

## Legal for Trade update - July 2010

Legal for trade certification of dimensioning devices is relevant when measurements are used for billing purposes. Various approaches on standards, regulation, assessment and certification apply in different geographies, and compliance can be costly and time consuming for device manufacturers and users. Parceltools has nearly 20 years experience of the certification process in linear measurement, and has published this summary to provide an update to clients and other interested parties.

The C8000 family of linear measuring products provides an effective means to capture item and dimensional data for use in logistics and the supply chain. In the main, the C8000 product family functions as a linear measure while collecting this data.

Historically, there was a strong focus on regulation and certification of linear measurement, but more recently as linear measurement has become standardised and commoditised, the focus of regulation has shifted, and many jurisdictions no longer regulate linear measurement.

In 1993 Measurement Canada exempted static linear measures from approval subject to conformance within limits of error<sup>i</sup>. The US, UK and European Community have also changed their approach, and have recently issued statements as follows:

United Kingdom (Paul Dixon<sup>ii</sup>)

*"Dimensional measuring instruments are not prescribed in the UK so there is no need for certification in the UK. However, the instrument will need to be assessed by Trading Standards when installed to ensure that it is "fair and just", i.e. accurate"*

United States (John Barton<sup>iii</sup>)

*"Although this device may be used in the process of determining dimensional weight, your description of the device as I understand it leads me to the determination that it would not meet the definition of a MDMD<sup>iv</sup>. My understanding of your company's device is that it is to be used simply to determine dimensional measurements of a package one measurement at a time. These measurements can then be transmitted to a PC where software will perform calculations used in the determination of shipping charges. I do not believe that the measuring device would be accurately described as an integral component of a Multiple Dimension Measuring Device, but rather as a stand-alone instrument used in the process to accurately determine the height, width, and length of an object.*

*If I am correct in my understanding, this device would correctly be classified as a linear measure. In the U.S. there is no provision to perform type evaluations for a particular device/model of linear measuring devices."*

Netherlands, European Community (Paul Kok<sup>v</sup>)

*“The described instrument does not fit in MID<sup>vi</sup>. MID only knows material measures of length with scale marks (MI-008) and rope length measuring instruments (MI-009). So an EC-type examination is not possible. Also NL has not regulated material measures. There could however be other EU countries that regulate these instruments on basis of national legislation.”*

Increasingly, linear measures are being exempted from formal regulation thus simplifying legal for trade compliance for manufacturers and users. We will continue to work with regulatory and standards bodies to simplify the assessment, regulation and certification issues for linear measurement.

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i <http://www.ic.gc.ca/eic/site/mc-mc.nsf/eng/lm00046.html>

ii Paul Dixon, Product Certification Manager (020 8943 7282 or [paul.dixon@nmo.gov.uk](mailto:paul.dixon@nmo.gov.uk))

iii John Barton, Weights and Measures Coordinator National Institute of Standards and Technology (301) 975-4002 [john.barton@nist.gov](mailto:john.barton@nist.gov)

iv Multi Dimensional Measuring Device

v Paul Kok, Product Manager, NMi Certin BV, T +31 78 6332332, [pkok@nmi.nl](mailto:pkok@nmi.nl)

vi Measuring Instruments Directive