

**GUYANA**

ACT No. 15 of 1981

**WEIGHTS AND MEASURES ACT 1981**

I assent.

  
**L. F. S. BURNHAM,**  
President.

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

**31 DEC 1981**

**PART I**

**Preliminary**

**SECTION**

1. Short title and commencement.
2. Interpretation.

**PART II****Standards of Weight and Measure**

3. Standards.
4. Use of weight.
5. National Standards of Weight and Measure.
6. Custody of National Standards.
7. Secondary standards.
8. Working standards.
9. Periodic verification of National Standards.

**PART III****Chief Inspector and Inspectors of Weights and Measures**

10. Appointment of Chief Inspector and Inspectors.
11. Verification of weights and measures by Inspector.
12. Certification of Weight etc.
13. Power to enter premises and to seize weight and measure.
14. Prohibition against adjustment.

**PART IV****General**

15. Duty to have weight and measure marked with their proper denomination.
16. Sale of goods by weight or measurement.
17. Weight made of lead or pewter not to be stamped or used.
18. Sale of prepackaged goods by weight or measurement.
19. Use of carat (metric)
20. Regulations.

**PART V****Offences, Proceedings and Repeal**

21. Failure to weigh or measure when selling goods if so required
22. Sales by authorised denominations.
23. Use of non-certified weight, etc.
24. Use of false or unjust weight, etc.
25. Fraud in use of weight, etc.
26. Forgery, etc.
27. Selling, etc. weight, etc., with forged or counterfeited stamps of verification or certificates of justness.
28. Making or selling unjust weight, etc.
29. Obstructing Inspectors, etc. in the performance of their duties.
30. Costs.
31. Forfeitures.

A.D. 1981]

*WEIGHTS AND MEASURES*

[No. 15

32. Evidence as to possession.
33. Inspector stamping without verification.
34. Prohibition of giving short weight, measure or number.
35. Defence of mistake, accident, etc.
36. Penalty.
37. Repeal of Chapter 90:14

FIRST SCHEDULE	— BASE UNITS.
SECOND SCHEDULE	• — SUPPLEMENTARY UNITS.
THIRD SCHEDULE	— DERIVED UNITS.
FOURTH SCHEDULE	— SPECIAL (OR PERMITTED) UNITS.
FIFTH SCHEDULE	— PREFIXES FOR MULTIPLES AND SUB-MULTIPLES OF SI.
SIXTH SCHEDULE	— DEFINITIONS OF UNITS OF MEASUREMENT.
SEVENTH SCHEDULE	— WEIGHTS AND MEASURES LAWFUL FOR USE IN TRADE.
EIGHTH SCHEDULE	— RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SI AND THE STANDARDS OF WEIGHT AND MEASURE REPEALED.
NINTH SCHEDULE	— CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT OF CHIEF INSPECTOR/INSPECTOR.
TENTH SCHEDULE	— TABLE OF FEES TO BE TAKEN BY INSPECTORS OF WEIGHTS AND MEASURES.

AN ACT to provide for the implementation of the International System of Units (SI); and for purposes connected therewith.

A.D. 1981 Enacted by the Parliament of Guyana —

## PART I

### Preliminary

Short title  
and  
commence-  
ment.

1. This Act may be cited as the **Weights and Measures Act 1981** and shall come into operation on such date as the Minister may, by order, appoint.

Inter-  
pretation.

2. (1) In this Act —

“appointed day” in relation to any area, undertaking or class of undertaking means the date appointed by the Minister for the purposes of this Act by order made under section 3 (3) in relation to that area, undertaking or class of undertaking;

“carat” has the meaning assigned to it in Part V of the Sixth Schedule;

“Chief Inspector” means the Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures appointed under section 10;

“container” means any form of packaging of goods for sale as a single item, whether by way of wholly or partly enclosing the goods or by attaching the goods to, or winding the goods around, some other article, and includes a wrapper or confining band;

“General Conference” means the General Conference of Weights and Measures from time to time convened by the International Bureau;

“Inspector” means an Inspector of Weights and Measures appointed under section 10;

“International Bureau” means the International Bureau of Weights and Measures;

“International System of Units” means the system of units referred to in section 3 and adopted by the General Conference;

“measuring instrument” includes an instrument for the measurement of length, superficial area, capacity or volume or for measurement by counting and such instruments as are also constructed to calculate and indicate the price in money;

“metric system” means the base, supplementary, derived and special (or permitted) units, of the International System of Units;

“National Standards” or “National Standards of Weight and Measure” means the standard for use in weight and measure authorised by the Minister under section 5;

“net weight” means the weight of an article excluding the weight of its container;

“purchaser” includes any person acting on behalf of the purchaser;

“secondary standards” means the copies of the National Standards prepared, verified and authenticated in accordance with section 7;

“stamping” includes casting, engraving, etching, branding, or otherwise marking, in such a manner as to be, as far as practicable, indelible;

“trade” means dealing in goods, wares or merchandise sold by weight or measure, or unit or performing the service of weighing or measuring, or performing a service for which payment is determined by weight or measure;

“weighing instrument” includes scales with weights belonging thereto, scale beams, balances, steelyards, weighing machines and other instruments for weighing including such instruments as are also constructed to calculate and indicate the price in money;

“working standards” means standards which, standardised by comparison with secondary standards, are kept for the purpose of verifying ordinary measuring instruments, weighing instruments, weights or measures.

(2) The abbreviation SI shall be recognised as a legal reference to the International System of Units.

## PART II

### Standards of Weight and Measure

3 (1) The standards of weight and measure as established by section 3 of the Weights and Measures Act and all multiples and parts thereof in force in Guyana immediately before the commencement of this Act shall, subject to subsection (4), continue to be used in Guyana.

Standards.  
Cap. 90:14

(2) From and after the date of the commencement of this Act, the International System of Units shall have legal force and validity in Guyana.

(3) The Minister may, by order, appoint a date from and after which the standards of weight and measure mentioned in subsection (1) shall cease to have legal force and validity in Guyana and the Minister may appoint different dates for different areas, undertakings or class of undertakings specified in the order.

