



# Bill Summary

## The Legal Metrology Bill, 2008

- The Legal Metrology Bill, 2008 was introduced in the Rajya Sabha on October 24, 2008. The Bill was referred to the Standing Committee on Food, Consumer Affairs and Public Distribution (Chairperson: Shri Devendra Prasad Yadav), which is scheduled to submit its report in three months.
- The Bill seeks to repeal the Standards of Weights and Measures Act, 1976 and the Standards of Weights and Measures (Enforcement) Act, 1985. It also seeks to establish standards of weights and measures, regulate trade in weights, and other goods which are sold or distributed by weight, measure or number.
- “Legal metrology” means the treatment of instruments and units of weights and measures to meet mandatory technical and legal requirements in order to ensure the security accuracy of the weights and measures.
- The Bill prohibits the use, manufacture or import of weight, measure or numeral which is not of the specified standard.
- Every unit of weight or measure shall follow the metric system based on the international system of units. The base unit of (a) length shall be meter; (b) mass shall be kilogram; (c) time shall be second; (d) electric current shall be ampere; (e) thermodynamic temperature shall be kelvin; (f) luminous intensity shall be candela; and (g) amount of substance shall be mole.
- The base unit of numeration shall be the unit of the international form of Indian numerals. Every numeration shall be based on the decimal system.
- The central government shall prepare objects or equipment to derive the value of base units. The physical characteristics, configuration, materials and tolerances shall be as prescribed. Any weight or measure conforming to the specified standards shall be the standard weight or measure.
- The central government may appoint a Director of Legal Metrology to perform duties related to inter-state trade and commerce. The state government may appoint a Controller of Legal Metrology to perform duties related to intra-state trade and commerce. The functions of the Director and Controller shall be as notified by the central and state government.
- The Director or the Controller shall have the power to enter any premise and inspect any weight or measure if he believes that a specified offence has been committed. Such weight or measure may be seized as evidence to prove the offence.
- A person has to get approval of the model of a weight or a measure before manufacturing or importing it. It exempts certain categories of models such as cast iron, brass, or carat weight.
- Every non-standard or unverified weight or measure shall be liable to be forfeited by the state government.
- Every pre-packaged commodity has to be manufactured, packed, imported or sold in such standard quantities or numbers as may be prescribed.
- A person has to register with the Director in order to import any weight or measure. The imported weight or measure has to conform to specified standards.
- A licence from the Controller is required to manufacture, sell or repair a weight or measure.
- If a person intends to use a weight or measure for any transaction, he shall have it verified at a government approved Test Centre.
- The Bill lists a number of penalties for a variety of offences such as use, manufacture or sale of non-standard weight or measure; use of unverified weight or measure; and obstructing Director or Controller from discharging his duties.
- The Bill provides for an appeal procedure against decisions taken by various authorities.

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