

METRIC

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METRIC PROGRAMS PROCEED

Government appeals gasoline retailing decision

The Attorney General of Canada will appeal the Ontario Provincial Court decision concerning metric retailing of gasoline and diesel fuel, says the Hon. Judy Erola.

Erola, Minister of Consumer and Corporate Affairs, explained that the appeal was launched in order for "all parties concerned to have a clearer understanding of the law."

Judge William Ross had dismissed charges under the Weights and Measures Act against two Ontario service station owners, agreeing with their contention that regulations disallowing imperial measures at the pumps infringed on their constitutional rights.

While the appeal is before the courts, Erola said her department will suspend application of the metric regulations applying to the retailing of gasoline and diesel fuel, home furnishings and individually-weighted foods. Regulations requiring that store-weighted foods be advertised in metric only, which were scheduled to take effect January 1, 1984, will not be applied at this time.

Erola said there was no present intention to change the federal Weights and Measures Act and regulations dealing with metric conversion. She noted that almost all pumps dispensing retail gasoline and diesel fuel, and almost all commercial weighing devices in retail

No turning back, say oil companies

Major oil companies say they won't switch back to selling gas by the gallon, despite a decision in provincial court that would allow them to do so.

In quashing charges against two service station owners who persisted in selling gas by the gallon, Judge William Ross ruled that Canada's Weights and Measures Regulations violate the Charter of Rights.


But four of the largest oil companies in Canada — Petro-Canada, Gulf, Shell and Imperial — say it would cost millions to switch back the thousands of gas pumps across the country and they have no intention of doing so.

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food stores, have already been converted to metric.

The moratorium on the application of these regulations in no way affects the vast majority of metric conversion programs which are going forward on schedule, Erola said. She noted that only a few metric changes involve regulation, and that the conversion program, now nearing completion in most sectors, has been carried out almost entirely on a voluntary basis.

The Minister also noted that Consumer and Corporate Affairs inspectors will continue to apply the weights and measures regulations — in either imperial or metric — to protect consumers from fraud, deception and inaccuracy in measurement.

The Minister announced her intention to meet with representatives of the retail food industry, and with members of national consumer organizations, to explain the government's position and to ensure that the long-standing cooperation between the government and these groups in the metric conversion process would be maintained. 

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Metric entrenched in oil industry

(Cont'd from p. 1)


Imperial Oil Ltd. spokesman Charles Wyatt said his company spent about \$10 million in 1977 to convert its 4000 outlets to metric. To convert back to imperial measures would be "extremely costly", he said, "at a time when people aren't buying as much gas as they were."

Austen Torrell, a spokesman for Gulf Canada Products Co., said Gulf won't be switching back to imperial measurements because consumers are concerned about the price of gas, and not the way it is measured.

George Milne, manager of sales promotion and customer service for

Petro-Canada, said the oil industry in Canada is entrenched in metric and the company will not be switching its 2900 outlets back to imperial measures.

Joe Mariash, spokesman for Shell Canada Products Co., said the company won't be switching its 3300 outlets across the country because it would be "irrational" to spend money trying to stop the inevitable metrication of the oil industry in Canada.

Reprinted, in part, from the Toronto Star. 

U.S. industries spur development of metric standards


The development of metric standards is increasing throughout U.S. industry, spurred by the standards-writing activities of various professional organizations and the U.S. government, according to the American National Metric Council.

"There has been a steady increase of metric standards-writing activity in recent years, due primarily to U.S. industry involvement in export trade, with the automotive, metals, aerospace, and farm equipment industries being most active in developing metric standards", says ANMC President Albert Navas.

All standards published by the American National Standards Institute now include metric units; about 10% are metric only and the majority are in dual units. Of the 7000 standards written by the American Society of Testing and Materials, several hundred are in hard metric or metric only. All units of the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers are in SI, and the Institute recently published its *National Electrical Safety Code* in dual dimensions for the first time.

The more than 400 organizations that write or develop standards and are listed in the National Bureau of Standards Directory use dual standards or are developing new series of metric-only standards. "None have identified metric efforts as being anything other than business as usual", Navas noted.

