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Section 5.58. Multiple Dimension Measuring Devices

A. Application

A.1. General. – This code applies to dimension and volume measuring devices used for determining the dimensions and/or volume of objects for the purpose of calculating freight, storage, or postal charges based on the dimensions and/or volume occupied by the object. A multiple dimension measuring device:

(a) is generally used to measure hexahedron-shaped objects; and
(Added 2008)

(b) may be used to measure irregularly-shaped objects.
(Added 2008)

(Amended 2008)

A.2. Other Devices Designed to Make Multiple Measurement Automatically to Determine a Volume. – Insofar as they are clearly applicable, the provisions of this code apply also to devices designed to make multiple measurements automatically to determine a volume for other applications as defined by Section 1.10. General Code paragraph G-A.1. Commercial and Law-Enforcement Equipment.

A.3. Additional Code Requirements. – In addition to the requirements of this code, Multiple Dimension Measuring Devices shall meet the requirements of Section 1.10. General Code.

A.4. Exceptions. – This code does not apply to:

(a) devices designed to indicate automatically (with or without value-computing capabilities) the length of fabric passed through the measuring elements (also see Section 5.50. for Fabric-Measuring Devices);

(b) devices designed to indicate automatically the length of cordage, rope, wire, cable, or similar flexible material passed through the measuring elements (also see Section 5.51. for Wire- and Cordage-Measuring Devices);
or

(c) any linear measure, measure of length, or devices used to measure individual dimensions for the purpose of assessing a charge per unit of measurement of the individual dimension (also see Section 5.52. for Linear Measures).

A.5. Type Evaluation. – The National Type Evaluation Program (NTEP) will accept for type evaluation only those devices that comply with all requirements of this code.

S. Specifications

S.1. Design of Indicating and Recording Elements and of Recorded Representations.

S.1.1. Zero or Ready Indication.

(a) Provision shall be made to indicate or record either a zero or ready condition.

(b) A zero or ready condition may be indicated by other than a continuous digital zero indication, provided that an effective automatic means is provided to inhibit a measuring operation when the device is in an out-of-zero or non-ready condition.

S.1.2. Digital Indications. – Indicated and recorded values shall be presented digitally.

S.1.3. Negative Values. – Except when in the tare mode, negative values shall not be indicated or recorded.

S.1.4. Dimensions Indication. – If in normal operation the device indicates or records only volume, a testing mode shall be provided to indicate dimensions for all objects measured.

S.1.5. Value of Dimension/Volume Division Units. – The value of a device division “d” expressed in a unit of dimension shall be presented in a decimal format. The value of “d” for each measurement axis shall be in the same unit of measure and expressed as:

- (a) 1, 2, or 5;
- (b) a decimal multiple or submultiple of 1, 2, or 5; or
- (c) a binary submultiple of a specific U.S. customary unit of measure.

Examples: device divisions may be 0.01, 0.02, 0.05; 0.1, 0.2, or 0.5; 1, 2, or 5; 10, 20, 50, or 100; 0.5, 0.25, 0.125, 0.0625, etc.

(Amended 2016)

S.1.5.1. For Indirect Sales. – In addition to the values specified in S.1.5. Value of Dimension/Volume Division Units, the value of the division may be 0.3 inch and 0.4 inch.

S.1.5.2. Devices Capable of Measuring Irregularly-Shaped Objects. – For devices capable of measuring irregularly shaped objects, the value of the division size (d) shall be the same for the length axis (x) and the width axis (y) and may be different for the height axis (z), provided that electronic rotation of the object to determine the smallest hexahedron is calculated in only a two-dimension horizontal plane, retaining the stable side plane as the bottom of the hexahedron.

(Added 2008)

S.1.6. Customer Indications and Recorded Representations. – Multiple dimension measuring devices or systems must provide information as specified in Table S.1.6. Required Information to be Provided by Multiple Dimension Measuring Systems. As a minimum, all devices or systems must be able to meet either column I or column II in Table S.1.6. Required Information to be Provided by Multiple Dimension Measuring Systems.