*L* mentioned

(4) From and after the appointed day, the standards of weight and measure ~~in~~ subsection (1) shall cease to have legal force and validity and the International System of Units and certain units outside the International System of Units specified in subsection (6) only shall continue to have legal force and validity in Guyana in relation to the area, undertaking or class of undertaking specified in the order made under subsection (3).

(5) The International System of Units shall consist of —

First  
Schedule.

(a) base units; the physical quantities they represent, their names, symbols and definitions are set out in the First Schedule;

Second  
Schedule.

(b) supplementary units; the physical quantities they represent, their names, symbols and definitions are set out in the Second Schedule;

Third  
Schedule.

(c) derived units; being units derived only from the base or supplementary units or both by the process of multiplication or division or both without the introduction of any coefficients, unity excepted. The physical quantities they represent, the names and symbols of the more commonly used of such units are set out in the Third Schedule.

Fourth  
Schedule.

(6) The certain units outside the International System of Units referred to in subsection (4), are special (or permitted) units and units used with the International System of Units in specialised scientific fields. The physical quantities they represent, their names, symbols and definitions are set out in the Fourth Schedule. These units may be used in conjunction with the base, supplementary and derived units and their multiples and sub-multiples.

Fifth  
Schedule.

(7) The SI prefixes for multiples and sub-multiples which may be used with the units of measurements set out in the First, Second, Third and Fourth Schedules and the symbols therefor are as set out and defined in the Fifth Schedule.

A.D. 1981]

*WEIGHTS AND MEASURES*

[No. 15

(8) The Sixth Schedule shall have effect for the purpose of defining <sup>Sixth Schedule.</sup> the units of measurement set out in that Schedule; and for the purposes of any measurement of weight, that weight may be expressed by reference to the units of measurement set out in Part V of that Schedule in the same terms as its mass.

(9) The Seventh Schedule shall have effect for the purpose of <sup>Seventh Schedule.</sup> specifying the weights and measures that shall be used for purposes of trade in Guyana.

(10) The Eighth Schedule shall have effect for the purpose of <sup>Eighth Schedule.</sup> showing the relationship between the International System of Units and the standards of weight and measure referred to in subsection (1).

(11) The Minister may, by order, amend any Schedule referred to in this section.

(12) Every reference in any other law, instrument or document enacted or executed before the appointed day to a weight or measure expressed in terms of a standard of weight or measure in force in Guyana immediately before the commencement of this Act shall, after the appointed day, be read and construed as a reference to the equivalent weight or measure expressed in terms of the corresponding standard of weight or measure having legal force in Guyana after the appointed day.

4. Where the quantity of anything weighed or measured or to be weighed or measured is expressed in any manner not authorised by this <sup>Use of Weight.</sup> Act, in reference to any such thing, the quantity so expressed shall be deemed to be uncertain.

5. (1) The Minister shall authorise the use of such standards of <sup>National Standards of Weight and Measure</sup> weight and measure as he considers necessary.

(2) Every standard referred to in subsection (1), every secondary standard referred to in section 7 or every working standard referred to in section 8 —

(a) shall be of a denomination equivalent to —

- (i) a weight or measure authorised by this Act; or
- (ii) a multiple, aliquot part or sub-multiple of such a weight or measure;

(b) shall be verified by such competent institution as the Minister directs; and

- (c) shall be made of such material, in such manner and placed and kept in such a receptacle as affords it, as far as practicable, protection against mechanical and atmospheric agencies and any likely source of error.

(3) A standard of linear or capacity measurement may, as the Minister considers fit, —

- (a) be provided either as a separate standard or by means of divisions marked on a standard of larger measure; and
- (b) be either marked in whole or in part with sub-divisions representing any smaller unit of measurement, or multiples or sub-multiples of such a unit, or have no such marking.

(4) Where a standard of weight or measure is about to be brought into use in Guyana the Minister shall, by notice published in the **Gazette**, declare that such standard of weight or measure is about to be brought into use in Guyana and specify therein the date on which that standard of weight or measure shall become operative; and upon publication of the notice, such standard shall become a National Standard of Weight or Measure and shall, for all purposes, be conclusively deemed to be true and accurate.

Custody of  
National  
Standards.

6. The National Standards of Weight and Measure shall be kept at such place, under such custody and under such conditions as the Minister may direct.

Secondary,  
Standards.

7. (1) The Minister shall —

- (a) cause to be prepared such copies of the National Standards as he considers fit;
- (b) provide for the verification of any copies so prepared;
- (c) cause the verified copies to be authenticated as secondary standards in the prescribed manner; and
- (d) cause such secondary standards to be kept at such place and under such custody as he may direct.

(2) Every secondary standard shall, until the contrary is proved, be deemed to be true and accurate.

(3) Every secondary standard shall from time to time be compared by the custodian thereof with the corresponding National Standard, and shall if necessary, be corrected and adjusted.

(4) The custodian of the National Standards may at any time cancel any secondary standard and direct that it be no longer used.



A.D. 1981]

*WEIGHTS AND MEASURES*

[No. 15]

8. Working standards shall be used for the verification or re-  
 verification of weights, measures, measuring instruments or weighing  
 instruments. Working  
Standards

9. (1) The Minister shall at least once in every five years cause every  
 National Standard to be verified as provided in section 5 (2) (b) and, if  
 necessary, to be replaced. Periodic  
Verification  
of National  
Standards

(2) Where a National Standard is to be sent out of Guyana for  
 verification, the Minister shall cause a corresponding secondary stand-  
 ard to be deposited with the custodian of the National Standard and to  
 be verified by comparison with the National Standard and authenticated  
 in such manner as he considers proper, and that secondary standard  
 shall be deemed to be the National Standard during such time as the  
 National Standard is out of Guyana.

**PART III****Chief Inspector and Inspectors of Weights and Measures**

10. (1) There shall be a Chief Inspector of Weights and Measures  
 and such other Inspectors of Weights and Measures as may be necessary  
 for the purposes of this Act and such Inspectors may be assigned to a  
 particular area or particular areas of Guyana. Appointment  
of Chief  
Inspector  
and  
Inspectors

(2) The Minister shall furnish the Chief Inspector and every Inspec-  
 tor with a certificate of his appointment as set out in the Ninth Sche-  
 dule. Ninth  
Schedule

(3) The Minister, may by order, amend the Ninth Schedule.

