



**THE STATUTES OF THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**METRICATION ACT**

**(CHAPTER 181)**

**(Original Enactment: Act 52 of 1970)**

**REVISED EDITION 1985**

(30th March 1987)

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# Metrication Act

## ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

### Section

1. Short title
2. Interpretation
3. International System of Units
4. Power to adapt, etc.
5. Conversion of imperial standard units to metric system units
6. Power to vary Schedules
7. Saving
  - Schedule
  - Schedule
  - Schedule
  - Schedule

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An Act to introduce the use of the International System of Units in Singapore, to enable necessary modifications of legislation to be effected and for matters connected therewith.

[15th February 1971]

### **Short title**

1. This Act may be cited as the Metrication Act.

### **Interpretation**

2.—(1) In this Act, “International System of Units” means the metric system of units as set out in Schedules A and B and shall include the units set out in Schedule D unless there is something in the subject or context thereof inconsistent with such construction or unless it is therein otherwise expressly provided.

(2) The abbreviation “SI” shall be recognised as a legal reference to the International System of Units.

### **International System of Units**

**3.—**(1) On and after the commencement of this Act, the use of the system of units known as “the International System of Units” shall have legal force and validity in Singapore.

(2) The International System of Units shall consist of —

- (a) the basic units set out in Schedule A;
- (b) the supplementary and derived units set out in Schedule B;  
and
- (c) the units which may be used in conjunction with the basic and supplementary and derived units set out in Schedule D.

### **Power to adapt, etc.**

**4.—**(1) The Minister may by order provide for the adaptation, alteration, conversion or modification of any provisions contained in any written law relating to such departments and subjects as may be appropriate for the purpose of replacing references to units other than metric units contained therein by references to units of the International System of Units which are either equivalent thereto or such approximations thereto as appear to the Minister desirable for the purpose of securing that the enactments as adapted, altered, converted or modified are expressed in convenient terms.

(2) Any order made under subsection (1) shall be published in the *Gazette*.

### **Conversion of imperial standard units to metric system units**

**5.** The values expressed in terms of —

- (a) any imperial standard relating to measures of extension whether lineal, superficial or solid, or weight or capacity;  
or
- (b) the local customary system of weights and measures,

may be converted into the values expressed in terms of the International System of Units in accordance with Schedule C.

### Power to vary Schedules

6. The Minister may, from time to time by notification in the *Gazette*, add to, vary or amend the Schedules as he may think fit.

### Saving

7.—(1) No act or thing done prior to the making of any order pursuant to section 4 shall be challenged only on the ground that the act or thing done was done in a unit other than a unit of the International System of Units.

(2) Nothing in this Act shall affect the legal force and validity of any other system of units lawfully used in Singapore.

## SCHEDULE A

The International System of Units is based on the following 6 basic units:

| <i>Unit</i> | <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Quantity</i>           |
|-------------|---------------|---------------------------|
| metre       | m             | length                    |
| kilogramme  | kg            | mass                      |
| second      | s             | time                      |
| ampere      | A             | electric current          |
| kelvin      | K             | thermodynamic temperature |
| candela     | cd            | luminous intensity.       |

## SCHEDULE B

The following are the supplementary and derived units of the International System of Units:

| <i>Unit</i> | <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Quantity</i>                          |
|-------------|---------------|--|
| hertz       | Hz            | frequency                                |
| newton      | N             | force                                    |
| joule       | J             | work, energy, quantity of heat           |
| watt        | W             | power                                    |
| coulomb     | C             | quantity of electricity, electric charge |

SCHEDULE B — *continued*

| <i>Unit</i> | <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Quantity</i>   |
|-------------|---------------|---|
| volt        | V             | electric tension, potential difference, electromotive force |
| farad       | F             | electric capacitance  |
| ohm         | $\Omega$      | electric resistance   |
| weber       | Wb            | flux of magnetic induction, magnetic flux                   |
| tesla       | T             | magnetic flux density, magnetic induction                   |
| henry       | H             | inductance  |
| lumen       | lm            | luminous flux   |
| lux         | lx            | illumination  |
| radian      | rad           | plane angle   |
| steradian   | sr            | solid angle.  |

## SCHEDULE C

Conversion of Imperial Standard Units to Equivalent SI Units:

| <i>Imperial Standard Unit</i> | <i>SI Unit</i>  |
|-------------------------------|---|
| 1 yard                        | = 0.9144 metre exactly  |
| 1 pound                       | = 0.453 592 37 kilogramme exactly   |
| 1 gallon                      | = 4.54609 litres approximately<br>= 4.54609 cubic decimetres approximately. |

Conversion of Local Customary Units to Equivalent SI Units:

| <i>Local Customary Unit</i> | <i>SI Unit</i>                      |
|-----------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 tahlil                    | = 37.799364 grammes approximately   |
| 1 kati                      | = 0.604790 kilogramme approximately |
| 1 chhun                     | = 37.465 millimetres exactly        |
| 1 chhek                     | = 0.37465 metre exactly.            |

**SCHEDULE D**

| <i>Unit</i>           | <i>Symbol</i> | <i>Quantity</i>                    |
|-----------------------|---------------|------------------------------------|
| hectare               | ha            | area                               |
| metric tonne          | t             | mass                               |
| litre                 | L             | volume                             |
| centigrade or Celsius | °C            | temperature, temperature interval. |

*[S 22/89 wef 30/03/1987]*

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY  
METRICATION ACT  
(CHAPTER 181)

This Legislative History is provided for the convenience of users of the Metrication Act. It is not part of the Act.

**1. Act 52 of 1970 — Metrication Act 1970**

|                                   |   |   |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|
| Date of First Reading             | : | 4 November 1970<br>(Bill No. 40/1970 published on<br>9 November 1970) |
| Date of Second and Third Readings | : | 30 December 1970  |
| Date of commencement              | : | 15 February 1971  |

**2. 1985 Revised Edition — Metrication Act (Chapter 181)**  
(G.N. No. S 22/1989 — Rectification Order)

|                   |   |               |
|-------------------|---|---------------|
| Date of operation | : | 30 March 1987 |
|-------------------|---|---------------|