(Amended 2004)

Table S.1.6. Required Information to be Provided by Multiple Dimension Measuring Systems				
Information	Column I¹	Column II¹		Column III
	Provided by device	Provided by invoice or other means		Provided by invoice or other means as specified in contractual agreement
		Customer present	Customer not present	
1. Device identification ²	D or P	P	P	P or A
2. Error message (when applicable)	D or P	P	N/A	N/A
3. Hexahedron dimensions ³	D or P	P	P	P or A
4. Hexahedron volume (if used) ³	D or P	P	P	P or A
5. Actual weight (if used) ³	D or P	P	P	P or A
6. Tare (if used) ³	D or P	N/A	N/A	N/A
7. Hexahedron measurement statement ⁴	D or P or M	P	P	P or G
<p>A = AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST BY CUSTOMER⁵ D = DISPLAYED G = PUBLISHED GUIDELINES OR CONTRACTS M = MARKED N/A = NOT APPLICABLE P = PRINTED or RECORDED IN A MEMORY DEVICE and AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST BY CUSTOMER⁵</p> <p>Notes: ¹ As a minimum all devices or systems must be able to meet either column I or column II. ² This is only required in systems where more than one device or measuring element is being used. ³ Some devices or systems may not utilize all of these values; however as a minimum either hexahedron dimensions or hexahedron volume must be displayed or printed. ⁴ This is an explanation that the dimensions and/or volume shown are those of the smallest hexahedron in which the object that was measured may be enclosed rather than those of the object itself. ⁵ The information “available upon request by customer” shall be retained by the party having issued the invoice for at least 30 calendar days after the date of invoicing.</p>				

(Amended 2004)

S.1.7. Minimum Lengths. – Except for entries of tare, the minimum length to be measured by a device is 12 divisions. The manufacturer may specify a longer minimum length.

S.1.8. Indications Below Minimum and Above Maximum. – When objects are smaller than the minimum dimensions identified in paragraph S.1.7. Minimum Lengths or larger than any of the maximum dimensions plus 9 d, and/or maximum volume marked on the device plus 9 d, or when a combination of dimensions for the object being measured exceeds the measurement capability of the device, the indicating or recording element shall either:

- (a) not indicate or record any usable values; or
- (b) identify the indicated or recorded representation with an error indication.

(Amended 2004)

S.1.9. Operating Temperature. – An indicating or recording element shall not indicate nor record any usable values until the operating temperature necessary for accurate measuring and a stable zero reference or ready condition has been attained.

S.1.10. Adjustable Components. – Adjustable components shall be held securely in adjustment and, except for a zeroing mechanism (when applicable), shall be located within the housing of the element.

S.1.11. Provision for Sealing.

- (a) A device shall be designed with provision(s) for applying a security seal that must be broken, or for using other approved means of providing security (e.g., data change audit trail available at the time of inspection), before any change that detrimentally affects the metrological integrity of the device can be made to any measuring element.
- (b) Audit trails shall use the format set forth in Table S.1.11. Categories of Devices and Methods of Sealing for Multiple Dimension Measuring Systems.

Table S.1.11. Categories of Devices and Methods of Sealing for Multiple Dimension Measuring Systems	
Categories of Devices	Methods of Sealing
Category 1: No remote configuration.	Seal by physical seal or two event counters: one for calibration parameters and one for configuration parameters.
Category 2: Remote configuration capability, but access is controlled by physical hardware. Device shall clearly indicate that it is in the remote configuration mode and record such message if capable of printing in this mode.	The hardware enabling access for remote communication must be at the device and sealed using a physical seal or two event counters: one for calibration parameters and one for configuration parameters.
Category 3: Remote configuration capability access may be unlimited or controlled through a software switch (e.g., password).	An event logger is required in the device; it must include an event counter (000 to 999), the parameter ID, the date and time of the change, and the new value of the parameter. A printed copy of the information must be available through the device or through another on-site device. The event logger shall have a capacity to retain records equal to 10 times the number of sealable parameters in the device, but not more than 1000 records are required. (Note: Does not require 1000 changes to be stored for each parameter.)

S.2. Design of Zero and Tare.

S.2.1. Zero or Ready Adjustment. – A device shall be equipped with means by which the zero reference or ready condition can be adjusted, or the zero reference or ready condition shall be automatically maintained. The zero reference or ready control circuits shall be interlocked so that their use is prohibited during measurement operations.

S.2.2. Tare. – The tare function shall operate only in a backward direction (that is, in a direction of under-registration) with respect to the zero reference or ready condition of the device. The value of the tare division or increment shall be equal to the division of its respective axis on the device. There shall be a clear indication that tare has been taken.

S.2.2.1. Maximum Value of Tare for Multi-Interval (Variable Division-Value Devices. – A multi-interval device shall not accept any tare value greater than the maximum capacity of the lowest range of the axis for which the tare is being entered.

(Added 2016)

S.2.2.2. Net Values, Mathematical Agreement. – All net values resulting from a device subtracting a tare entry from a gross value indication shall be indicated and recorded, if so equipped, to the nearest division of the measuring range in which the net value occurs. In instances where the tare value entered on a multi-interval device is in a lower partial measuring range (or segment) than the gross indication, the system shall either alter the tare entered or round the net result after subtraction of the tare in order to achieve correct mathematical agreement.

