STATUTORY INSTRUMENTS

1970 No. 350

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

The Weights and Measures (Marking of Goods and Abbreviations of Units) Regulations 1970

Made - - -	*6th March* 1970
Laid before Parliament	*16th March* 1970
Coming into Operation	*17th March* 1970

The Board of Trade, in pursuance of the powers conferred upon them by sections 14(1)(*f*) and 21(4) of the Weights and Measures Act 1963(**a**) (hereinafter referred to as "the Act"), and all other powers enabling them in that behalf, hereby make the following Regulations :—

PART I

1.—(1) These Regulations may be cited as the Weights and Measures (Marking of Goods and Abbreviations of Units) Regulations 1970 and shall come into operation on 17th March 1970.

(2) The Regulations mentioned in Schedule 3 to these Regulations are hereby revoked.

(3) The Interpretation Act 1889(**b**) shall apply to the interpretation of these Regulations as it applies to the interpretation of an Act of Parliament and as if these Regulations and the Regulations hereby revoked were Acts of Parliament.

PART II

Use for trade of abbreviation of units of measurement

2. This Part of these Regulations shall apply as respects the use for trade (other than for the purpose of marking weighing and measuring equipment) of symbols for, and abbreviations of, units of measurement.

3.—(1) Any symbol or abbreviation set out in Schedule 1 hereto, or that symbol or abbreviation with the letter "s" added thereto where it is thought appropriate to indicate the plural, may be used for trade to indicate the relevant unit of measurement so set out :

Provided that nothing in this paragraph shall permit the addition of the letter "s" in relation to any symbol for, or abbreviation of, any metric unit set out in column 2 of Part I of Schedule 1 hereto if the marking is applied after 31st December 1971.

(2) No symbol or abbreviation other than such a symbol or abbreviation as may be usable by virtue of paragraph (1) of this Regulation shall be used for trade to indicate any unit of measurement set out in the said Schedule.

(**a**) 1963 c. 31. (**b**) 1889 c. 63.

PART III

Marking of Containers

4. This Part of these Regulations shall apply as respects the manner of marking any container required by any provision of Schedule 4, 6, 7 or 8 of the Act to be marked with information as to the quantity of goods made up therein.

5.—(1) The marking shall include the number of the relevant units of measurement (which may be or include a vulgar or decimal fraction of a single unit) expressed in words or figures and a reference to that unit either by words or by means of any symbol or abbreviation which may lawfully be used pursuant to Part II of these Regulations.

(2) Any indication of quantity by gross weight shall include the word "gross" or the words "including container" or other words which indicate that the marked weight includes the weight of the container.

(3) No abbreviation of the word "net" or "gross" shall be employed in any marking.

(4) Fractions shall not be expressed in a manner in which the figures are likely to be read as referring to whole units.

Imperial and metric units

6.—(1) In the case of perfumes and toilet preparations other than soap, the marking may be by quantity in metric or imperial units or both.

(2) In the case of any goods other than goods to which paragraph (1) applies, the marking shall be by quantity in imperial units but may, in addition, include an indication of quantity in metric units.

(3) Where goods are marked with indications of quantity in both imperial and metric units, the indications shall be distinct but in close proximity to each other.

Position of Markings etc.

7.—(1) A marking shall be clear, legible and conspicuous.

(2) A marking shall be in a prominent position in which it can be read easily and shall not be obscured in any way whether by a stamp, sticker, outer wrapping or otherwise.

(3) In the case of any container other than—

(i) a food container, or

(ii) a container of any such toilet preparations as are described in paragraph 1(*c*) of Part V of Schedule 7 to the Act (preparations for external use other than perfumes, toilet waters, preparations for the hair and scalp and soap),

the marking shall not be solely on the base of the container if there is other wording on or visible through the container.

(4) A marking which is not upon the actual container or on a label securely attached thereto shall be so placed that it cannot be removed without opening the container.

8.—(1) Except in the case of a marking embossed in high or low relief—

(*a*) on a tablet of metal or other durable material attached to a coal sack or other open topped container of solid fuel ; or

(*b*) on any container which bears no other wording in any colour which contrasts with its background or which only bears wording in such a colour upon a stopper, lid or closure whose maximum dimension is not more than 2 inches,

markings shall be upon a plain background and in a colour which is in distinct and conspicuous contrast thereto.

(2) In relation to any marking upon any transparent material, the matter which is visible through the material in the immediate vicinity of the marking when the goods are made up in or on the container shall be treated, for the purposes of this Regulation, as the background of the marking.

Size of markings

9.—(1) This Regulation shall apply as respects the marking of containers other than food containers.

(2) The characters employed to mark the number of the relevant units of measurement upon any tablet attached to a coal sack or other open topped container of solid fuel shall be at least ½ inch in height and any other characters employed in the marking of such a sack or container shall all be at least 5/32 inch high.

