

No. 8165

**AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, CUBA,
CZECHOSLOVAKIA, DENMARK, etc.**

**Convention establishing an International Organisation of
Legal Metrology. Opened for signature at Paris, on
12 October 1955**

Official text : French.

Registered by France on 22 March 1966.

**AUTRICHE, BELGIQUE, CUBA,
TCHÉCOSLOVAQUIE, DANEMARK, etc.**

**Convention instituant une Organisation internationale de
métrologie légale. Ouverte à la signature à Paris, le
12 octobre 1955**

Texte officiel français.

Enregistrée par la France le 22 mars 1966.

[TRANSLATION¹ — TRADUCTION²]

No. 8165. CONVENTION³ ESTABLISHING AN INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATION OF LEGAL METROLOGY.
OPENED FOR SIGNATURE AT PARIS, ON 12 OCTOBER 1955

The States, parties to the present Convention, wishing to resolve internationally the technical and administrative problems raised by the use of measuring instruments and aware of the importance of co-ordinating their efforts in order to achieve this, have agreed to set up an International Organisation of Legal Metrology defined as follows :

¹ Official translation made by the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

² Traduction officielle du Gouvernement du Royaume-Uni de Grande-Bretagne et d'Irlande du Nord.

³ In accordance with article XXXIV, the Convention came into force on 28 May 1958, thirty days after the deposit of the sixteenth instrument of ratification or accession, in respect of the States listed below, on whose behalf instruments of ratification or accession (a) were deposited with the French Government on the dates indicated :

Bulgaria	4 June 1956 (a)	Union of Soviet Socialist Republics	18 December 1956
Austria	27 June 1956	Denmark	11 February 1957
Monaco	9 August 1956	Yugoslavia	7 May 1957
Hungary	19 September 1956	Spain	14 May 1957
Switzerland	9 October 1956	Poland	16 July 1957
Romania	17 October 1956	France	23 April 1958
Czechoslovakia	27 October 1956	Finland	28 April 1958
India	27 October 1956	Norway	28 April 1958

Thereafter the Convention came into force as regards each of the following States thirty days after the date of deposit of their respective instruments of ratification or accession (a), that is to say :

State	Date of deposit	Date of entry into force
Netherlands	12 June 1958	12 July 1958
Sweden	11 July 1958	10 August 1958
Morocco	16 September 1958 (a)	16 October 1958
Italy	28 October 1958 (a)	27 November 1958
New Zealand*	20 January 1959 (a)	19 February 1959
Australia	18 August 1959 (a)	17 September 1959
Iran	30 September 1959	30 October 1959
Belgium	10 November 1959	10 December 1959
Federal Republic of Germany	8 December 1959	7 January 1960
Guinea	5 March 1960 (a)	4 April 1960
Venezuela	25 July 1960 (a)	24 August 1960
Indonesia	30 September 1960 (a)	30 October 1960
Japan	16 May 1961 (a)	15 June 1961
United Arab Republic	28 July 1961 (a)	27 August 1961
Pakistan	2 February 1962 (a)	4 March 1962
Turkey	22 March 1962 (a)	21 April 1962
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	11 May 1962 (a)	10 June 1962
Cuba	30 October 1962	29 November 1962
Lebanon	6 November 1962 (a)	6 December 1962

* As corresponding member.

CHAPTER I

PURPOSE OF THE ORGANISATION

Article I

An International Organisation of Legal Metrology is hereby established. The purpose of this Organisation is :

1. to set up a documentation and information centre :
 - on the one hand, on the different national departments concerned with the inspection and checking of measuring instruments subject or liable to be subject to legal regulation,
 - on the other hand, on the aforesaid measuring instruments considered from the point of view of their conception, construction and use;
2. to translate and to edit the texts of legal requirements for measuring instruments and their use in force in the different States, with all the interpretations stemming from the constitutional and administrative law of these States which are necessary to the complete understanding of these requirements;
3. to determine the general principles of legal metrology;
4. to study, with a view to unification of methods and regulations, the problems of legal metrology, of a legislative and regulatory character, the solution of which is of international interest;
5. to establish model draft laws and regulations for measuring instruments and their use;
6. to draw up a practical organisational draft plan for a model service for the inspection and checking of measuring instruments;
7. to determine necessary and adequate characteristics and standards to which measuring instruments must conform in order for them to be approved by Member States and for their use to be recommended internationally;
8. to promote closer relations between the departments of Weights and Measures or other departments responsible for legal metrology in each of the Member States of the Organisation.

CHAPTER II

CONSTITUTION OF THE ORGANISATION

Article II

The States parties to the present Convention shall be Members of the Organisation.

Article III

The Organisation shall comprise :

- an International Conference on Legal Metrology,
- an International Committee of Legal Metrology,
- an International Bureau of Legal Metrology,

which are dealt with below.

INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE ON LEGAL METROLOGY

Article IV

The purpose of the Conference shall be :

1. to study questions concerning the aims of the Organisation and to take all decisions with respect to them;
2. to secure the establishment of the directing bodies whose task it is to carry out the work of the Organisation as well as to elect the members of the Committee or to approve their co-optation;
3. to study and approve reports made on the conclusion of their work by the various legal metrological bodies set up in conformity with the present Convention.

All questions which concern the legislation and administration of a particular State shall be excluded from the competence of the Conference, except at the express request of that State.

Article V

The States parties to the present Convention shall belong to the Conference as members, shall be represented thereat as laid down in Article VII and shall be subject to the obligations defined by this Convention.

Apart from members, the following may take part in the Conference as corresponding members :

1. States, or territories which cannot or do not yet wish to become parties to the convention;
2. International Unions pursuing an activity connected with that of the Organisation.

Corresponding members may not be represented at the Conference but may appoint observers to it in a purely consultative capacity. They shall not pay subscriptions as Members States, but they shall bear the cost of providing such services as they may request and the cost of subscriptions to publications of the Organisation,

Article VI

Member States undertake to provide the Conference with all documentation in their possession which, in their opinion, will enable the Organisation to carry out the tasks entrusted to it.

Article VII

Member States shall delegate a maximum of three official representatives to meetings of the Conference. As far as possible one of them shall be a serving official in his country, in the Weights and Measures or other department dealing with legal metrology.

Only one of them may vote.

These delegates need not be in possession of " Full Powers " except at the request of the Committee in exceptional cases and for matters clearly defined.

Each State shall bear the costs arising out of its representation at the Conference.

Members of the Committee not appointed by their Governments shall have the right to take part in meetings as advisers.

Article VIII

The Conference shall decide on recommendations to be made for common action by Member States in the fields designated in Article I.

Decisions of the Conference may only become effective if the number of Member States present be at least two-thirds of the total number of Member States and if they shall have received a minimum of four-fifths of the votes cast. The number of votes cast shall be at least four-fifths of the number of Member States present.

Abstentions and blank or null votes shall not be considered as votes cast.

Decisions shall immediately be communicated for information, consideration and recommendation to the Member States.

The latter shall be morally obliged to implement these decisions as far as possible.

However, for all votes concerning the organisation, management, administration, and rules of procedure of the Conference, the Committee and the Bureau and all analogous matters, an absolute majority shall suffice to give immediate effect to the decision in question, the minimum number of members present and of votes cast having equal effect. The vote of the Member State whose delegate is in the chair shall be decisive in the event of an equal division of votes.