

## OIML TC 8/SC 5 Meeting

### Water Meters

Brussels, 9 October 2001

JIM WILLIAMSON, TC 8/SC 5 Secretary

A meeting of OIML TC 8/SC 5 *Water meters* was hosted by Mr. R. Eggermont at the Metrology Department, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Brussels on 9 October 2001. The meeting, which was chaired by Dr Michael Reader-Harris, was attended by 27 delegates, representing 11 countries.

### Progress on R 49: *Water meters intended for the metering of cold potable water*

#### Part 1: *Metrological and technical requirements*

Since the previous meeting of the Subcommittee in November 2000, an addendum listing the current editions of IEC standards referenced in R 49-1 had been prepared by WG3 under the convenorship of Mr. J. Goulding, and subsequently issued by the BIML to warn members of forthcoming changes to R 49-1.

Since then, WG3 had also prepared an amendment to R 49-1 Annex A, introducing updated requirements for performance tests of water meters with electronic devices, based on the current issues of IEC standards. The amendment was subjected to a postal vote by SC 5 and had received almost unanimous support; at the meeting some corrections were applied to it. The Secretary is to send the amendment to the BIML as soon as possible and the BIML will decide whether to issue the new Annex A as a separate amendment or have it incorporated into a new edition of R 49-1.

#### Part 2: *Test methods*

After the SC 5 meeting in November 2000, an SC 5 vote was initiated to decide whether R 49-2 should be submitted for voting by the CIML in September 2001 or delayed for one year until the amendment to R 49-1 was agreed on.

In parallel with this vote, an SC 5 P-member vote on the R 49-2 committee draft showed that a majority was

in support of the document, which was forwarded to the BIML and sent to CIML Members for postal vote. The CIML voted by a majority to accept it and comments were received from six Member States - these were taken into account in a revised draft of R 49-2, presented to the CIML for voting at its 36<sup>th</sup> Meeting. The draft was approved by a majority of the CIML Members, who had also been informed by the Bureau that the requirements for performance tests for meters with electronic devices would be subsequently updated to bring them into line with the proposed amendment to R 49-1.

As the draft of R 49-2 has now been approved by the CIML, SC 5 has nominated a small ad-hoc group to edit R 49-2 to incorporate the changes resulting from the amendment to R 49-1. Following this, the draft is to be sent to SC 5 for postal vote and comments. If the draft is accepted by the Subcommittee, it will be forwarded to the BIML for final editing and publication.

The following time scale was agreed on:

- Mr. Williamson would modify R 49-2, introducing the changes resulting from the amendment to R 49-1, together with the corrections agreed at this meeting and send it to the other members of the ad-hoc group, Mr. Goulding and Dr. Mencke, by 22 January 2002, for comment.
- After further consultation with the ad hoc group if required, the Secretary would send a finalized draft to OIML TC 8/SC 5 for postal vote and comment by 22 February 2002. The closing date for voting would be 22 May 2002. If the vote is affirmative, the Secretary would forward the draft R 49-2 to the BIML for publication.

#### Part 3: *Test report format*

It was agreed that this document requires further work to bring it into line with Parts 1 and 2. However, it was recognized that R 49-3 cannot be finalized before the texts of Parts 1 and 2 are complete. The Secretary was asked to update the existing CD as far as possible, in parallel with the changes to Parts 1 and 2, working to the following timescale:

- The new committee draft to be sent to the ad hoc group by 22 April 2002 for comment.
- Following this the CD would be sent to TC 8/SC 5 by 5 July 2002 for voting, with a closing date for voting of 5 September 2002.
- The draft, with any further editing that may be required, would then be sent to the BIML for a CIML postal vote and thereafter for publication if accepted.

### Future work of the Subcommittee

The opinion of the members was sought regarding the need to update R 72 *Hot water meters* and on requirements for cold water combination meters (for which there are no existing OIML prescriptions).

Initially a poll was taken of the delegates to find out which of the countries already had national legislation on hot water meters, with the following results:

- Countries with existing legislation on hot water meters: Austria, Belgium, Brazil, China, Denmark, France, Germany, Japan, Netherlands;
- Countries with no legislation on hot water meters: UK, USA.

Under OIML rules, a postal vote of P-members will be initiated to find out if there is an interest in updating R 72. The vote will be drafted as a multiple questionnaire with the following options:

- Withdraw R 72;
- Leave R 72 unchanged;
- Revise and update R 72 as an independent Recommendation;
- Update and integrate the requirements for hot water meters with R 49;
- Other options.

A similar vote will be taken to ascertain whether there is a need for prescriptions for combination meters.

*Note:* If the Subcommittee requires new work to be carried out on hot water meters and combination meters then it is likely that there will be a need to produce an initial draft (a working document) and for a Working Group to take on the task. Member States were asked to give some advance consideration to the possibility of its delegates participating in this work, should the need arise.

### Secretary of SC 5

Dr. Alan Paton (Flow Centre, NEL, UK) was introduced as the Secretary designate of OIML TC 8/SC 5, due to the retirement of Mr. Williamson in December 2002. However, Mr. Williamson will continue with his secretarial duties in a transitional period during the coming year, in order to complete the work required on R 49-1, -2 and -3.

### Next meeting of OIML TC 8/SC 5

As the outcome of the vote on R 72 *Hot water meters* and work on combination meters will influence the main future workload of the Subcommittee it was decided not to set a meeting date until that outcome is known. The Secretariat will correspond with members regarding a date and venue for the next meeting. Member States in a position to offer a venue are invited to contact the Secretary. ■

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