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NCWM Amends UPLR to Allow Metric-Only Labeling

The National Conference on Weights and Measures (NCWM) voted to amend the Uniform Packaging and Labeling Regulation (UPLR) to allow manufacturers the option of using metric-only labeling. The amendment exempts packages with appropriate metric units from the requirement for inch-pound units. Packagers can either label packages with only metric units or metric and inch-pound units. The exemption does not apply to foods, drugs, or cosmetics under control of the Food and Drug Administration or to products subject to Federal Trade Commission Regulations.

Nothing in the amendment applies to unit pricing, advertising, recipe programs, nutritional labeling, or other general pricing information. Nothing in the amendment will be construed to require changes in package size or in any way affects the size of packages. The NCWM believes that the additional option will allow packagers and the marketplace to determine when metric-only is appropriate.

The amendment is as follows: Inch-Pound Units, Exemptions - Consumer Commodities. The requirement for statements of quantity in inch-pound units will not apply to packages that bear appropriate SI units. This exemption does not apply to foods, drugs, or cosmetics or to packages subject to Federal Trade Commission Regulation, meat and poultry products subject to Federal Meat or Poultry Products Inspection Acts, and tobacco or tobacco products.