(3) In the case of any other container to which this Regulation applies, all the characters employed in marking it shall be at least of the height specified in relation to a container of its size in the table set out in Schedule 2 hereto.

(4) For the purposes of this Regulation, all the symbols indicating a vulgar fraction shall be treated as a single character and the size of a container shall be treated as equal—

(*a*) in the case of a rectilinear or approximately rectilinear container to its height, length or width whichever is the greatest, and

(*b*) in the case of a container with a curvilinear or approximately curvilinear cross-section, its height or maximum diameter, whichever is the greater.

Restriction on units to be employed

10.—(1) No marking indicating any quantity in excess of 1 ounce shall be entirely in terms of imperial units of weight smaller than the ounce.

(2) No marking indicating any quantity—

(*a*) in excess of 48 ounces in the case of any goods to which paragraph 1(*c*)(ii) of Part VI of Schedule 7 to the Act applies (soap not in tablet, cake, bar or liquid form) and any such goods as are mentioned in paragraph 1(*c*) of Part IX of that Schedule (non-liquid detergents), or

(*b*) in excess of 16 ounces in the case of any other goods,

shall be entirely in terms of imperial units of weight smaller than the pound.

(3) No marking indicating any quantity in excess of 40 fluid ounces shall be entirely in terms of imperial units of capacity measurement smaller than the pint.

Gwyneth Dunwoody,
Parliamentary Secretary
to the Board of Trade.

6th March 1970.

SCHEDULE 1.

Permitted symbols for and abbreviations of units of measurement which may be used for trade

PART I

Metric Units

Unit of Measurement	Symbol of the Système Internationale d'Unités ("S I units")	Alternative abbreviations which may be employed
metre	m	—
decimetre	dm	—
centimetre	cm	—
millimetre	mm	—
cubic metre	m^3	—
cubic centimetre	cm^3	c.c. *or* cu.cm
litre	l	lit
decilitre	dl	—
centilitre	cl	—
millilitre	ml	—
kilogramme	kg	kilo *or* kilog *or* kilogram
hectogramme	hg	hectogram
gramme	g	grm *or* gram
milligramme	mg	milligram

PART II

Imperial Units

yard	yd
foot	ft
inch	in
cubic yard	cu. yd *or* cub. yd
cubic inch	cu. in *or* cub. in
gallon	gal *or* gall
quart	qt
pint	pt
fluid ounce	fl. oz
hundredweight	cwt
quarter	qr
pound	lb
ounce	oz
dram	dr
grain	gr

SCHEDULE 2

Size of container (as determined in accordance with Regulation 9)	Minimum size of characters to be employed in marking.
Not exceeding 2 inches	$\frac{1}{16}$ inch
Exceeding 2 inches but not exceeding 12 inches	$\frac{3}{32}$ inch
Exceeding 12 inches but not exceeding 18 inches	$\frac{5}{32}$ inch
Exceeding 18 inches but not exceeding 24 inches	$\frac{5}{16}$ inch
Exceeding 24 inches	$\frac{1}{2}$ inch

SCHEDULE 3

Regulations Revoked

The Weights and Measures (Abbreviations of Units of Measurement) Regulations 1964**(a)**.

The Weights and Measures (Marking) Regulations 1964**(b)**.

The Weights and Measures (Marking) (Amendment) Regulations 1965**(c)**.

The Weights and Measures (Marking) (Amendment) Regulations 1967**(d)**.

(a) S.I. 1964/1139 (1964 II, p. 2547).
(b) S.I. 1964/1140 (1964 II, p. 2549).
(c) S.I 1965/1544 (1965 II, p. 4507).
(d) S.I. 1967/840 (1967 II, p. 2506).

EXPLANATORY NOTE

(This Note is not part of the Regulations.)

These Regulations replace the Weights and Measures (Abbreviation of Units of Measurement) Regulations 1964 and the Weights and Measures (Marking) Regulations 1964, as amended.

Part II and Schedule 1 make provision as respects the abbreviations of certain units of measurement which may lawfully be used for trade.

Part III makes provision as respects the manner of marking of quantities on those containers of goods required to be marked by virtue of Schedule 4, 6, 7 or 8 of the Weights and Measures Act 1963. These Schedules require that most varieties of goods when made up ready for retail sale shall be marked with an indication of quantity.

The principal changes are :—

(*a*) that additional symbols for certain metric units are prescribed for use for trade ;

(*b*) that soap powders and detergent powders can be marked with an indication of quantity in ounces unless they are packed in a quantity exceeding 3 lb ; and

(*c*) that the addition of the letter 's' to indicate the plural is prohibited in the case of certain metric symbols after 31st December 1971.

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