



Note to CIML Members

Subject: Secretariat of OIML TC 12 "Instruments for measuring electrical quantities"

Dear Colleagues,

The Secretariat of OIML TC 12 "Instruments for measuring electrical quantities" is currently vacant. Until now, SP (Sweden) has chaired a WG on electricity meters in the absence of an SC Secretariat, but has indicated that it is unable to continue with this work.

TC 12 has the responsibility for revising OIML R 46 "Active electrical energy meters for direct connection", a category of instruments which is regulated in most countries. There are millions of electricity meters in every country and relatively large sums of money are involved based on the readings these instruments give. This OIML work is therefore of utmost importance.

The situation concerning this revision is rather complex and progress is currently at a standstill for the following reasons:

- 1) The IEC has two standards on electricity meters, one for induction meters and the other for static (electronic) meters. There are major discrepancies between these two standards, which in addition do not define general required performances (they mainly define test points and required results, though without sufficient consistency).
- 2) The European MID Directive has established "essential requirements" (performance requirements) for which the IEC standards are not appropriate. CENELEC has received a mandate to develop a regional "harmonized standard" complying with the MID, but which will not be compatible with present IEC standards. This would in practice create barriers to trade.
- 3) OIML R 46 is based on the IEC standard on induction electricity meters. It therefore needs to be revised in order to render it applicable to all technologies, and, as it is the policy of the OIML and of all standardization bodies, it should be based on performance requirements.

In the revision work, Members of TC 12 are split into two opposite groups:

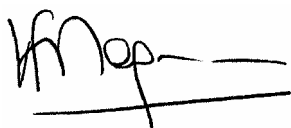
- countries that have to follow the MID and that cannot accept that the revision of R 46 will be aligned on IEC Standards, and
- countries that do not accept that the revision of R 46 deviates from the IEC standards.

Any move in either direction which could result in acceptance by some participants, also consequently results in rejection by other participants.

The challenge for us is to find, jointly with the IEC, an acceptable way to solve the problems explained above and to avoid regions deviating from the revised OIML and IEC publications.

We strongly request you to consider whether your country could assume responsibility for the Secretariat of this very important Technical Committee and to inform the Bureau accordingly.

The Bureau will assist the new Secretariat in contacts and discussions with the IEC in order to establish a joint position of the two Organizations concerning electricity meters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'J.F. Magana', with a horizontal line underneath it.

J.F. Magana
BIML Director