



The National Conference on Weights and Measures: Metric in the Marketplace

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What is the NCWM?

- ♣ **The NCWM is a standards-development organization for the weights and measures regulatory agencies of U.S. states, counties and cities as well as Federal agencies.**



What is the NCWM?

- ♣ **The NCWM also works with foreign national and international groups to foster uniformity in weights and measures requirements and to facilitate trade.**



The purpose of the NCWM

- ♣ **To bring together government officials and representatives of business, industry, trade associations and consumer organizations to hear and discuss subjects that relate to the weights and measures field.**



The purpose of the NCWM

- ♣ **To develop and recommend laws and regulations, technical codes for weights and measures devices used in commerce, test methods, enforcement procedures and administrative guidelines.**

NCWM Publications



**Handbooks = model standards,
laws, and regulations developed for
adoption by State and Local
jurisdictions and Federal Agencies**



Most States adopt NCWM Recommendations

- ♣ **41 States automatically adopt NIST Handbook 44**
- ♣ **All 50 states adopt some version of Handbook 44**
- ♣ **46 States have adopted variations or sections of NIST Handbook 130, in particular, “The Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation”**



NCWM Efforts for Metric Use

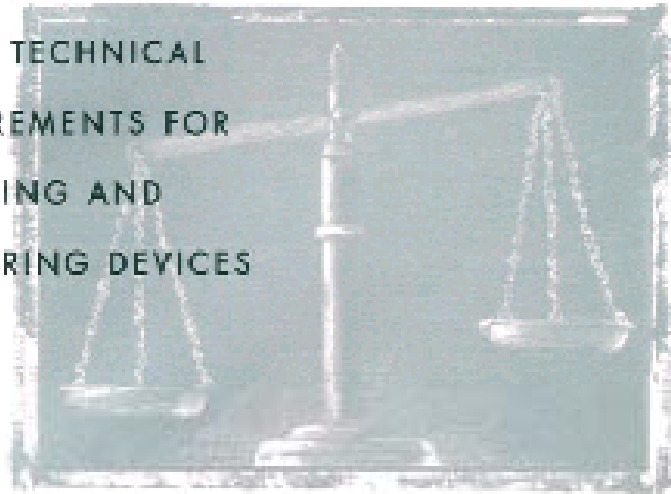
- ♣ **Revised all Handbooks to eliminate barriers to the use of the metric system in the marketplace.**
- ♣ **Revised requirements to address packers and retailers concerns over pricing, package sizes, and labeling requirements.**



NIST

United States
Department of
Commerce
Technology
Administration
National
Institute of
Standards and
Technology

SPECIFICATIONS,
TOLERANCES, AND
OTHER TECHNICAL
REQUIREMENTS FOR
WEIGHING AND
MEASURING DEVICES



as adopted by the 86th
National Conference on
Weights and Measures, 2007



NIST
Handbook **44**

2009



NCWM Publications

- ♣ **NIST Handbook 44 “Specifications, Tolerances and Other Technical Requirements for Weighing and Measuring Devices”**



NIST Handbook 44

- ♣ **Allows retailers to use either metric or inch-pound units (e.g., grams kilograms or pounds or ounces)**



NIST Handbook 44

- ♣ **Price per unit of weight:**

- ♣ **Allows scales to compute total price using price-per-kilogram or price-per-100 grams.**

- ♣ **If the product is \$7.69 per-pound then:**

- ♣ **Per kg = \$16.95**

- ♣ **Per 100 grams = \$1.69**



NIST

United States
Department of
Commerce
Technology
Administration
National
Institute of
Standards and
Technology

UNIFORM LAWS AND REGULATIONS

in the areas of legal
metrology and engine
fuel quality



as adopted by the 89th
National Conference on
Weights and Measures 2007



NIST
Handbook **130**

2007



NCWM Publications

- ♣ **NIST Handbook 130 Uniform Laws and Regulations**
- ♣ **Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation**
- ♣ **Uniform Regulation for the Method of Sale of Commodities**
- ♣ **Uniform Unit Pricing Regulation**