"There are other strong indications that metric standards are increasingly important", Navas said. "For example, the Boiler and Pressure Vessel Code of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers is in metric; major industry associations have strong metric policies and ongoing metric programs; and government metric policies continue to expand. Taken together, these activities point to the growth of metric standards and specifications."


With files from the Metric Reporter, the newsletter of the American National Metric Council. 

Study finding: metric road signs made no difference

A study conducted shortly after the changeover of road signs to metric in 1977 has surfaced again following recent discussion of the topic.

The study, by Michael L. Matthews of the University of Guelph, checked out driver behaviour before and after the transition.


Said the study: "On the day following the change, drivers behaved somewhat cautiously, possibly as a result of some uncertainty. After two weeks of driving under conditions with metric signing, travelled velocity is indistinguishable from pre-metrication conditions."

The study used radar devices at four locations to come up with its findings. 

Export advice

Robert C. Fraser, International Manager of Technicolor Audio-Visual, in his speech "Eight Steps to Starting and Expanding Your Profitable Export Business", at a National Audio Visual Association seminar:

"In designing, use the metric system. Forget the English system — it is, frankly, obsolete."

Reprinted from the Metric Reporter, a publication of the American National Metric Council. 

A door opening is about 2 m high and a door handle is approximately 1 m from the floor.



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Metric helps export trade

Many Canadians do not realize how metric helps our export trade. But metric capability is the second most important advantage that Canada has compared to other exporters. Metric meets the needs of overseas markets, participants at an export conference were told.

Other advantages discussed at the 40th Annual Conference of the Canadian Export Association included, in order of importance:

- advanced technology
- bilingual packaging
- low energy costs
- reputation for quality and performance

"Too few Canadians realize that one-third of our incomes come from successful sales outside Canada", said P.M. Soubry, Chairman of the Association. 

The thickness of the Canadian dime is about 1 mm.

How to choose your ski lengths


Alpine skiers:

Beginner — body height plus 5 cm

Recreational — body height plus 10 cm to 15 cm

Expert — body height plus 15 cm to 20 cm

Cross-country skiers:

The same rule applies to all. Hold your arm straight up in the air, bend your wrist. The tip of the ski should come to the base of the wrist — usually around 20 cm to 25 cm above body height. 

The distance from St. John's, Nfld., to Victoria, B.C., is 7605 km.

Logical package guidelines established

The Working Group on Packaging has finalized product sizing guidelines designed to assist consumers in making rational buying decisions.

A committee of volunteers, the Group is made up of representatives from the retail industry, consumer products manufacturers, consumer groups, and government representatives.

Although all consumer products sold in Canada have been labelled in metric units for several years, plans to standardize on even metric sizes were difficult to realize because of the wide variety of products and sizes.


The guidelines were developed to aid in resolving problems which surfaced during continuous monitoring of consumer packaging since an ini-

tial set of guidelines was published in 1978.

Status reports up to mid-1983 show that 118 of 195 categories — or more than 60% — of the types of packaged consumer goods on the market have completed the transition to metric sizes.


Depending on the product, preferred sizes under the new guidelines for smaller products in grams or millilitres would be 25, 50, 75, 100, 125, 250, 375, 500 and 750 g or mL.

Larger sizes would be in 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5 or 4 L or kg. From that point, preferred numbers from 4 to 20 would advance in increments of one kilogram or litre. Numbers from 20 to 50 kilograms or litres would advance in increments of five.

Copies of *Metric Package Content Sizing* may be obtained by contacting Metric Commission Canada, P.O. Box 4000, Ottawa, K1S 5G8. 

With light winds, 20 km/h and under, wind is felt on face and extends a light flag. Leaves rustle and move.

Chuckle

Knowing her husband's habit of sampling everything she baked, a woman left a note on a dozen freshly baked tarts. Said the note: "These were counted and total one dozen." On her return, she found only ten tarts and a new note. It said: "Think metric." 

Carry on, say 81.9% of "Star" poll

The *Toronto Star* reports that 81.9% of its concerned readers are in favour of continuing the metric conversion process, according to an informal telephone survey conducted in November, 1983.