Ninth  
Schedule

(4) No maker, repairer or adjuster of weights, measures, measuring  
 instruments or weighing instruments shall be appointed to any office  
 mentioned in subsection (1).

(5) The Chief Inspector shall exercise general supervision and con-  
 trol over every Inspector, and every Inspector shall —

(a) make such returns and furnish such information to the  
 Chief Inspector as the Chief Inspector shall require; and

(b) give effect to the directions of the Chief Inspector.

(6) The Chief Inspector may exercise any power or perform any  
 duty conferred or imposed on an Inspector by or under this Act.

11. (1) The Chief Inspector shall deliver to each Inspector such work-  
 ing standards as he considers necessary. Verification  
of weights  
and  
measures by  
Inspector

(2) The Chief Inspector shall, by notice published in the Gazette, specify such date, time and place where an Inspector shall attend for the purpose of examining weights, measures, weighing instruments or measuring instruments used or proposed to be used for purposes of trade.

(3) Notwithstanding subsection (2), an Inspector may at any time examine any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument that a person uses or proposes to use for purposes of trade within the area assigned to him and for that purpose may at all reasonable times enter any premises where any such weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument is reasonably believed to be kept or found.

(4) The Chief Inspector shall provide for the use of every Inspector good and sufficient stamps for stamping or sealing weights, measures, measuring instruments or weighing instruments and the stamps so provided shall be taken to be the stamps of the area for which the Inspector is assigned.

(5) Where, under this section, an Inspector examines any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument, he shall verify such weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument by comparison with the working standard in his possession, and subject to subsection (6), if he finds it to be in order, stamp or seal it in the prescribed manner.

(6) An Inspector shall stamp or seal only —

- (a) those denominations of weights or measures that he determines to be suitable for use in trade;
- (b) those denominations of weights or measures of which he has working standards; and
- (c) those weighing instruments or measuring instruments that he determines to be fit for use for purposes of trade.

Tenth  
Schedule.

(7) The fees for the examination, comparison, stamping or sealing of any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument shall be according to the scale set out in the Tenth Schedule.

Tenth  
Schedule.

(8) The Minister may, by order, amend the Tenth Schedule.

Certification  
of weight  
etc.

12. Where an Inspector stamps or seals any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument under this Act, he shall deliver to the person having custody of that weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument a certificate in such form as may be prescribed to the effect that it is fit for use and such certificate shall be valid for one year commencing from the date on which it is delivered.

A.D. 1981]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[No. 15

13. (1) Subject to subsection (2), an Inspector may, at any reasonable time, enter any shop, store, warehouse, stall, yard or other place within the area assigned to him wherein any goods are —

power to enter premises and to seize weight and measure.

(a) bought, sold, kept or exposed for sale; or

(b) weighed or measured for conveyance or carriage, and

require the production of and examine any weight, measure, measuring instrument or weighing instrument therein.

(2) An Inspector shall, before entering any of the premises mentioned in subsection (1), produce to the occupier or the person in charge of such premises his certificate of appointment furnished to him under section 10 (2).

(3) An Inspector may seize and detain any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument examined by him under subsection (1) or section 11 that he has reason to believe to be false or unjust or is liable to forfeiture under section 27.

(4) An Inspector shall at the time of the seizure and detention of the article under subsection (3) give written notice to the person from whom the article was taken of the grounds upon which the article was seized or detained.

(5) An Inspector shall, within three days of seizing and detaining an article under subsection (3), either make a complaint before the magistrate for the area in which such seizure or detention takes place or return the article so seized and detained to the person from whom it was taken.

14. No Inspector shall repair, alter or adjust any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument examined by him.

Prohibition against adjustment

## PART IV

### General

15. Any person who has in his possession for use for purposes of trade any weight or measure shall —

Duty to have weight and measure marked with their proper denomination.

(a) in respect of every such weight, have the denomination of such weight marked on the top or side thereof in legible figures or letters in English language except where the small size of the weight renders such marking impracticable; and

- (b) in respect of every such measure, whether of length or capacity, have the denomination thereof marked on the outside of such measure in legible figures and letters in English language.

**Sale of goods by weight or measurement.** 16. (1) A person shall not sell any goods by weight or measurement except by net weight or measurement.

(2) Any person who, before the appointed day, sells any goods by weight or measurement expressed in metric units shall inform the purchaser, in such manner as may be prescribed, of the correct equivalent of the weight or measurement in the units used before the commencement of this Act.

**Weight made of lead or pewter not to be stamped or used.** 17. To prevent frauds by the use of a weight made of soft materials, no weight made of lead or pewter, or of any mixture thereof, shall be stamped or used:

Provided that nothing herein contained shall prevent the use of lead or pewter, or of any mixture thereof, in the manufacture of weights, if they are wholly and substantially cased with brass, copper, or iron, and legibly stamped or marked "cased", or shall prevent the insertion of any plug of lead or pewter into weights *bona fide* necessary for the purpose of adjusting them and affixing thereon the stamp mentioned in this Act.

**Sale of prepackaged goods by weight or measurement.** 18. (1) Subject to the regulations, a person shall not sell any prepackaged goods by weight or measurement unless the net weight or the capacity measurement of those goods is marked on the container in the prescribed manner.

**Sixth Schedule.** (2) Subject to the provisions of this Act, no person shall, before the appointed day, supply by way of trade any goods in a container marked with any unit of weight or measurement differing in name or size from the appropriate units specified in the Sixth Schedule unless its correct equivalent in units of weight or measurement so specified is also marked on that container in the prescribed manner and with equal prominence.

(3) For the purposes of this Part and Part V, goods shall be deemed to be prepackaged if they are made up in advance ready for sale in or on a container; and articles of any description that are so made up for sale and kept stored on premises shall be deemed to be prepackaged for sale unless the contrary is proved.

(4) For the purposes of subsection (3), it shall not be sufficient proof to the contrary to show that the container has not been marked in accordance with the requirements of this Act or the regulations.

