

3/7/2016

Adoption of the SI in State Law

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As many of you know, the SI units are set to be updated in 2018, which will include the redefinition of the kilogram. You may want to think about making sure that your state laws will remain current after these changes take effect. The best way to do so would be to mirror the language in

NIST Handbook 130, Uniform Weights and Measures Law, Section 2, Note 2:

“SI or SI Unit. – means the International System of Units as established in 1960 by the General Conference on Weights and Measures and interpreted or modified for the United States by the Secretary of Commerce.... See also NIST Special Publication 330, ‘The International System of Units (SI)’”

or in 15 U.S.C. 205, which was adopted in 2007:

"The metric system of measurement shall be defined as the International System of Units as established in 1960, and subsequently maintained, by the General Conference on Weights and Measures, and as interpreted or modified for the United States by the Secretary of Commerce."

<https://www.gpo.gov/fdsys/pkg/PLAW-110publ69/pdf/PLAW-110publ69.pdf> (See Sec. 3570. Metric System Defined.)

The advantage to either of these definitions is that they aren't dependent on any particular publication, which would change over time. NIST, under delegated authority from the Secretary of Commerce, periodically announces in the Federal Register what the official interpretation of the International System of Units ("SI") might be. The latest information is here <http://www.nist.gov/pml/wmd/metric/metric-pubs.cfm>, but because of proposed changes to SI being considered by the international community, we expect these documents to be updated in a few years.