Consider a multi-interval device having two partial measuring ranges for the “x” axis:

- Partial measuring range 1: 0 to 100 inches in 0.2 inch increments
- Partial measuring range 2: 100 to 300 inches in 0.5 inch increments

The following examples clarify the two acceptable methods this device can use to achieve mathematical agreement when tare has been entered in a lower partial measuring range than the gross indication.

(Added 2016)

Acceptable Example 1. Altering of a Tare Entry to Achieve Accurate Net Indication			
Gross Indication of Item Being Measured	Tare Entered	Value of Tare after Being Altered by the Device	Acceptable Net Indication
154.5 in	41.2 in	41.0 in	113.5 in
154.5 in	41.4 in	41.5 in	113.0 in

(Added 2016)

Acceptable Example 2. Rounding of the Net Result (Following the Subtraction of Tare) to Achieve Accurate Net Indication			
Gross Indication of Item Being Measured	Tare Entered	Net Result Before Rounding (Gross Indication minus Tare Entered)	Acceptable Net Indication Rounded to Nearest 0.5 Inch
154.5 in	41.2 in	113.3 in	113.5 in
154.5 in	41.4 in	113.1 in	113.0 in

(Added 2016)

S.3. Systems with Two or More Measuring Elements. – A multiple dimension measuring system with a single indicating or recording element, or a combination indicating-recording element, that is coupled to two or more measuring elements with independent measuring systems, shall be provided with means to prohibit the activation of

any measuring element (or elements) not in use, and shall be provided with automatic means to indicate clearly and definitely which measuring element is in use.

Note: This requirement does not apply to individual devices that use multiple emitters/sensors within a device in combination to measure objects in the same measurement field.

(Amended 2004)

S.4. Marking Requirements. – (Also see G-S.1. Identification, G-S.4. Interchange or Reversal of Parts, G-S.5.2.5. Permanence, G-S.6. Marking Operational Controls, Indications, and Features, G-S.7. Lettering, G-UR.2.1.1. Visibility of Identification, and G-UR.3.1. Method of Operation.)

S.4.1. Multiple Dimension Measuring Devices, Main Elements, and Components of Measuring Devices. – Multiple dimension measuring devices, main elements of multiple dimension measuring devices when not contained in a single enclosure for the entire dimension/volume measuring device, and other components shall be marked as specified in Table S.4.1.a. and explained in the accompanying notes, Table S.4.1.b. Multiple Dimension Measuring Systems Notes for Table S.4.1.a.

Table S.4.1.a. Marking Requirements for Multiple Dimension Measuring Systems				
	Multiple Dimension Measuring Equipment			
	Multiple Dimension Measuring Device and Indicating Element in Same Housing	Indicating Element not Permanently Attached to Multiple Dimension Measuring Element	Multiple Dimension Measuring Element not Permanently Attached to the Indicating Element	Other Equipment (1)
To Be Marked With ↓				
Manufacturer's ID	x	x	x	x
Model Designation	x	x	x	x
Serial Number and Prefix	x	x	x	x (2)
Certificate of Conformance Number (8)	x	x	x	x (8)
Minimum and Maximum Dimensions for Each Axis for Each Range in Each Axis (3)(9)	x	x	x	
Value of Measuring Division, d (for each axis and range) (9)	x	x	x	
Temperature Limits (4)(9)	x	x	x	
Minimum and Maximum speed (5)(9)	x	x	x	
Special Application (6)(9)	x	x	x	
Limitation of Use (7)(9)	x	x	x	

(Amended 2016)

Table S.4.1.b.
Multiple Dimension Measuring Systems Notes for Table S.4.1.a.

1. Necessary to the dimension and/or volume measuring system, but having no effect on the measuring value, e.g., auxiliary remote display, keyboard, etc.
2. Modules without “intelligence” on a modular system (e.g., printer, keyboard module, etc.) are not required to have serial numbers.
3. The minimum and maximum dimensions (using upper or lower case type) shall be marked. For example:

Length:	min	_____	max	_____
Width:	min	_____	max	_____
Height:	min	_____	max	_____
4. Required if the range is other than – 10 °C to 40 °C (14 °F to 104 °F).
5. Multiple dimension measuring devices, which require that the object or device be moved relative to one another, shall be marked with the minimum and maximum speeds at which the device is capable of making measurements that are within the applicable tolerances.
6. A device designed for a special application rather than general use shall be conspicuously marked with suitable words visible to the operator and the customer restricting its use to that application.
7. Materials, shapes, structures, combination of object dimensions, speed, spacing, minimum protrusion size, or object orientations that are inappropriate for the device or those that are appropriate.
8. Required only if a Certificate of Conformance has been issued for the equipment.
9. This marking information may be readily accessible via the display. Instructions for displaying the information shall be described in the NTEP CC.

