

Status: This revised version has been created from an electronic version contributed by Westlaw which was originally derived from the printed publication. **Read more** (See end of Document for details) **Changes to legislation:** There are outstanding changes not yet made by the legislation.gov.uk editorial team to The Measuring Equipment (Measures of Length) Regulations 1986. Any changes that have already been made by the team appear in the content and are referenced with annotations. (See end of Document for details) View outstanding changes

EXPLANATORY NOTE

These Regulations prescribe measures of length, which do not bear the mark of EEC initial verification, for the purposes of section 11(1) of the Weights and Measures Act 1985, so that it is unlawful to use such measures for trade purposes unless they have been tested, passed as fit for such use and stamped by an inspector of weights and measures. They replace the provisions of Part II of the Weights and Measures Regulations 1963, under which measures of length were formerly prescribed. Measures bearing the mark of EEC initial verification have to comply with the Measuring Instruments (EEC Requirements) Regulations 1980.

These Regulations make provision as to—

- (a) the materials and principles of construction of measures of length and their marking (Regs 4–19);
- (b) their manner of use for trade (Reg 20);
- (c) their testing (Regs 21 and 23);
- (d) the prescribed limits of error (Reg 24); and
- (e) their passing as fit for use for trade, stamping and obliteration of such stamps (Regs 25–28).

The Regulations make the following changes of substance:—

- (a) the principles of construction have been revised and expanded;
- (b) the limits of error are now expressed by means of formulae, rather than a table, and those applicable on obliteration of the stamp are only twice, instead of four times, those applicable on passing as fit for use for trade; and
- (c) provision has been included to prohibit the use of a measure of length in such a manner that it is exposed to environmental or other influences which will adversely affect its accuracy or function.

Where a measure has been stamped under the provisions of Part II of the Weights and Measures Regulations 1963, it may continue in use for trade without the stamp being obliterated, provided it falls within twice the prescribed limits of error, even though it does not comply with the requirements of these Regulations.

Copies of British Standards (see Regulation 19(1)(c)) can be obtained from any of the sales outlets operated by the British Standards Institution (BSI) or by post from the BSI at Linford Wood, Milton Keynes MK14 6LE.

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- reg. 2 amended by
- reg. 2 words omitted by [S.I. 1994/1851 Sch. Pt. 2](#)
- reg. 17(a) substituted by [S.I. 1994/1851 Sch. Pt. 2](#)
- reg. 17(c) words omitted by [S.I. 1994/1851 Sch. Pt. 2](#)
- reg. 24 substituted by [S.I. 1994/1851 Sch. Pt. 2](#)
- reg. 25 substituted by [S.I. 1996/2636 reg. 2\(3\)](#)
- reg. 25 words substituted by [S.I. 2018/1387 Sch. para. 4\(3\)](#)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Instrument associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Instrument (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 2 inserted by [S.I. 1996/2636 Sch.](#)
- Sch. 2 para. 2 words substituted by [S.I. 1996/3020 reg. 2](#)
- reg. 17A inserted by [S.I. 1994/1851 Sch. Pt. 1](#)
- reg. 17A words inserted by [S.I. 2001/85 reg. 3\(1\)Sch.](#)
- reg. 17A words omitted by [S.I. 2009/3045 reg. 3\(2\)\(d\)](#)
- reg. 23A23B inserted by [S.I. 1996/2636 reg. 2\(2\)](#)
- reg. 23B heading words substituted by [S.I. 2018/1387 Sch. para. 4\(2\)\(a\)](#)
- reg. 23B(1) words substituted by [S.I. 2018/1387 Sch. para. 4\(2\)\(b\)](#)
- reg. 23B(2)(b) words omitted by [S.I. 2018/1387 Sch. para. 4\(2\)\(c\)](#)
- reg. 23B(3) substituted by [S.I. 2003/214 Sch. para. 3](#)