

[Act No. 1519, August 03, 1906]

AN ACT TO PROVIDE FOR INSPECTING AND SEALING WEIGHTS AND MEASURES AND TO REGULATE THEIR USE.

By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Commission, that:

SECTION 1. The fundamental system of weights and measures throughout the Philippine Islands shall, subject to the qualifications hereinafter contained, be the system known as the metric system, with the following units:

- (a) The unit of length shall be the length at the temperature of zero degrees centigrade of the standard measure Numbered Seventy-one, now preserved in the Bureau of Science and certified to by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, or the length, at the temperature of zero degrees centigrade, of standard meter established by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, and now kept at Sevres, France. This length shall be known as the meter.
- (b) The unit of area shall be either the square meter, or an area of one hundred square meters known as the are.
- (c) The unit of cubical contents or capacity shall be either the cubic meter, or the one-thousandth part thereof known as the liter.
- (d) The unit of weight shall be the weight at Manila of one-millionth of a cubic meter of pure water at the temperature of four degrees centigrade, or the one-thousandth part of the standard kilogram certified to by the International Bureau of Weights and Measures, designated by the symbol "L" and now preserved in the Bureau of Science. The unit of weight shall be known as the gram.

SEC. 2. The use of these weights and measures, with all their decimal multiples and submultiples, together constituting the metric system, is hereby authorized.

SEC. 3. Until the first day of January, nineteen hundred and nine, the use of the following is authorized :

- (a) As a unit of weight, the Spanish avoirdupois ounce of twenty-eight and seventy-five hundredths grams.
- (b) As a unit of weight, the Spanish avoirdupois pound of six-teen ounces—that is, of four hundred and sixty grams.
- (c) As a unit of weight, the arroba of twenty-five Spanish avoir-dupois pounds—that is, of eleven thousand five hundred grams.
- (d) As a unit of weight, the quintal of one hundred Spanish avoirdupois pounds—that is, of forty-six thousand grams.
- (e) As a unit of weight, the picul (or pico) of one hundred and thirty-seven and one-half Spanish avoirdupois pounds—that is, of sixty-three thousand two hundred and fifty grams.
- (f) As a unit of weight, the International carat or *quilate* of two hundred and five milligrams.
- (g) Any scale or balance graduated in the above units.
- (h) As a unit of capacity, the cavan of seventy-five liters. It is the volume of a cube each side of which is four thousand two hundred and seventeen ten thousandths of a meter.

- (i) As a unit of capacity, the ganta of three liters. It is the volume of a cube each side of which is one thousand four hundred and forty-two ten thousandths of a meter.
- (j) As a unit of capacity, the chupa of three hundred and seventy-five thousandths of a liter. It is the volume of a cube each side of which is seven hundred and twenty-one ten thousandths of a meter.
- (k) As a unit of capacity, the apatan of nine thousand three hundred and seventy-five hundred thousandths of a liter. It is the volume of a cube each side of which is four thousand five hundred and forty-three hundred thousandths of a meter.
- (l) As a unit of capacity, the arroba of sixteen liters. It is the volume of a cube each side of which is two thousand five hundred and twenty-one ten thousandths of a meter.
- (m) As a unit of length, the Spanish inch of two hundred and thirty-two ten thousandths of a meter.
- (n) As a unit of length, the Spanish foot of twelve inches— that is, of two hundred and seventy-nine thousandths of a meter.
- (o) As a unit of length, the vara of three Spanish feet—that is, of eight hundred and thirty-six thousandths of a meter.
- (p) As a unit of length, the braza of two varas—that is, of one and six hundred and seventy-two thousandths meters.
- (q) As a unit of area, the square braza of two and seven hundred and ninety-five thousandths square meters.
- (r) As a unit of area, the loan of one hundred square brazas—that is, of two hundred and seventy-nine and five-tenths square meters.
- (s) As a unit of area, the balita of one thousand square brazas— that is, of two thousand seven hundred and ninety-five square meters.
- (t) As a unit of area, the quatacion of ten thousand square brazas—that is, of twenty-seven thousand nine hundred and fifty square meters.
- (u) As a unit of area the cavan of three thousand six hundred square brazas—that is, of ten thousand and sixty-two square meters.

SEC. 4. In all measurements involving the fixing of internal of value revenue on alcohol or its purchase and sale, the basis for calculating the value of said alcohol shall be its percentage purity by weight as determined by its specific gravity: *Provided, however,* That the Gay-Lussac alcoholometer, which is standardized at fifteen degrees centigrade and which reads in percentages of ethyl alcohol by the volume at fifteen degrees centigrade, may be used in determining the value of distilled spirits as defined in section seventy-one of Act Numbered Eleven hundred and eighty-nine: *And provided further.* That nothing in this Act contained shall be construed to repeal any of the provisions of Act Numbered Eleven hundred and eighty-nine.

SEC. 5. Until the first day of January, nineteen hundred and nine, the use is authorized of any scale or balance graduated in English avoirdupois pounds, together with the necessary set of weights therefor: *Provided,* That scale or balance can be shown to have been in use in the Philippine Islands before the date of the passage of this Act.