(Amended 2004, 2008, and 2016)

S.4.2. Location of Marking Information. – The required marking information shall be so located that it is readily observable without the necessity of the disassembly of a part requiring the use of any means separate from the device.

N. Notes

N.1. Test Procedures.

N.1.1. General. – The device shall be tested using test standards and objects of known and stable dimensions.

N.1.2. Position Test. – Measurements are made using different positions of the test object and consistent with the manufacturer’s specified use for the device.

N.1.2.1. Irregularly-Shaped Test Object Placement. – Irregularly-shaped test objects must be measured while placed on a stable side. The rotation of the object to determine the smallest hexahedron should be calculated in a two-dimensional plane, retaining the stable side plane as the bottom of the hexahedron.

(Added 2008)

N.1.3. Disturbance Tests, Field Evaluation. – A disturbance test shall be conducted at a given installation when the presence of disturbances specified in T.6. has been verified and characterized if those conditions are considered “usual and customary.”

N.1.4. Test Object Size. – Test objects may vary in size from the smallest dimension to the largest dimension marked on the device, and for field verification examinations, shall be an integer multiple of “d.”

N.1.4.1. Test Objects. – Verification of devices may be conducted using appropriate test objects of various sizes and of stable dimensions. Test object dimensions must be known to an expanded uncertainty (coverage factor $k = 2$) of not more than one-third of the applicable device tolerance. The dimensions shall also be checked to the same uncertainty when used at the extreme values of the influence factors.

The dimension of all test objects shall be verified using a reference standard that is traceable to NIST (or equivalent national laboratory) and meet the tolerances expressed in NIST Handbook 44 Fundamental Considerations, paragraph 3.2. (i.e., one-third of the smallest tolerance applied to the device).

(Added 2004)

N.1.4.2. Irregularly-Shaped Test Objects. – For irregularly-shaped test objects, at least one angle shall be obtuse and the smallest dimension for an axis shall be equal to or greater than the minimum dimension for that axis.

(Added 2008)

(Amended 2008 and 2012)

N.1.5. Digital Zero Stability. – A zero indication change test shall be conducted on all devices which show a digital zero. After the removal of any test object, the zero indication shall not change. (Also see G-UR.4.2. Abnormal Performance.)

T. Tolerances

T.1. Design. – The tolerance for a multiple dimension measuring device is a performance requirement independent of the design principle used.

T.2. Tolerance Application.

T.2.1. Type Evaluation. – For type evaluations, the tolerance values apply to tests within the influence factor limits of temperature and power supply voltage specified in T.5.1. Temperature and T.5.2. Power Supply Voltage.

T.2.2. Subsequent Verification. – For subsequent verifications, the tolerance values apply regardless of the influence factors in effect at the time of the verification. (Also see G-N.2. Testing with Nonassociated Equipment.)

T.2.3. Multi-interval (Variable Division-Value) Devices. – When there exist two or more partial measuring ranges (or segments) specified for any of the “dimensioning” axes (length (x), width (y), or height (z)) and the division values corresponding to those partial measuring ranges (or segments) within the same “dimensioning” axis differ, the tolerance values shall be based on the value of the division of the range in use.

(Amended 2016)

T.2.4. Mixed-Interval Devices. – For devices that measure to a different division value in at least one dimensioning axes and all axes are single range, the tolerance values shall be based on the value of the division of the axis in use.

(Added 2016)

T.3. Tolerance Values. – The maintenance and acceptance tolerance values shall be ± 1 division.

(Amended 2004)

T.4. Position Tests. – For a test standard measured several times in different positions by the device all indications shall be within applicable tolerances.

T.5. Influence Factors. – The following factors are applicable to tests conducted under controlled conditions only.

T.5.1. Temperature. – Devices shall satisfy the tolerance requirements under the following temperature conditions.

T.5.1.1. Temperature Limits. – If not marked on the device, the temperature limits shall be – 10 °C to 40 °C (14 °F to 104 °F).

T.5.1.2. Minimum Temperature Range. – If temperature limits are specified for the device, the range shall be at least 30 °C or 54 °F.

T.5.1.3. Temperature Effect on Zero Indication. – The zero indication shall not vary by more than one division per 5 °C (9 °F) change in temperature.

T.5.2. Power Supply Voltage.

