

**UNITS OF MEASUREMENT FOR USE IN TRADE TRANSACTIONS**

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Dear Sir/ Madam:

Enterprise Singapore is the appointed national legal metrology body to administer the Weights and Measures Act (the Act) regulating weighing & measuring instruments and the units of measurements used for trade, as well as the net content of pre-packaged goods. The Act was introduced to protect the interests of both the sellers and buyers by ensuring the fair transactions of goods.

**Sale of Goods in Metric Units**

2 The Act ensures the use of uniform weights and measures through the Metric System. Businesses engaged in any trade or business involving a quantity of goods will need to ensure the units of measurement on any package, price list or advertisement is a unit of the Metric System. Any person who uses for trade any unit of measurement that is not a prescribed unit lawful for trade use is guilty of an offence.

*Table of Prescribed Metric Units of Measurement (non-exhaustive)<sup>1</sup>*

<b>Length</b>	<b>Area</b>	<b>Volume</b>	<b>Capacity</b>	<b>Mass or Weight</b>
Kilometre	Hectare	Cubic metre	Litre	Metric ton
Metre	Square metre	Cubic centimeter	Millilitre	Kilogram
Centimetre	Square centimeter			Gram

3 For example, if a “pint” is used in the sale of beverages as a reference e.g. a “glass” or “mug”, and not a unit of measurement, this should be corrected immediately and establishments supplying beverages should replace the “pint” on its price list to “glass” etc. However, should the “pint” be used as a unit of measurement, it must be accompanied by the equivalent capacity represented in a metric unit such as the litre (L) or millilitre (ml). An establishment supplying alcoholic beverages in units of imperial “pint” should therefore indicate the numerical value of the equivalent capacity in ml i.e. 568 ml on its price list/menu/advertisements, and ensure that the glass/mug used bears the right capacity.

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<sup>1</sup> The complete list of units of measurement of length, area, volume, capacity, mass or weight are prescribed in the First Schedule of the [Weights and Measures Act](#).

### **Short Weight or Measure**

4 While businesses may not need to sell by weight or measure, but if they do they must ensure the quantity delivered to the buyer is not lesser than indicated.

5 For example, if a food kiosk had indicated on its price list a medium cup of beverage to be equivalent to 400ml, but delivers to the buyer a quantity that is lesser for the price charged, it is guilty of an offence. The food kiosk must ensure it does not short weigh or measure the quantity supplied.

### **Compliance to Regulatory Requirements**

6 Businesses are reminded to ensure compliance with the legislative requirements by

- Using a unit of the Metric System if a unit of measurement is necessary; and
- Delivering to its buyer a quantity not lesser than that claimed or that corresponds with the price charged.

7 Any person guilty of an offence shall be liable on conviction to a fine not exceeding \$5,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 3 months or to both.

8 Visit [www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/weights-measures](http://www.enterprisesg.gov.sg/weights-measures) for information on the Weights & Measures Programme. Contact [consumerprotection@enterprisesg.gov.sg](mailto:consumerprotection@enterprisesg.gov.sg) for clarifications on the programme.

Yours sincerely,

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for the Controller of Weights and Measures

(This is a computer-generated circular and no signature is required)