



OIML BULLETIN

VOLUME LIX • NUMBER 1

JANUARY 2018

Quarterly Journal

Organisation Internationale de Métrologie Légale



OIML Certification System (OIML-CS)
launched on 1 January 2018

OIML-CS

Launch of the OIML Certification System (OIML-CS)

PAUL DIXON, BIML

Introduction

On 1 January 2018 a significant change to the certificate systems operated by OIML took place, with the existing OIML Basic Certificate System and the OIML Mutual Acceptance Arrangement (MAA) replaced by a new, single OIML Certification System (OIML-CS).

The new OIML-CS

The new OIML-CS is a system for issuing, registering and using OIML Certificates and associated OIML type evaluation reports for types of measuring instruments (including families of measuring instruments, modules, or families of modules), based on the requirements of OIML Recommendations. It is a single Certification System comprising two Schemes; Scheme A and Scheme B, which aims to facilitate, accelerate and harmonize the work of national and regional bodies that are responsible for type evaluation and approval of measuring instruments subject to legal metrological control.

The OIML-CS is a voluntary system and OIML Member States and Corresponding Members are free to participate or not. Participating in the OIML-CS, and signing the Declaration, commits in principle the signatories to abide by the rules of the OIML-CS.

A Framework (OIML B 18:2017 *Framework for the OIML-CS*) establishes these rules whereby signatories voluntarily accept and utilize OIML type evaluation reports, when associated with an OIML Certificate issued by an OIML Issuing Authority, for type approval or recognition in their national or regional metrological controls.

Decisions taken at the 52nd CIML Meeting

In the June 2017 edition of the Bulletin a report was provided on the outcome of the second provisional Management Committee (prMC) meeting that was held in Shanghai, P.R. China. The report included a number of recommendations and proposals regarding the implementation of the OIML-CS that were to be submitted to the 52nd CIML Meeting for approval.

At the 52nd CIML Meeting a number of key decisions were taken, including the appointment of the MC Chairperson (Mr. Cock Oosterman, NMi, Netherlands) and Deputy MC Chairperson (Mr. Bill Loizides, NMIA, Australia) and the appointment of the Board of Appeal Chairperson and Members. In addition, the CIML decided which measuring instrument categories would be included in the OIML-CS in Scheme A on 1 January 2018 and which would start in Scheme B, with the transition periods from Scheme B to Scheme A also defined.

OIML-CS Management Committee (MC)

It is proposed that the OIML-CS Management Committee (MC), which is responsible for the operation of the OIML-CS under the authority of the CIML, will meet on an annual basis, with the first MC meeting being held in Sydney, Australia on 21-22 March 2018. This meeting will provide an excellent opportunity for the MC members to meet and to make decisions on the approval of OIML Issuing Authorities and their Test Laboratories, as well as approving the Legal Metrology Experts and Management System Experts. It will also provide an excellent opportunity to discuss the initial implementation and operation of the OIML-CS, and to identify any improvements or changes that may be required, e.g. regarding the transition arrangements.

OIML Issuing Authorities, Utilizers and Associates

Participants in the OIML-CS are defined as OIML Issuing Authorities (and their associated Test Laboratories), Utilizers and Associates. OIML Issuing Authorities are conformity assessment bodies in OIML Member States that will be able to issue OIML Certificates and OIML type evaluation reports under Scheme A and Scheme B for a certain scope of measuring instruments and the applicable OIML

Recommendations. Each OIML Issuing Authority will have one or more Test Laboratories that is able to conduct the testing of the measuring instruments.

Utilizers are organizations in OIML Member States that are responsible for issuing national or regional type approvals, and they will define their scope for accepting and utilizing OIML Certificates and/or OIML type evaluation reports as the basis for issuing national or regional type approvals. Associates undertake the same function, but are from Corresponding Member Countries.

Experts

Management System Exerts are responsible for leading peer assessments and Legal Metrology Experts will participate in the accreditation assessments and peer assessments of potential OIML Issuing Authorities and Test Laboratories. A number of applications from potential experts have already been received and have been reviewed by the Review Committee, and a provisional list of experts is available on the OIML-CS webpages. However, it is important that there is a wide choice of experts to participate in assessments and so further applications are welcomed. Information on the role of the experts, and downloadable application forms, is available on the OIML-CS webpages.

OIML-CS webpages

A new, dedicated set of OIML-CS webpages has been established on the OIML website at <https://www.oiml.org/en/oiml-cs>

These pages provide detailed information on the OIML-CS, and will include specific information on the scope of the OIML Issuing Authorities and their Test Laboratories, the scope of acceptance of the Utilizers and Associates, and a searchable database of OIML Certificates. The webpages will be a valuable tool for all stakeholders in the OIML-CS.

Benefits of the OIML Certification System

The implementation of the new OIML-CS will provide benefits to the range of users of the system, supporting the harmonization of requirements for measuring instruments, keeping bureaucratic efforts to a minimum (especially for manufacturers), allowing easier interna-

tional trade of measuring instruments and providing the environment where the worldwide mutual recognition of testing results represents the basic principle.

OIML Issuing Authorities (and their Test Laboratories) will benefit from the acceptance of certificates that they issue on an international level (in Utilizer and Associate countries) which will make them more attractive for manufacturers from around the world. They will have the choice of demonstrating competence by peer assessment or accreditation and working on the basis of internationally agreed requirements. All of this will lead to a higher degree of capacity utilization.

Utilizers and Associates will benefit from the ease of issuing national approvals where no test facilities are available and where national type evaluations and approvals are required. They will be able to rely on the work of OIML Issuing Authorities and Test Laboratories that have demonstrated competence as well as being able to rely on internationally agreed harmonized requirements. This will help to ensure that only measuring instruments enter their national market, where the quality has been proven.

Manufacturers of measuring instruments will benefit from compliance of their products with the harmonized requirements of the relevant OIML Recommendations, the avoidance of duplication of type approval tests in different countries resulting in reduced effort to obtain national approvals (saving time and money) and a shorter time-to-market period, thus giving easier access to the international market. ■



www.oiml.org/en/oiml-cs

For enquiries concerning the OIML-CS, please contact the
OIML-CS Executive Secretary Mr. Paul Dixon
(paul.dixon@oiml.org)