SEC. 6. The Secretary of the provincial Interior, at the request of the id in that province, may extend in that province, for not more than two years beyond January first, nineteen hundred and nine, the time during which any of the above-mentioned

scales or balances, weights and units of weights and measures shall be authorized, or may such province fix the value of any other weights or measures now in common local use, and authorize their use, until not later than two years after January first nineteen hundred and nine.

SEC. 7. The weights and measures herein authorized together with such simple multiples and sub-multiple thereof as are expressly designated and authorized as such, shall be the only legal weights and measures in the Philippine Islands. These, and no others, shall be officially sealed and licensed.

SEC. 8. The metric system shall be used in all official documents. No weights or measures except those of the metric system shall be employed in any contract, deed, or other document, publicly and officially attested: *Provided always*. That in ordering commodities or articles from other countries the standards of weights and measures commonly used in such countries in selling such commodities or articles may be employed.

SEC. 9. The Collector of Internal Revenue, with the approval of the Secretary of Finance and Justice, shall decide what dies, stamps, brands, stencils, tags, or other appliances shall be used for sealing and marking weights and measures and shall procure the same together with such apparatus for sealing weights and measures as are necessary for carrying out the purpose of this Act and shall distribute the same to inspectors and sealers of weights and measures as they may be required. Such primed forms and blank certificates as may be necessary shall be prepared, furnished, and distributed to inspectors and sealers of weights and measures by the Collector of Internal Revenue.

SEC. 10. The fundamental standard weights, measures, and instruments for determining specific gravity for the Philippine Islands shall be deposited in the Bureau of Science and shall be kept under the care and direction of the Director of the Bureau of Science. The Collector of Internal Revenue shall call upon the Director of the Bureau of Science for such comparisons of secondary standards with the fundamental ones as he may deem necessary, and such comparisons having been made in the Bureau of Science the secondary standards shall then be stamped with or otherwise designated by ' an appropriate mark or seal to be selected by the Director of the Bureau of Science, and shall be accompanied by a certificate setting forth the variation of these secondary standards from the fundamental ones. If in the judgment of the Director of the Bureau of Science such variation in any instance is of sufficient magnitude to warrant the condemnation of any such secondary standard, it shall be condemned and destroyed in the presence of the Director of the Bureau of Science or his authorized deputy. A full set of secondary standards shall be kept, subject to the use of the public, in the provincial building by each provincial treasurer.

SEC. 11. The Collector of Internal Revenue shall provide for the frequent testing of all balances, scales, weights, and measures used in the Government work or maintained for public use by any province or municipality, either causing them to be tested at the Bureau of Science or by such persons as shall be designated as inspectors of weights and measures by the Governor-General or as shall, after due authorization by the Philippine Commission, be appointed inspectors of weights and measures. He shall also be responsible for the inspection and calibration of all provincial and municipal standards of weight and measure.

SEC. 12. The Purchasing Agent shall keep in stock a reasonable number of such weights and measures as the Director of the Bureau of Science shall decide are best adapted to serve as provincial and municipal standards, and shall sell such standards to provinces and municipalities at cost plus ten per centum.

SEC. 13. It shall be the duty of the inspectors of weights and measures to inspect and test balances or scales, weights and measures, and to report upon the condition thereof in the districts assigned to them and according to instructions given them by the Collector of Internal Revenue, and it shall be their duty to collect evidence of any infringement of this Act or of fraud in the use of weights and measures or of neglect of duty on the part of any officer engaged in sealing weights and measures, and to present such evidence at once to the Collector of Internal Revenue and also to the proper prosecuting officers.

SEC. 14. The sealing and licensing of weights and measures shall be the duty of the provincial treasurers and their deputies and of the inspector of weights and measures of the city of Manila and his deputies, in their respective territories, under rules and regulations prescribed by the Collector of Internal Revenue with the approval of the Secretary of Finance and Justice. For the purposes of this Act these officers shall be termed "sealers of weights and measures."

SEC. 15. Sealers of weights and measures shall be prepared to seal and license without undue delay any scale or balance, weight or measure which fulfills the requirements of the law, and they shall furthermore appoint and publish the period during which they will be present in each of the municipalities or districts within their territory, prepared to seal and license scales or balances, weights and measures. Such period shall be sufficiently long to enable the duty to be performed without undue interference with the business of the municipality.

SEC. 16. Whenever the Collector of Internal Revenue learns that the weights and measures in any place are not promptly and satisfactorily sealed, or that any abuses connected with the sealing of weights and measures exist, he shall notify the treasurer of the province in which these conditions exist, or the inspector of weights and measures of the city of Manila, as the case may be, and he shall report such notification and the causes thereof to the Executive Secretary.

SEC. 17. All correct scales or balances, weights and measures authorized by this Act, and of such manufacture and in such condition that they furnish as little opportunity as possible for the commission of fraud, and satisfying all other requirements prescribed and published by the Collector of Internal Revenue, shall be sealed upon presentation to the authorized sealer of weights and measures and upon the payment of the proper charges.

SEC. 18. Charges for sealing weights and measures shall be made according to the following schedule:

- (a) For a linear measures: Not over one and one half meters, ten centavos; over one and one half meters, twenty centavos: *Provided*: that for a linear measure not in the metric system the charge shall be doubled.