A.D. 1981]

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[No. 15

19. (1) A person shall not use for purposes of trade after the appointed day any unit of measurement that is not contained in the Sixth Schedule. Use of carat, (metric) Sixth Schedule.

(2) Subject to subsection (3), a person shall not, after the appointed day, use the carat unit for purposes of trade except in transactions relating to precious stones or pearls.

(3) The restrictions set out in this section do not apply to any transaction affecting the export of goods to a country where a system of units of measurement other than those authorised by this Act is used for purposes of trade.

20. The Minister may make regulations respecting —

Regulations.

- (a) the exemption in whole or in part from the provisions of this Act any area, undertaking or class of undertaking specified in the regulations;
- (b) the verification and stamping of weights, measures, weighing instruments or measuring instruments, including the prohibition of stamping in cases where the nature, denomination, material or principle of construction of the weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument appears likely to facilitate the perpetration of fraud;
- (c) the tests to be applied for the purpose of ascertaining the accuracy and efficiency of weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument;
- (d) the limits of error to be allowed on verification and tolerated either generally or with respect to any trade;
- (e) the custody of the set of standards of weight and measure that are to be maintained by Government and the periodical verification and adjustment thereof;
- (f) the manner in which the value expressed in terms of any weight or measure other than in terms of standard weight and measure may be converted;
- (g) the enabling of Inspectors to carry out their duties under this Act;
- (h) the enforcement of the requirements that relate to weighing instruments and measuring instruments;
- (i) the materials and principles of construction of weighing instruments or measuring instruments for use for purposes of trade;
- (j) the purpose for which particular types of weighing instruments or measuring instruments may be used for purposes of trade;

- (k) the manner of erecting, siting or using weighing instruments or measuring instruments used for purposes of trade;
- (l) the circumstances in which, conditions under which, and manner in which stamps or marks placed on weights, measures, weighing instruments or measuring instruments may be obliterated or defaced;
- (m) the abbreviations of or symbols for units of measurement which may be used for trade;
- (n) the system of licensing for the control of the importation, repairing, adjusting and recalibrating of weights, measures, weighing instruments and measuring instruments;
- (o) the quantities in which prescribed prepackaged goods may be sold;
- (p) the prescribing of anything that is by this Act authorised or required to be prescribed; and
- (q) generally, the carrying out of the provisions of this Act.

## PART V

### Offences, Proceedings and Repeal

Failure to weigh or measure when selling goods if so required.

21. (1) A person who sells by weight or measure goods other than prepackaged goods, whether on his own behalf or on behalf of another person, shall, upon being required by the person to whom the goods are to be delivered and in the presence of that person, weigh or measure such goods, as the case may be.

(2) A person who is required under this section to weigh or measure any goods, other than prepackaged goods, and fails to do so is guilty of an offence.

Sales by authorised denominations.

22. A person who sells or exposes for sale by any denomination of weight or measure other than the denominations of weight or measure authorised by this Act is guilty of an offence.

Use of non-certified weight, etc.

23. A person who uses for purposes of trade or has in his possession for use for purposes of trade any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument, in respect of which —

(a) a certificate has not been issued in pursuance of section 12; or

(b) such a certificate has been issued but has expired,  
is guilty of an offence.

A.D. 1981]

## WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[No. 15]

24. A person who uses for purposes of trade or has in his possession for use for purposes of trade any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument that is false or unjust, is guilty of an offence. Use of false or unjust weight, etc.

25. Where fraud is knowingly committed in the use of a weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument, the person committing the fraud and every person who is a party to the fraud is guilty of an offence and in addition to any penalty the court imposes, the weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument may be forfeited. Fraud in use of weight etc.

26. A person who —

Forgery, etc.

- (a) forges or counterfeits or causes or procures to be forged or counterfeited a stamp issued pursuant to section 11 or a certificate issued pursuant to section 12;
- (b) utters or assists in uttering any such forged or counterfeited stamp or certificate;
- (c) removes, or causes or procures the removal of, any stamp or mark from any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument, and places, causes or procures the placing of such stamp or mark on another weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument; or
- (d) uses as a certificate issued to him in respect of any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument a certificate delivered to him in respect of a different weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument,

is guilty of an offence.

27. A person who knowingly sells, utters, disposes of, or exposes for sale any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument with any forged or counterfeited stamp or certificate resembling or purporting to resemble any stamp or certificate used for the purposes of this Act is guilty of an offence, and in addition to any punishment the court imposes, the weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument may be forfeited. Selling, etc., weight, etc. with forged or counterfeited stamps of verification or certificates of justness.

28. A person who knowingly makes or sells, or knowingly causes to be made or sold, any unjust weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument is guilty of an offence. Making or selling unjust weight, etc.

29. A person who —

- (a) assaults, resists, hinders or obstructs an Inspector entering any place or premises mentioned in section 11 or 13;

Obstructing Inspectors, etc. in the performance of their duties.

- (b) hinders or obstructs an Inspector in the performance of his duties under this Act;
- (c) fails to comply with any request made by an Inspector in the performance of his duties under this Act;
- (d) bribes or attempts to bribe an Inspector in connection with any matter arising in the exercise or performance of his duties under this Act;
- (e) being an Inspector, accepts or attempts to solicit any bribe in connection with any matter arising in the performance of his duties under this Act;
- (f) uses indecent, abusive or insulting language to an Inspector in the exercise of his duties under this Act; or
- (g) contravenes or fails to comply with any provision of this Act or the regulations,

is guilty of an offence.

**Costs.** 30. Costs shall not be imposed on any person prosecuting a complaint under this Act, unless the complaint is dismissed and deemed by the court to be frivolous or vexatious.

**Forfeitures.** 31. All weights, measures, weighing instruments or measuring instruments forfeited under this Act shall be broken up and the materials thereof may be sold or otherwise disposed of as the Minister may direct and the proceeds of any sale shall be paid into the Consolidated Fund.

**Evidence as to possession.** 32. Where any weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument is found —

- (a) in the possession of a person carrying on trade; or
- (b) on the premises used for trade, of any person —
  - (i) whether or not such premises are a building or in the open air, or
  - (ii) whether or not such premises are open or enclosed,

that person shall be deemed for the purposes of this Act, until the contrary is proved, to have such weight, measure, weighing instrument or measuring instrument in his possession for use for purposes of trade.