Twice weekly, the *Star* invites its readers to telephone the newspaper with their response to questions on issues of concern to Canadians. The questions are asked under the heading "What do YOU think?", which appears on Mondays and Thursdays.

A total of 1723 *Star* readers responded to the question: "Should the government give up its metric

mania?". Those replying "no" to the question represented 81.9% of the calls received, with 18.1% answering "yes".

Among comments which the *Star* recorded were these:

"If it's good enough for Europe it's good enough for us. Canada must march metric in step with other countries."

"We have to be progressive and most of the world is already on the metric system. It's easy enough to figure out." 

Quebec teacher is metric booster


Schoolteacher Lucien Lalonde has become a metric booster in the communities surrounding Mont-Laurier, Quebec.

Seeing a need to assist merchants and businessmen in converting to metric, Lalonde obtained a grant from the "Canada Works" program of Employment and Immigration Canada.

Lalonde first conducted a study to determine the needs and metric awareness status of businessmen in twenty small municipalities within a 35-km radius of Mont-Laurier. He said each municipality held about ten or twelve small businesses, all needing help with the metric system.

He then set up a series of metric system information sessions, booths at various fairs, and used local radio and newspapers to spread the message.

Lalonde says all the people he met appreciated the help and information offered. Four municipalities that were outside the bounds of his original territory asked him to hold information sessions.

He feels there still isn't enough emphasis on metric in the school system, and that, ideally, he'd like to see a metric information officer for every 15 000 people to handle enquiries and organize courses. 

Are you really converted? What are your height and weight in metric? These benchmark conversions will give you an idea.

HEIGHT	WEIGHT
5' - 153 cm	100 lb - 45 kg
5'2" - 158 cm	115 lb - 52 kg
5'4" - 163 cm	130 lb - 60 kg
5'6" - 168 cm	145 lb - 66 kg
5'8" - 173 cm	160 lb - 73 kg
5'10" - 178 cm	175 lb - 80 kg
6'0" - 183 cm	190 lb - 86 kg
6'2" - 188 cm	205 lb - 93 kg


U.S.-U.K. agreement on standards

American and British national standards laboratories have signed an agreement adopting common standards in units of SI measurement.

The U.S. National Bureau of Standards and the U.K.'s National Physical Laboratory will set common standards for length, voltage, electrical resistance, electrical capacitance and time in SI units.

"The agreement benefits industrial sectors in both countries, and will further facilitate international trade", says George Uriano, Director of NBS Measurement Services.

"A manufacturer of electrical components, for example, will be able to verify the performance of a product by tracing the equivalency of a basic product to either NBS or NPL, and thereby eliminate unnecessary product testing."

Both the U.K. and the U.S. have signed the Treaty of the Metre. Thus, they determine their basic units of measurement in accordance with the definitions for SI units adopted by the General Conference on Weights and Measures, the international body which is the world authority. 

Moderate winds of 21 km/h to 40 km/h will raise dust and loose paper, form wavelets on inland waters and cause fine loose snow to drift.

Strong winds of 41 km/h - 60 km/h will cause large branches to sway, making using umbrellas difficult, and cause snow to drift extensively.

Education sectors say task completed


Two education sector committees are disbanding after achieving their metric conversion objectives.

Committees for elementary and secondary schools and universities and colleges now estimate that 80% of the students in Canada are taught in metric.

In public and high schools, most teachers are prepared to teach in SI, all school curricula have been revised to incorporate SI, and measurement-sensitive textbooks have been rewritten or replaced to introduce metric units.

Universities and colleges report a high degree of conversion to SI in engineering and education, with slower progress in geography and economics.

Those residual activities not yet completed are primarily related to the need to provide some imperial capability.

In the area of measurement-sensitive equipment, conversion has kept pace with program requirements and the pace of replacement. Wherever required, students are expected to be ready to pursue their studies and be prepared upon graduation to work in SI. 

Gale winds of 61 km/h - 90 km/h will break twigs off trees, may cause slight damage to shingles and TV antennas, and reduce visibility during winter because of drifting snow.