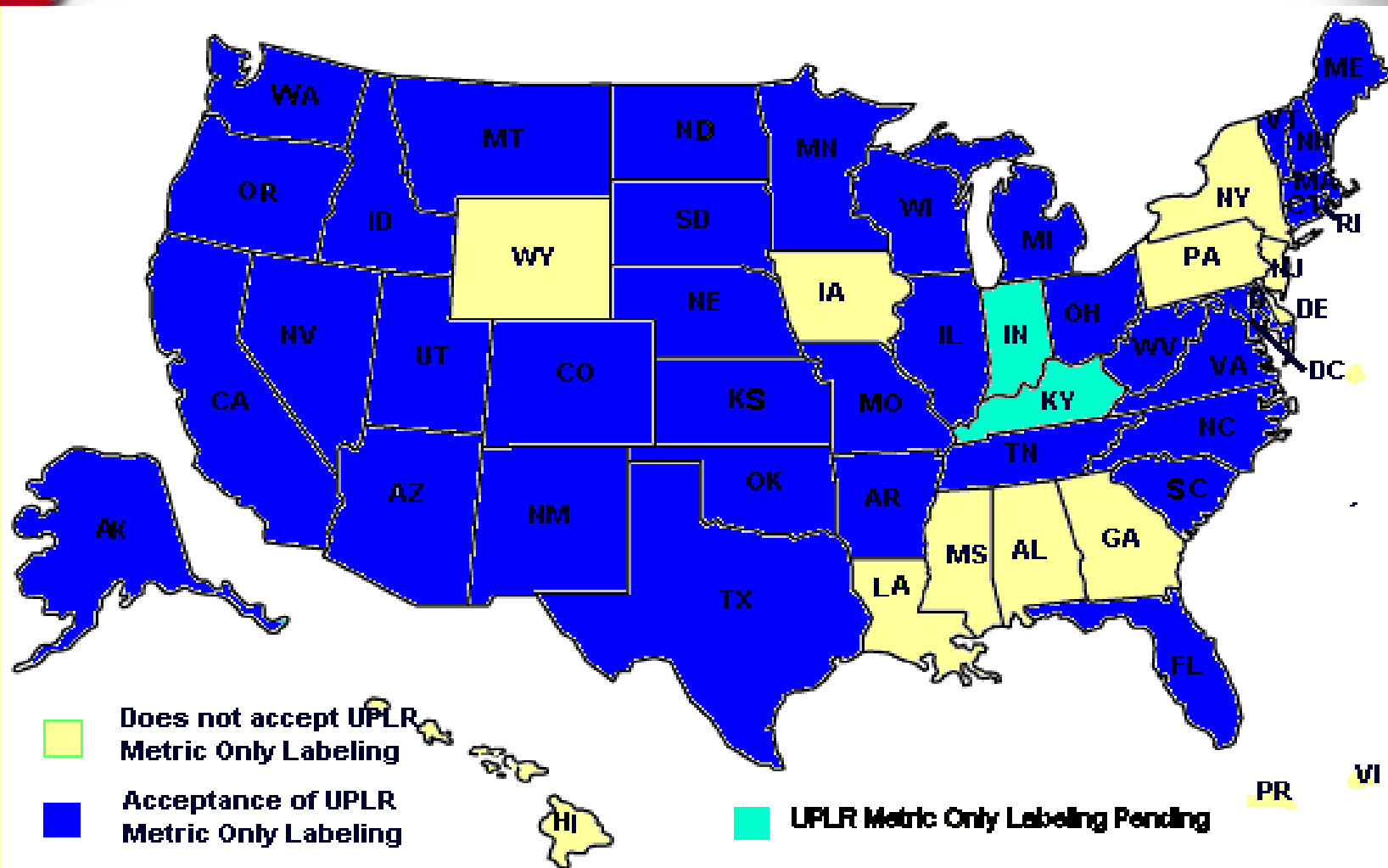
NIST Handbook 130 “Uniform Laws and Regulations....”

♣ Packaging and Labeling Regulation

- ♣ Consistent with federal regulations on labeling requirements (e.g., type size, contrast, placement, and symbols).**
- ♣ Requires metric and inch- pound units on consumer packages under both state/federal jurisdiction.**
- ♣ Since 1999, consumer packages under state jurisdiction may be labeled with only metric units (showing inch-pound units is optional).**



States that allow Metric Only Labeling





Method of Sale of Commodities Regulation

- ♣ **Requires that products be sold by weight or measure using either metric or inch-pound units.**
- ♣ **Since 1994, standardized package sizes have been eliminated for: bread, milk, flour, corn meal, hominy grits, butter, yogurt, margarine and other spreads, cottage cheese, and sour cream.**





Uniform Unit Pricing Regulation

The declaration of unit price of a commodity shall be uniformly and consistently expressed as a price per unit of measure.

- Weight: kg or 100 g, pound or ounce**
- Fluid: liter or 100 mL or gallon, quart, pint or fluid ounce**





Uniform Unit Pricing Regulation

- ♣ **Dry measure: liter or 100 mL or dry quart or dry pint**
- ♣ **Length: meter, decimeter, centimeter or yard, foot, or inch**
- ♣ **Area: square - meter, decimeter, centimeter or square – yard, foot, or inch**



NCWM Publications

- ♣ **NIST Handbook 133 Checking the Net Contents of Packaged Goods**



NIST Handbook 133 “Checking the Net Contents of Packaged Goods”

- ♣ Includes procedures for verifying the declared net contents of any type of package labeled by weight, measure (e.g., volume, length, area), or count.
- ♣ Inspectors verify the largest of the declared quantities.

Net Wt 1 lb (454 g)

1 lb = 453.592 4





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