**Inspector stamping without verification** 33. An inspector who stamps any weight or measure without duly verifying it by comparison with the proper working standard in his possession, or stamps any weighing instrument or measuring instrument without having determined its suitability for use in trade, is guilty of an offence.



A.D. 1981]

*WEIGHTS AND MEASURES*

[No. 15]

34. A person who, in selling any article by weight, measure or number, delivers or causes to be delivered to the purchaser a less weight, measure, or number, as the case may be, than is purported to be sold is guilty of an offence. Prohibition of giving short weight, measure or number.

35. In any proceedings for an offence under this Act or the regulations, it is a defence for the person charged to prove — Defence of mistake, accident, etc.

- (a) that the commission of the offence was due to a mistake or to an accident or some other cause beyond his control; and
- (b) that he took all reasonable precautions and exercised all due diligence to avoid the commission of such an offence by himself or any person under his control.

36. (1) A person who is guilty of an offence under this Act is liable on summary conviction to a fine of one thousand dollars or to imprisonment for six months. Penalty.

(2) Save as otherwise provided in section 13 (5), proceedings for an offence under this Act shall not be commenced except by the Chief Inspector or any person authorised in writing by the Chief Inspector.

37. The Weights and Measures Act is hereby repealed.

Repeal of  
Cap. 90:14.

## FIRST SCHEDULE

S. 3(5)

## BASE UNITS

Physical Quantity	Name of Unit	Unit Symbol	Definition
length ..	metre	m	the unit for the measurement of length equal to 1 650 763.73 wavelengths in vacuum of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the levels $2p_{10}$ and $5d_5$ of the krypton-86 atom.
mass ..	kilogram	kg	the unit for the measurement of mass, being a mass of the international prototype of the kilogram established in the year 1889 by the First General Conference of Weights and Measures and deposited at the International Bureau of Weights and Measures.
time ..	second	s	the unit for the measurement of time, being the duration of 9 192 631 770 periods of the radiation corresponding to the transition between the two hyperfine levels of the ground state of the caesium-133 atom.
electric current ..	ampere	A	the unit for the measurement of electric current, being that constant electric current which, if maintained in two straight parallel conductors of infinite length, of negligible circular cross-section and placed one metre apart in vacuum, would produce between these conductors a force equal to $2 \times 10^{-7}$ newton per metre of length.

A.D. 1981]

*WEIGHTS AND MEASURES*

[No. 15

<b>Physical Quantity</b>	<b>Name of Unit</b>	<b>Unit Symbol</b>	<b>Definition</b>
thermodynamic temperature	kelvin	K	the unit for the measurement of thermodynamic temperature, being the fraction $1/273,16$ of the thermodynamic temperature of the triple point of water.
amount of substance	mole	mol	the unit for the measurement of the amount of substance of a system which contains as many elementary entities as there are atoms in $0,012$ kilogram of carbon $12$ .
luminous intensity	candela	cd	the unit for the measurement of luminous intensity, being the luminous intensity in a given direction, of a source which emits monochromatic radiation of frequency $540 \times 10^{12}$ hertz having a power flux in that direction of $1/683$ watt per steradian.

Note : When the mole is used, the elementary entities must be specified and may be atoms, molecules, ions, electrons, other particles or specified groups of such particles.

## SECOND SCHEDULE

s. 3(5)

## SUPPLEMENTARY UNITS

Physical Quantity	Name of Unit	Unit Symbol	Definition
Plane angle	radian	rad	the unit for the measurement of plane angle being the plane angle between two radii of a circle which cuts off on the circumference an arc equals in length to the radius.
solid angle	steradian	sr	the unit for the measurement of solid angle being the solid angle which having its vertex in the centre of a sphere, cuts off an area on the surface of the sphere equal to that of a square with sides of length equal to the radius of the sphere.

A.D. 1981]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[No. 15

## THIRD SCHEDULE

s. 3(5)

## DERIVED UNITS

## SI DERIVED UNITS EXPRESSED IN TERMS OF BASE UNITS

Physical Quantity	Name of Unit	Unit	Symbol
Area	square metre	$\text{m}^2$	
Volume	cubic metre	$\text{m}^3$	
Speed, Velocity	metre per second	$\text{m/s}$ ; $\text{m.s}^{-1}$	
Accerleration	metre per second squared	$\text{m/s}^2$ ; $\text{m.s}^{-2}$	
Wave Number	1 per metre; reciprocal metre	$\text{m}^{-1}$	
Density, Mass Density	kilogram per cubic metre	$\text{kg/m}^3$ ; $\text{kg.m}^{-3}$	
Current density	ampere per square metre	$\text{A/m}^2$ ; $\text{A.m}^{-2}$	
Magnetic field strength	ampere per metre	$\text{A/m}$ ; $\text{A.m}^{-1}$	
Concentration (of amount of Substance)	mole per cubic metre	$\text{mol/m}^3$ ; $\text{mol.m}^{-3}$	
Specific volume	cubic metre per kilogram	$\text{m}^3/\text{kg}$ ; $\text{m}^3.\text{kg}^{-1}$	
Luminance	candela per square metre	$\text{cd/m}^2$ ; $\text{cd.m}^{-2}$	
Moment of inertia	kilogram square metre	$\text{kg.m}^2$	
Kinematic Viscosity	metre squared per second	$\text{m}^2.\text{s}^{-1}$	
Magnetic moment	ampere square metre	$\text{A.m}^2$	

