

OIML MEETING

OIML TC 17/SC 1 “Humidity”

Berlin, 22 June 2001

BIML

Over the past two years, preparatory activity under the leadership of the TC 17/SC 1 Secretariat (China) included conducting inquiries and sending out questionnaires on the revisions of OIML R 59, R 92 and R 121, and also on the scope of future activities.

The first Subcommittee meeting was convened and hosted by the PTB (Berlin) on behalf of the Chinese Secretariat on 22 June 2001; the discussion topic was the scheduled revision of R 59 *Moisture meters for cereal grain and oilseeds*, as the priority project of OIML TC 17/SC 1.

Ten delegates from six P-Members (China, France, Germany, Poland, UK and the USA), one O-Member (Japan) and the BIML attended the meeting, chaired by Dr. G. Scholz (PTB).

Early in the meeting and following brief discussions, the participants agreed that OIML R 59 required substantial revision to reflect new measuring technologies and aspects of actual grain analysis. This was in line with written comments which had been received prior to the meeting, therefore it was decided to hold a general discussion about the aims and scope of this Recommendation as well as about specific topics such as error limits, calibrations and others. Agreement was reached on the following points:

- Because grain moisture measurements are made for different purposes, it must be clearly stated that this Recommendation applies to measurements in the sphere of legal metrology only, i.e. for commercial transactions.
- The Recommendation shall specify that measurements for commercial transactions may only be applied to static samples, i.e. not to continuous flows of grain.
- The differentiation between categories A and B shall be eliminated, since this distinction does not improve the Recommendation from a legal metrology point of view.
- The accuracy class II will be canceled. The error limits of class I will be interpreted in a statistical way, because these errors are not systematic but are of a statistical nature.
- The participants agreed that when considering moisture meters, a distinction shall be made between the meter itself as a physical instrument and the calibrations for different kinds of grain as mathematical models realized in the form of software (or scales or tables for older types of instruments).
- The Recommendation shall be limited to indirect measuring instruments based on physical methods. It will not be applied to drying methods. The question was left open as to whether drying methods based on infrared or microwave drying should be taken into account.
- The Recommendation shall:
 - define a minimum sample mass;
 - establish rules and fix minimum numbers of samples for the validation of calibrations; and
 - provide an interpretation of uncertainty of moisture measurement.
- An “initial verification” does not make sense because of the peculiarities of grain moisture measurement, therefore it shall be deleted.
- The BIML is requested to contact ISO (TC 34/SC 4) and ICC in order to establish liaisons, for cooperation and exchange of information.
- The Recommendation will refer to the importance of the problem of sampling, but will not cover it.
- Reference methods will not be covered by the Recommendation.
- A new version of the Recommendation will be drafted by a Working Group comprising experts from China, France, Germany, Poland and the USA.
- The USA (NIST) will prepare a new version of the first draft revision of R 59.