T.5.2.1. Alternating Current Power Supply. – Devices that operate using alternating current must perform within the conditions defined in paragraphs T.3. through T.6., inclusive, from – 15 % to + 10 % of the marked nominal line voltage(s) at 60 Hz, or the voltage range marked by the manufacturer, at 60 Hz.

(Added 2004)

T.5.2.2. Direct Current Power Supply. – Devices that operate using direct current shall operate and perform within the applicable tolerance at any voltage level at which the device is capable of displaying metrological registrations.

(Added 2004)

(Amended 2004)

T.6. Disturbances, Field Evaluation. – The following requirements apply to devices when subjected to disturbances which may normally exist in the surrounding environment. These disturbances include radio frequency interference (RFI), electromagnetic interference (EMI), acoustic changes, ambient light emissions, etc. The difference between the measurement indication with the disturbance and the measurement indication without the disturbance shall not exceed one division “d” or the equipment shall:

- (a) blank the indication;
- (b) provide an error message; or
- (c) the indication shall be so completely unstable that it could not be interpreted, or transmitted into memory or to a recording element, as a correct measurement value.

UR. User Requirements

UR.1. Selection Requirements. – Equipment shall be suitable for the service in which it is used with respect to elements of its design, including but not limited to, its maximum capacity, value of the division, minimum capacity, and computing capability.

UR.1.1. Value of the Indicated and Recorded Division. – The value of the division recorded shall be the same as the division value indicated.

UR.2. Installation Requirements.

UR.2.1. Supports. – A device that is portable and is being used on a counter, table, or the floor shall be so positioned that it is firmly and securely supported.

UR.2.2. Foundation, Supports, and Clearance. – The foundations and support of a device installed in a fixed location shall be such as to provide strength, rigidity, and permanence of all components, and clearance shall be provided around all live parts to the extent that no contacts may result when the measuring element is empty, nor throughout the performance range of the device such that the operation or performance of the device is adversely affected.

UR.2.3. Protection from Environmental Factors. – The indicating and measuring elements of a device shall be adequately protected from environmental factors such as wind, weather, and RFI that may adversely affect the operation or performance of the device.

UR.3. Use Requirements.

UR.3.1. Minimum and Maximum Measuring Ranges. – A device shall not be used to measure objects smaller than the minimum or larger than the maximum dimensions marked on the device.

UR.3.2. Special Designs. – A multiple dimension measuring device designed and marked for a special application shall not be used for other than its intended purpose.

UR.3.3. Object Placement. – If the object being measured must be transported (e.g., shipped) on a stable side, that irregularly-shaped object must be measured while placed on that stable side. The electronic rotation of the object to determine the smallest hexahedron shall be calculated in a two-dimensional horizontal plane, retaining the stable side plane as the bottom of the hexahedron.

(Added 2008)

(Amended 2008)

UR.4. Maintenance Requirements.

UR.4.1. Zero or Ready Condition. – The zero-setting adjustment of a multiple dimension measuring device shall be maintained so that, with no object in or on the measuring element, the device shall indicate or record a zero or ready condition.

UR.4.2. Level Condition. – If a multiple dimension measuring device is equipped with a level-condition indicator, the device shall be maintained in a level condition.

UR.4.3. Device Modification. – The measuring capabilities of a device shall not be changed from the manufacturer's design unless the modification has been approved by the manufacturer and the weights and measures authority having jurisdiction over the device.

UR.5. Customer Information Provided. – The user of a multiple dimension measuring device or system shall provide transaction information to the customer as specified in Table UR.5. Customer Information Provided.

(Added 2004)

Table UR.5. Customer Information Provided			
Information	No Contractual Agreement		Contractual Agreement
	Customer Present	Customer not Present	
1. Object identification	N/A	P	P or A
2. Billing method (scale or dimensional weight if used)	D or P	P	P or A
3. Billing rate or rate chart	D or P or A	P or G or A	P or A
4. Dimensional weight (if used)	P	P	P or A
5. Conversion factor (if dimensional weight is used)	D or P or A	P	P or G
6. Dimensional weight statement ¹ (if dimensional weight is used)	D or P	P	P or G
7. Total price	P	P	P or A
<p>A = Available upon Request by Customer² D = Displayed G = Published Guidelines or Contracts M = Marked N/A = Not Applicable P = Printed</p> <p>Notes: ¹ This is an explanation that the dimensional weight is not a true weight but is a calculated value obtained by applying a conversion factor to the hexahedron dimensions or volume of the object. ² The information “available upon request by customer” shall be retained by the party having issued the invoice for at least 30 calendar days after the date of invoicing.</p>			

(Added 2004)

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