## SI DERIVED UNITS WITH SPECIAL NAMES

Physical Quantity	Name of Unit	Unit Symbol	Expression in terms of other Units	Expression in terms of SI base Supplementary Units
Frequency	hertz	Hz	—	$s^{-1}$ or 1/s
Force	newton	N	—	$kg.m/s^2$ ; $kg.m.s^{-2}$
Pressure, stress	pascal	Pa	$N/m^2$	$kg.m^{-1}.s^{-2}$
Energy, work, quantity of heat	joule	J	$N.m$	$kg.m^2.s^{-2}$
Power	watt	W	$J/s$	$kg.m^2.s^{-3}$
Quantity of electric charge	coulomb	C	—	A.s
Electric potential, potential difference, electromotive force	volt	V	$W/A$ or $J/C$	$kg.s^{-3}.m^2.A^{-1}$
Capacitance	farad	F	$C/V$	$kg^{-1}.m^{-2}.s^4.A^2$
Electric resistance	ohm	$\Omega$	$V/A$	$kg.m^2.s^{-3}.A^{-2}$
Conductance	siemens	S	$A/V$	$kg^{-1}.m^{-2}.s^3.A^2$
Magnetic flux	weber	Wb	$V.s$	$kg.m^2.s^{-2}.A^{-1}$
Magnetic flux density	tesla	T	$Wb/m^2$	$kg.s^{-2}.A^{-1}$
Inductance	henry	H	$Wb/A$	$kg.m^2.s^{-2}.A^{-2}$
Luminous flux	lumen	lm	—	cd.sr
Illuminance	lux	lx	$lm/m^2$	$cd.sr.m^{-2}$
Absorbed dose, specific energy, imparted kerma, absorbed dose index	gray	Gy	$J/kg$	$m^2.s^{-2}$
Activity (radio active)	becquerel	Bq	—	$1 s^{-1}$
Celsius temperature	degree Celsius	$^{\circ}C$	—	1 K
Volume	litre	L	—	1 $dm^3$

A.D. 1981]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[No. 15

**SI DERIVED UNITS EXPRESSED BY MEANS OF SPECIAL  
NAMES AND BASE UNITS AND SUPPLEMENTARY UNITS**

Physical Quantity	Name of Unit	Unit Symbol	Expression in terms of Base and special names and Supplementary Units
Angular acceleration	radian per square second	$\text{rad.s}^{-2}$	
Angular speed	radian per second	$\text{rad.s}^{-1}$	
Dynamic viscosity	pascal second	Pa. s	$\text{kg.m}^{-1}.\text{s}^{-1}$
Moment of force	metre newton	N.m	$\text{kg.s}^{-2}.\text{m}^2$
Surface tension	newton per metre	N/m	$\text{kg.s}^{-2}$
Power density, heat flux density, irradiance	watt per square metre	$\text{W/m}^2$	$\text{kg.s}^{-3}$
Heat capacity, entrophy	joule per kelvin	J/K	$\text{m}^2.\text{kg.s.K}^{-1}$
Specific heat capacity, specific entrophy	joule per kilogram kelvin	$\text{J}/(\text{kg.K})$	$\text{m}^2.\text{s}^{-2}.\text{K}^{-1}$
Specific energy	joule per kilogram	J/kg	$\text{m}^2.\text{s}^{-2}$
Thermal conductivity	watt per metre kelvin	$\text{W}/(\text{m.K})$	$\text{m.kg.s}^{-3}.\text{K}^{-1}$
Energy density	joule per cubic metre	$\text{J/m}^3$	$\text{m}^{-1}.\text{kg.s}^{-2}$
Electric field strength	volt per metre	V/m	$\text{kg.m.s}^{-3}.\text{A}^{-1}$
Electric charge density	coulomb per cubic metre	$\text{C/m}^3$	$\text{m}^{-3}.\text{s.A}$
Electric flux density	coulomb per square metre	$\text{C/m}^2$	$\text{m}^{-2}.\text{s.A}$
Permittivity	farad per metre	F/m	$\text{kg}^{-1}.\text{m}^{-3}.\text{s}^4.\text{A}^2$
Permeability	henry per metre	H/m	$\text{kg.m.s}^{-2}.\text{A}^{-2}$
Molar energy	joule per mole	J/mol	$\text{kg.m}^2.\text{s}^{-2}.\text{mol}^{-1}$

No. 151

*THE LAWS OF GUYANA*

[A.D. 1981]

Physical Quantity	Name of Unit	Unit Symbol	Expression in terms of Base and special names and Supplementary Units
Molar entrophy, molar heat capacity	joule per mole kelvin	J/(mol.K)	$\text{kg.m}^2 . \text{s}^{-2} . \text{k}^{-1} . \text{mol}^{-1}$
Exposure (X and Y rays)	coulomb per kilogram	C/kg	$\text{kg}^{-1} . \text{s} . \text{A}$
Absorbed dose rate	gray per second	Gy/s	$\text{m}^2 . \text{s}^{-3}$
Conductivity (electrical)	siemens per metre	S/m	$\text{m}^{-1} . \text{A} . \text{s}$
Radiant intensity	watt per steradian	W/sr	$\text{m}^2 . \text{s}^{-3} . \text{kg} . \text{sr}^{-1}$
Radiance	watt per steradian square metre	W/(sr.m <sup>2</sup> )	$\text{kg} . \text{s}^{-3} . \text{sr}^{-1}$



A.D. 1981]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[No. 15

s. 3(6)

**FOURTH SCHEDULE**  
**PART I**  
**SPECIAL (OR PERMITTED) UNITS**

Physical Quantity	Name of Unit	Unit Symbol	Definition
time	minute	min	1 min = 60 s
	hour	h	1 h = 60 min
	day	d	1 d = 24 h
	week	wk	1 wk = 7 d
	calendar year	yr	1 yr = 365 d or 366 d (leap year)
plane angular measure	degree	°	1° = $\frac{1}{180}$ rad
	minute		1' = $\frac{1}{60}$ rad
	second	"	1" = $\frac{1}{60}$ rad
	revolution	r	1 r = 2π rad
mass	tonne	t	1 t = 1 000 kg = 1 Mg
pressure	bar	bar	1 bar = 100 000 Pa
	standard atmosphere	atm	1 atm = 101 325 Pa
area	are	a	1 are = 100 m <sup>2</sup>
	hectare	ha	1 hectare = 10 000 m <sup>2</sup>
temperature	degree Celsius	°C	1°C = 1 K (temperature intervals)
marine and aerial navigation	nautical mile	nautical mile	1 nautical mile = 1 852 m
	knot	knot	1 knot = 1 nautical mile per hour
linear density	tex	tex	1 tex = 1 g/km

NOTE : Special (or permitted) units are internationally agreed units which are deviations from strict SI. They are permitted either because of their practical importance or because of their use in specialised scientific fields.

