

AFRICAN REGIONAL WORKSHOP

Checking the net content in prepackages

Tunis, Tunisia

29 October – 2 November 2001

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A Workshop entitled *Checking the net content in prepackages* was held in Tunis from 29 October to 2 November 2001, jointly organized by the Tunisian Ministry of Commerce - Sous-Direction de la Métrologie Légale - and the PTB.

The main objectives of this Workshop were:

- To allow certain African French-speaking countries to benefit from similar workshops organized by the German Academy of Metrology (DAM - Munich) and dealing with legal metrology activities;
- To promote legal metrology in developing countries as a strategy of the OIML Development Council;
- To familiarize inspectors of national legal metrology services with regulations, measuring principles, statistical methods and test procedures regarding prepackages (OIML and Tunisian requirements for net content and labeling of prepackages).

Lectures on measurement principles, measurement and statistical methods, types of measuring instruments to be used, international requirements and Tunisian regulations, as well as practical work at the verification office and on site provided an excellent opportunity for participants to become acquainted with most of the metrological aspects of prepackage controls.

The teaching staff was composed of specialists from the Ministry of Commerce who were ready to discuss problems the participants may face in their respective countries. Manufacturers of NAWIs also presented their software for prepackage controls.

Twenty participants were selected from Benin, Burkina Faso, Republic of Djibouti, Morocco, Algeria and Tunisia, all these countries already having legal requirements for prepackages or starting work in this field. The participants felt that the knowledge gained at the Workshop would be useful for upgrading the quantity and the quality of prepackage controls in their respective countries. ■

Workshop program

Official welcome
Presentation of the Workshop concept
Introduction of participants and lecturers

Legal metrology in Tunisia

Motives of introduction of regulations regarding prepackages; Prepackages as part of the legal system; Infrastructure of legal metrology in Tunisia; Enforcement bases (checks, fees, punishment of offences).

Basic statistics

Statistical distributions; Mean value; Standard deviation; Confidence interval; Basic requirements for statistical tests.

Prepackages

Bases, definitions; Legal bases in Tunisia; OIML Recommendations.

Labeling of prepackages

Net contents, price basis, information by the manufacturer; Difference between Tunisian regulations and OIML Recommendations.

Requirements for net contents

Length, number of pieces, mass, volume, varying nominal quantity.

Test methods, sampling schemes

Operating characteristics, single sampling scheme / double sampling scheme.

Prepackage control by public authorities, checking of prepackages in trade

With the importer; With the manufacturer (commodities are taken from stock or production).

Measuring containers / test by templates (German requirements)

Determination of density

By using displacement method for liquids, metal and glass pycnometers, densimeters; Determination of density of aerosols.

Periodic controls by manufacturer

Obligation to keep records; Suitable measuring instruments.

Presentation of weighing instruments and software for prepackage controls with practical lectures

Prepackage control with a manufacturer (noodles)

Taking commodities from production; Checking records.

OIML

Introduction to the tasks of the OIML, relevant OIML Recommendations, Documents, Members.

Tasks and activities of the OIML Development Council

Evaluation and official farewell