

INTERNATIONAL
RECOMMENDATION

OIML R 42

Edition 1981 (E)

Metal stamps for verification officers

Poinçons de métal pour agents de vérification



Foreword

The International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) is a worldwide, intergovernmental organization whose primary aim is to harmonize the regulations and metrological controls applied by the national metrological services, or related organizations, of its Member States.

The two main categories of OIML publications are:

- **International Recommendations (OIML R)**, which are model regulations that establish the metrological characteristics required of certain measuring instruments and which specify methods and equipment for checking their conformity ; the OIML Member States shall implement these Recommendations to the greatest possible extent;
- **International Documents (OIML D)**, which are informative in nature and intended to improve the work of the metrological services.

OIML Draft Recommendations and Documents are developed by technical committees or subcommittees which are formed by the Member States. Certain international and regional institutions also participate on a consultation basis.

Cooperative agreements are established between OIML and certain institutions, such as ISO and IEC, with the objective of avoiding contradictory requirements; consequently, manufacturers and users of measuring instruments, test laboratories, etc. may apply simultaneously OIML publications and those of other institutions.

International Recommendations and International Documents are published in French (F) and English (E) and are subject to periodic revision.

This publication – reference OIML R 42 (E), edition 1981 – which is under the responsibility of OIML TC 3 *Metrological control*, was sanctioned by the International Conference of Legal Metrology in 1976.

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METAL STAMPS for VERIFICATION OFFICERS

1. Field of application.

1.1. This Recommendation applies to metal stamps used by verification officers, for applying on measuring instruments, and where appropriate on auxiliary devices a mark for the following purposes :

- to indicate that the instrument possesses the metrological characteristics required by regulations in force,
- to prevent, in certain cases, access to setting and adjustment devices on measuring instruments,
- to prevent, in certain cases, by means of sealing the use of defective or incorrectly adjusted measuring instruments, the use of which could be prejudicial to one or more of the contracting parties concerned,
- to cancel an existing mark.

Note : The principal methods used for applying the marks concerned, are :

- a) cold marking by means of stamps,
- b) cold marking by means of pliers,
- c) hot marking on plastics by application of pressure,
- d) marking on wood with a red-hot stamp.

1.2. The provisions of this Recommendation apply to all new metal stamps, acquired either to replace those currently in use, or as additional stamps.

1.3. The verification officer is personally responsible for the use of the stamps and for their retention in a safe place ; he is also responsible for exact, clear and legible stamping of measuring instruments.

1.4. Official stamps (see point 3.1.) must not be given to persons other than a representative of the Office concerned, for either retention or use.

2. Materials.

2.1. Stamps must be made of a steel of suitable quality, or any other metal possessing equivalent properties. If required because of their use, the steel stamps must receive the appropriate heat treatment.

Note : A suitable steel for the manufacture of stamps is a high carbon steel (0.8 % carbon for example).

3. Description of stamps.

3.1. Official stamps

The imprint of an official stamp must indicate :

- a) the number assigned by the National Service of Legal Metrology to the Verification Officer or Verification Office, responsible for the retention and use of the stamp,
- b) the Government Authority, or the name or symbol of the country, in a suitable form.

3.2. Year stamps ^(*)

Year stamps must be used, in conformity with national metrological legislation, to identify :
— either the year during which the verification was carried out,
— or the year during which the next periodic verification is required.

Year stamps should, preferably, carry the last two digits of the year (e.g. 69 representing the year 1969).

3.3. Stamps indicating the part of the year

These stamps indicate the part of the year, for example quarter, two months, etc., in accordance with national metrological legislation.

Note : Parts of the year may be indicated either by letters, or by Roman or Arabic numerals. For example, quarters may be indicated by the following letters or numbers :

A or I	or 1 :	January, February, March
B or II	or 2 :	April, May, June
C or III	or 3 :	July, August, September
D or IV	or 4 :	October, November and December.

3.4. A stamp may carry one or more of the indications described in points 3.1., 3.2. and 3.3.

3.5. Obliteration stamps

Obliteration stamps must carry a special symbol, for example a cross or star, which cannot be confused with the imprint of any other stamp.

They must provide effective obliteration of any imprint made with stamps as covered in points 3.1., 3.2. or 3.3.

Note : When applied, the obliteration stamp must not fully obliterate the verification mark. It must simply indicate that the old mark is no longer valid.

4. Form.

4.1. Metal stamps must be, by their shape and size, easy to use.

(*) BIML note : In the Vocabulary of Legal Metrology, 1978 edition, the term « year mark » is defined as a sign indicating the year during which the verification was made.

5. Surface condition.

5.1. The surface of the stamp carrying the imprint, except for the lines of the imprint itself, must have a smooth finish without scratches, cavities or hollows visible to the naked eye. The surface must appear free from blemishes, and porosity.

5.2. All contours, edges and corners of the stamp must be rounded and polished.

6. Boxes.

6.1. Metal stamps allocated to a Verification Officer or Verification Office must be housed appropriately,

either in dust-proof boxes made of wood,

or in bags made from a suitable material, such as leather, plastics, cloth, etc.

If the stamps are housed in a wooden box, the box must be lined with velvet, chamois leather, soft plastics (polyethylene), or any other suitable material.

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