## PART II

UNITS USED WITH SI IN SPECIALISED  
SCIENTIFIC FIELDS

Name of Unit	Unit Symbol		Definition
Electronvolt	eV	1 eV	$1,602\ 1892 \times 10^{-19}$ J
Unified atomic mass	u	1 u	$1,660\ 5655 \times 10^{-27}$ kg
astronomical unit	AU	1 AU	$149,597\ 870 \times 10^9$ m
parsec	pc	1 pc	$3\ 086 \times 10^{13}$ m
angstrom	$\text{\AA}$	1 $\text{\AA}$	$10^{-10}$ m
barn	b	1 b	$10^{-13}$ m <sup>2</sup>
curie	Ci	1 Ci	$37 \times 10^9$ Bq
gal	Gal	1 Gal	$10^{-2}$ m/s <sup>2</sup>
metric carat	metric carat	1 metric carat	$= 2 \times 10^{-4}$ kg
rad	rad	1 rad	$10^{-3}$ Gy
rontgen	R	1 R	$2,58 \times 10^{-4}$ C.kg <sup>-1</sup>

A.D. 1981]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[No. 15

s. 3(7)

## FIFTH SCHEDULE

## PREFIXES FOR MULTIPLES AND SUB-MULTIPLES

## OF SI

Prefix	Symbol	Definition
exa	E	$10^{18}$
peta	P	$10^{15}$
tera	T	$10^{12}$
giga	G	$10^9$
mega ...	M	$10^6$
kilo ...	k	$10^3$
hecto ...	h	$10^2$
deca	da	$10^1$
deci	d	$10^{-1}$
centi ...	c	$10^{-2}$
milli ...	m	$10^{-3}$
micro	$\mu$	$10^{-6}$
nano ...	n	$10^{-9}$
pico ...	p	$10^{-12}$
femto	f	$10^{-15}$
atto ...	a	$10^{-18}$

NOTE: SI prefixes are not applicable to the base unit "kilogram" but applicable to the one-thousandth part thereof, namely the "gram".  
 SI prefixes may be used in conjunction with some of the units provided in the Fourth Schedule.

s. 3(8)

## SIXTH SCHEDULE

### DEFINITIONS OF UNITS OF MEASUREMENT

#### PART I

##### Measurement of Length

kilometre	(km)	=	1 000 m
metre	(m)	=	as defined in First Schedule
decimetre	(dm)	=	0.1 m
centimetre	(cm)	=	0.01 m
millimetre	(mm)	=	0,001 m

#### PART II

##### Measurement of Area

hectare	(ha)	=	100 a
decare	(daa)	=	10 a
are	(a)	=	100 m <sup>2</sup>
square metre	(m <sup>2</sup> )	=	a superficial area equal to that of square each side of which measures one metre
square decimetre	(dm <sup>2</sup> )	=	0,01 m <sup>2</sup>
square centimetre	(cm <sup>2</sup> )	=	0,01 dm <sup>2</sup>
square millimetre	(mm <sup>2</sup> )	=	0,01 cm <sup>2</sup>

#### PART III

##### Measurement of Volume

cubic metre	(m <sup>3</sup> )	=	A volume equal to that of a cube each edge of which measures one metre
cubic decimetre	(dm <sup>3</sup> )	=	0,001 cubic metre
cubic centimetre	(cm <sup>3</sup> )	=	0,001 cubic decimetre

A.D. 1981]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[No. 15

**PART IV****Measurement of Capacity**

hectolitre (hL)	=	100 L
litre (L)	=	The capacity equal to that of a cube each edge of which measures 1 decimetre
decilitre (dL)	=	0,1 L
centilitre (cL)	=	0,01 L
millilitre (mL)	=	0,001 L

**PART V****Measurement of Mass or Weight**

metric ton or tonne (t)	=	1 000 kg
kilogram (kg)	=	Unit of Mass
hectogram (hg)	=	0,1 kg
gram (g)	=	0,001 kg
carat (metric)	=	200 mg
milligram (mg)	=	0,001 g

**PART VI****Measurement of Electricity**

The following units of measurement, that is to say —

- (a) The AMPERE (A) (as the unit of measurement of electrical current)
- (b) The OHM ( $\Omega$ ) (as the unit of measurement of electrical resistance)
- (c) The VOLT (V) (as the unit of measurement of difference of electrical potential), and,
- (d) The WATT (W) (as the unit of measurement of electrical power)

shall have the meanings from time to time respectively assigned by order of the Minister, being the meanings appearing to the Minister to reproduce in English the International definition of the ampere, ohm, volt or watt as the case may be, in force at the date of the making of the order.

kilowatt <b>kW</b>	=	1 000 W
megawatt <b>MW</b>		1 000 000 W

**PART VII****Measurement of Time**

hour	=	60 min
minute	=	60 s
second	=	As defined in First Schedule

s. 3(9)

**SEVENTH SCHEDULE****WEIGHTS AND MEASURES LAWFUL FOR USE IN TRADE****1. CAPACITY MEASURES**

Measures of —

Any multiple of ten litres	100 mL
10 L	50 mL
5 L	25 mL
2,5 L	20 mL
2 L	10 mL
1 L	5 mL
500 mL	2 mL
250 mL	1 mL

**2. METRIC SYSTEM****WEIGHTS OR MASS**

Weights of or mass of

20 kg	20 g
10 kg	15 g
5 kg	10 g
2 kg	5 g
1 kg	4 g
500 g	3 g
200 g	2 g
100 g	1 g
50 g	500 mg

A.D. 1981]

*WEIGHTS AND MEASURES*

[No. 15

**Cont'd**

400 mg	50 carats (metric)
300 mg	20 carats (metric)
200 mg	10 carats (metric)
150 mg	5 carats (metric)
100 mg	2 carats (metric)
50 mg	1 carat (metric)
20 mg	0,5 carat (metric)
10 mg	0, 25carat (metric)
5 mg	0, 2carat (metric)
2 mg	0,1 carat (metric)
1 mg	0,05 carat (metric)
500 carats (metric)	0,02 carat (metric)
200 carats (metric)	0,01 carat (metric)
100 carats (metric)	0,5 carat (metric)

