1/299 792 458 of a second.”;

(a) S.I. 1976/897.

(b) 1972 c. 68.

(c) S.I. 1978/484, amended by S.I. 1980/1742.

(d) S.I. 1980/1070, amended by S.I. 1980/1742.

- (ii) in the definition of the ampere (being the SI base unit of electric current) the word “a” shall be deleted before “vacuum”; and
- (iii) for the definition of the candela (being the SI base unit of luminous intensity) there shall be substituted the following:—

“Unit of luminous intensity

The candela is the luminous intensity, in a given direction, of a source that emits monochromatic radiation of frequency of 540×10^{12} hertz and that has a radiant intensity in that direction of 1/683 watt per steradian.”;

- (d) in paragraph 2(1) of Schedule 1 —

- (i) for the definition of the radian (being the supplementary SI unit of plane angle) there shall be substituted:—

“Unit of plane angle

The radian is the plane angle between two radii of a circle which cut off on the circumference an arc equal in length to the radius.”;

- (ii) for the definition of the steradian (being the supplementary SI unit of solid angle) there shall be substituted:—

“Unit of solid angle

The steradian is the solid angle which, having its vertex at the centre of a sphere, cuts off an area on the surface of the sphere equal to that of a square with sides of length equal to the radius of the sphere.”;

- (e) in paragraph 2(3) of Schedule 1 for the heading to column 5 in the list of derived SI units having special names and symbols there shall be substituted “In terms of SI base or supplementary units”;

- (f) after the last entry relating to Mass per unit length of textile yarns and threads in paragraph 5 of Schedule 1 there shall be added the following:—

Quantity	Unit		
	Name	Symbol	Value
“Blood pressure and pressure of other body fluids	millimetre of mercury	mmHg	1 mmHg = 133.322 Pa
Effective cross-sectional area	barn	b	1 b = 10^{-28} m ² ”

and

- (g) in Schedule 3 —

- (i) the entries relating to Effective cross-sectional area and Blood pressure shall be deleted; and
- (ii) in the first paragraph of the Notes the words “millimetre of mercury and its symbol and” shall be deleted.

4. In Schedule 1 to the Weights and Measures Act 1963(a) —

(a) In Part I, for the definition of “METRE” there shall be substituted the following:—

“METRE is the length of the path travelled by light in vacuum during a time interval of $1/299\,792\,458$ of a second”; and

(b) in Part VI, in the definition of “AMPERE” the word “a” shall be deleted before “vacuum”.

Lucas of Chilworth,
Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State,
Department of Trade and Industry.

16th May 1985.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations implement Council Directive 80/181/EEC (O.J. No. L39, 15.2.80, p.40) (“the principal Directive”) as corrected by the Corrigendum to the Directive (O.J. No. L296, 15.10.81, p.52) and as amended by Council Directive 85/1/EEC (O.J. No. L2, 3.1.85, p.11) in relation to units of measurement.

The millimetre of mercury is being retained as a unit authorised for use in the circumstances specified in Article 2 of the principal Directive for the measurement of blood pressure and other body fluids, and the barn is authorised for use as from 1st July 1985 in those circumstances to measure the effective cross-sectional area in specialised fields only eg on the occasion of nuclear reactions. Supplementary units of measurement to supplement authorised units of measurement may also be used in those circumstances.

The definition of the metre is up-dated, and certain minor corrections are made to other units of measurement.

Regulation 4(1), and certain words in Regulation 5, of the Units of Measurement Regulations 1978 are revoked. Regulation 10(1) of the Units of Measurement Regulations 1980 allows any units of measurement to be used for products and equipment (other than weighing or measuring equipment (including weights)) placed on the market or used before 1st December 1980.

(a) 1963 c. 31; the relevant amending instrument is S.I. 1980/1070.

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