OIML-CS

Report on the Seventh OIML-CS Management Committee meeting

Paul Dixon, BIML

Introduction

Due to the ongoing situation with the COVID-19 pandemic, the Seventh OIML-CS Management Committee meeting was held as an online meeting on 22–23 March 2022. This built on the experience gained when holding the successful online meetings in 2020 and 2021.

Review Committee and Maintenance Group meetings

As in 2021, the Management Committee meeting was preceded by online meetings of the Review Committee and Maintenance Group on 23 February and 2 March respectively. This replicated the approach normally taken when in-person meetings were previously held in 2018 and 2019, and enabled the Review Committee and Maintenance Group to discuss key issues and to develop proposals for consideration and decision at the Management Committee meeting.

Management Committee meeting

The Management Committee meeting was chaired by the Management Committee Chairperson, Mr Mannie Panesar, with 18 of the 22 Management Committee Members from OIML Member States either present or represented. In addition, there were representatives from the following liaison organisations: CECIP, CECOD, ILAC/IAF, and ISO CASCO, and representatives from a potential new participant in the OIML-CS participated as observers.

Meeting over two consecutive days allowed for a full agenda, and some of the key items that were discussed and considered were as follows:

- feedback and experiences of participants in the OIML-CS;
- report on the Review Committee meeting;
- report on the Maintenance Group meeting, including the revision of the OIML-CS documentation to implement CIML Resolution CIML/2021/31 (see below);
- update on the re-approval of Legal Metrology Experts and Management System Experts;
- review of OIML Issuing Authority Annual Reports for 2021 and the re-approval of the OIML Issuing Authorities and Test Laboratories;
- high priority publications and periodic reviews;
- modular approvals;
- remote assessments; and
- update on the OIML Digitalisation Task Group.

Implementation of CIML Resolution CIML/2021/31

Following the CIML approval of the Management Committee proposal to allow OIML Issuing Authorities to use ISO/IEC 17020 (with additional requirements) as an alternative to ISO/IEC 17065 to demonstrate competence, a significant amount of work has been undertaken to implement this decision into the OIML-CS documentation.

Under the responsibility of the Management Committee, a new OIML Document *Guide to the application of ISO/IEC 17020 to the assessment of OIML Issuing Authorities under the OIML-CS* is being developed and it is anticipated that it will be completed in time for it to be submitted to the CIML for approval at the 57th CIML Meeting. The relevant Operational and Procedural Documents are being revised and OIML B 18 *Framework for the OIML Certification System* is also in the process of being revised.

Recommendation to the 57th CIML Meeting

The Management Committee will be recommending that the CIML approve the Final Draft revision of B 18 at the 57th CIML Meeting.

Looking forward

The meeting has again demonstrated that an online meeting can be a very useful tool in supporting the work of the Management Committee to ensure that the OIML-CS continues to operate smoothly.

It is hoped that an in-person Management Committee meeting can be held in March 2023, but this will require a further improvement in the global situation regarding COVID-19. The situation will be closely monitored and, if an in-person meeting is not feasible, an online meeting will again be used to ensure continuity in the work of the Management Committee and the smooth running of the OIML CS. This underpins CIML Resolution CIML/2021/04 which states that in-person and online participation in all OIML meetings is considered to be equivalent. ∎