**METRIC SYSTEM****LINEAR MEASURES**

Measure of —

50 m	2 m
30 m	1,5 m
20 m	1 m
10 m	0,5 m
5 m	1 dm
3 m	1 cm

**METRIC SYSTEM****SQUARE MEASURES**Measure of, or of any multiple of, 1 cm<sup>2</sup> (square centimetre)**METRIC SYSTEM****CUBIC MEASURES**Measures of, or of any multiple of, 1 m<sup>3</sup> (cubic metre)

## EIGHTH SCHEDULE

## s. 3(10) RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN SI AND THE STANDARD OF WEIGHT AND MEASURE REPEALED

## PART I

## Units of weights or mass

1 g (gram)	=	0,035 273 962 oz
1 kg (kilogram)	=	2,204 622 622 lb
1 t (tonne) also referred to as a metric ton	=	1 000 kg
1 mg (milligram)	=	0,015 432 358 gr (grains)
1 metric carat	=	3,086 47 gr (grains) = 0,2 g
1 lb (av)	=	0,453 592 37 kg
1 ton (long ton)	=	1 016,046 908 kg
1 oz	=	28,349 523 125 g

## PART II

## Volume and Capacity

1 m <sup>3</sup> (cubic metre)	=	1,307 950 6 cu yd. (cubic yards)
1 dm <sup>3</sup> (cubic decimetre)	=	0,035 314 667 cu ft. (cubic foot)
1 cm <sup>3</sup> (cubic centimetre)	=	0,061 023 744 cu in. (cubic inch)
1 L (litre or l dm <sup>3</sup> )	=	0,219 969 25 gal (UK)
1 gal (imp)	=	4,546 09 L (litres)
1 pt (UK)	=	0,568 262 L (litres)
1 fl. oz. (UK)	=	28,413 08 mL (millilitres)
1 fl. oz. (US)	=	29,573 53 mL (millilitres)



A.D. 1981]

WEIGHTS AND MEASURES

[No. 15

**PART III****Length****Conversion Table**

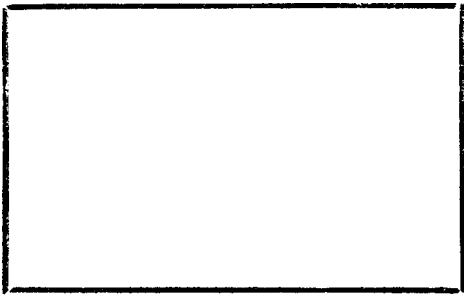
1 m (metre)	=	1,093 613 yd (yards)
1 km (kilometre)	=	0,621 371 19 mi (miles)
1 cm (centimetre)	=	0,393 700 79 in (inches)
1 mm (millimetre)	=	0,039 370 079 in (inches)
1 in (inch)	=	2,54 cm or 25,4 mm
1 yd (yard)	=	0,914 4 m
1 mi (mile)	=	1,609 344 km

**Area (Surface)**

1 km <sup>2</sup> (square kilometre)	=	247,105 38 ac. (acres) 0,386 102 17 sq mi (square mile)
1 ha (hectare) = 10 000 m <sup>2</sup>	=	2,471 053 8 ac. (acres)
1 are = 100 m <sup>2</sup>	=	199,599 sq yd. (square yards)
1 m <sup>2</sup> (square metre)	=	1,195 99 sq yd. (square yards)
1 mm <sup>2</sup> (square millimetre)	=	0,001 55 sq in. (square inches)
1 ac (acre)	=	4 046,856 4 m <sup>2</sup> or 0,404 685 6 ha
1 sq mi (square mile)	=	2,589 988 336 km <sup>2</sup> or 258,998 881 ha
1 sq in. (square inch)	=	645,16 mm <sup>2</sup>
1 sq yd. (square yard)	=	0,836 127 4 m <sup>2</sup>

**NINTH SCHEDULE****s. 10(2) CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT OF \*CHIEF INSPECTOR/\*  
INSPECTOR**

In exercise of the powers conferred upon me by section 10(2) of the Weights and Measures Act 1981 I hereby certify that Cde..... has been appointed as \*Chief Inspector/\*an Inspector for the purposes of this Act.



.....  
Signature of \*Chief Inspector/\*Inspector.

.....  
Date

.....  
Minister

.....  
Date

\*Delete where inapplicable

s. 11(7)

## TENTH SCHEDULE

TABLE OF FEES TO BE TAKEN BY INSPECTORS OF WEIGHTS  
AND MEASURES

1. For examining, comparing and stamping all weights within their respective jurisdiction —	\$ c
(a) Each weight from half a hundredweight to a stone, both included, or 25 kg to 5 kg	5 00
(b) Each weight under a stone to a pound, or 10 kg to 500 g	5 00
(c) Each set of weights of a pound and under, or 1 kg or under	5 00
(d) Each weighing machine and steelyard	15 00
2. For examining, comparing and stamping all wooden measures within their respective jurisdictions —	\$ c
(a) Each bushel or 4 L (litres)	5 00
(b) Each half bushel or 2 L (litres)	5 00
(c) Each peck, and all under 1 L (litre) or under	5 00
(d) Each yard or metre	5 00
3. For examining, comparing and stamping all measures of capacity of liquids made of copper or other metal, within their respective jurisdictions —	\$ c
(a) Each five-gallon or 25 L (litres)	5 00
(b) Each four-gallon or 20 L (litres)	5 00
(c) Each three-gallon or 15 L (litres)	5 00
(d) Each two-gallon or 10 L (litres)	5 00
(e) Each gallon or 5 L (litres)	5 00
(f) Each half-gallon or 2 L (litres)	5 00
(g) Each quart or one litre and under	5 00
4. For examining, comparing and sealing all petrol pumps without their respective jurisdictions —	\$ c
Each petrol pump	80 00

*Passed by the National Assembly on the 23rd of December, 1981.*

*F. A. Narain*

F. A. Narain,  
Clerk of the National Assembly.

{Bill No. 15/1981}

(St: 34/2/4)

PARLIAMENTARY LIBRARY